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A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library — Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian

LSTA grants focus on technology, reading programs

As many as 300 Library Services and Technology Act grants are expected to be awarded later this year to libraries across the state. LSTA funding is provided by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and administered by the Illinois State Library. Secretary of State Jesse White awards LSTA funding to Illinois libraries through a competitive grant program. All types of libraries (academic, public, school and special) and regional library systems are eligible. Libraries must be members of one of the state's regional library systems.

Over the last 11 years, LSTA grants have produced hundreds of worthwhile new programs in Illinois libraries and library systems. "LSTA funding provides libraries the opportunity to expand and enhance programs and services in new and innovative ways to meet the changing information and educational demands of their patrons," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "This year's grant categories offer libraries a variety of options for projects that can be tailor-made for their particular audiences."

FY2010 LSTA grants will be awarded in the following four categories. Letters

of intent are due by March 31 with full applications due May 1.

- **In Sync with Technology**
Enables libraries to develop programs or services that integrate new technologies or significant equipment (capital outlay). The offering allows for the purchase of computers, equipment and software, or technology enhancements to be used in creating or delivering library programming or services based on patron need. The equipment should reside in the library.
- **Digital Imaging**
Assists libraries in providing greater access to collections through the creation of Internet-ready digital images. An emphasis is placed on digitizing valuable, unique collections that address local and Illinois history and resources. Applications for projects in other subject areas will be considered based on historical or cultural significance.
- **Dreamcatcher**
Allows libraries to plan and implement customer-based training programs based on the diverse learning needs of their patrons. Partnerships between libraries and other organi-

zations or community groups are encouraged but not required.

- **READ: Reading for Education & Development**
Allows libraries to develop programs that encourage and promote reading, and to address the reading needs of a specific audience through new library materials.

LSTA Grant Deadlines

Letter of Intent
Due March 31

Grant Application
Due May 1

For more information, visit
www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

March/April
2009

Synergy Initiative participants announced

Congratulations to the following librarians who were selected to participate in *Synergy 2009: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative*. Synergy is the statewide library community's proactive movement to recruit and nurture future Illinois library leaders. Participants will take part in three, three-day seminars during the course of the year: March 31-April 2 at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center in Utica; August 4-6 at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton; and November 4-6 at Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel in Lisle.

Synergy 2009 Participants

Deborah E. Bloom, Ida Public Library, Belvidere
Jennifer Christiansen, Moline Public Library
Ellen K. Corrigan, EIU, Booth Library, Charleston
Elizabeth Drennan, Poplar Creek Public Library District, Streamwood
Margaret (Meg) B. Edwards, U of I, Graduate School of Library & Information Science, Champaign
Melissa Gardner, Berkeley Public Library
Leigh A. Gavin, Oak Park Public Library
Gail Gawlik, University of St. Francis Library, Joliet
Semiramis M. Grady, Metropolitan Library System, Burr Ridge
Deborah K. Griggs, Brookfield Public Library
Paulette Harding, Poplar Creek Public Library, Streamwood
Victoria (Vicky) A. Hart, Tri-Township Public Library District, Troy
Robin Helenthal, Bloomington Public Library
Catherine E. Ingram, Elmhurst Public Library
Mikael (Mike) Jacobsen, Skokie Public Library
Patricia P. Jarog, Des Plaines Valley Public Library District, Lockport
Ellen K. Lawrence, Hinsdale Township High School District 86, Darien
Barbara E. Love, Farmington Area Public Library District
Elsie Martinez, Zion-Benton Public Library District
Lillian (Lil) Mazur, Plainfield South High School
Patrick McDonald, Arlington Heights Memorial Library
Joe Natale, Illinois State Library
Elizabeth A. Nelson, UOP Library, Des Plaines
Ryan Roberts, Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield
Shannon Scanlan, Prospect Heights Public Library
Suzanne Schriar, Illinois State Library
Marcie Shaffer, Bloomington Public Library
Deborah A. Sommer, Metropolis Public Library
Louise T. Svehla, Plainfield Public Library District
Merna Youngblood, Frontier Community College, Fairfield



Obama plates to benefit ILA reading programs

Secretary of State Jesse White and the Illinois Library Association are pleased to announce the availability of official Barack Obama special event Illinois license plates. Proceeds from the sale of the plates will help support ILA activities such as iREAD, the summer reading program for Illinois youth.

The special event license plates are available for \$50 a set at the ILA Web site (www.ila.org). The plates may be displayed on Illinois vehicles for 60 days, ending at midnight on April 17. After that, the plates will be available for purchase nationwide for collection purposes only.

In 2005, then-U.S. Senator Obama keynoted the opening general session of the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago. He praised librarians as guardians of truth and knowledge, and thanked them for their role as champions of privacy, literacy, independent thinking, and most of all reading.

"Libraries are the cornerstones of our communities," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "I initiated this special event plate with the ILA to help benefit Illinois libraries as well as to honor the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama. I am committed to working with libraries across the state to help them serve their patrons and communities at the highest level. The iREAD program represents an important effort to encourage our young people to read."

Secretary White awards \$1.4 million to school libraries

Secretary of State Jesse White has awarded FY2009 School District Library Grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million to 719 Illinois public school districts. The funds will help provide critical library services to 1.9 million students in more than 3,400 school libraries.

"I am always delighted to award these grants each year to help school libraries purchase books and subscriptions to valuable electronic resources, improve technology, and support student research efforts," said Secretary White. "As a former school teacher, I am pleased that this grant program helps keep our school libraries strong, and gives our students access to the essential resources they need to be successful."

Illinois was the first state in the nation to enact a public school library grant program, and the program remains an overwhelming success. Studies have proven conclusively that student achievement is positively impacted by the presence of libraries in schools. Students with access to better-staffed libraries, computers connected to library catalogs and databases, and larger, more current book collections do better on tests and have higher test scores.

This year's grants were appropriated at \$0.728 per student and must be used to support the services of a district's school library media program. Funds may not be used for capital improvements such as shelving or wiring. Grants are available to tax-supported public school districts that are members of one of Illinois' regional library systems.



5th Annual Emerging Writers Competition

Deadline: June 30

Secretary of State Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book have announced that entries are now being accepted for the 5th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition. The competition will again consist of two categories: poetry and short stories.

Illinois poet laureate Kevin Stein will select winners of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, named for the late award-winning Illinois poet laureate. Kaylie Jones, the accomplished writer and daughter of acclaimed late Illinois novelist and short story writer James Jones, will choose winners of the James Jones Short Story Award. Cash prizes will be awarded to three winners in both categories for original, unpublished works. Winning entries also will be submitted to *Ninth Letter*, *RHINO* and *Downstate Story* magazines for possible publication.

The competition is open to Illinois residents age 18 and over. Entries will be accepted through June 30, 2009. For entry forms, rules and other information, please visit illinoiscenterforthebook.org.



HELEN KNECHT NAMED SOS EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — Helen Knecht (front, right) of the State Library's Circulation Section was named Secretary of State February Employee of the Month by Secretary of State Jesse White. Joining Helen and Secretary White at a reception in her honor at the library are members of her family.

ISL Patent & Trademark Library celebrates 25 years



Jeanne Oliver
First PTDL Librarian



Margaret Collins
Current PTDL Librarian

The Illinois State Library's Patent & Trademark Depository Library is marking its 25th anniversary. In January 1984, the State Library became a PTDL through the leadership of then-State Library Director Bridget Lamont and librarian Jeanne Oliver. A PTDL has a contract with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office to help disseminate patent and trademark information to the public. The State Library's Patent & Trademark Library is one of two in Illinois, the other of

which is located at the Chicago Public Library.

Lamont and Oliver saw establishing a depository library as an opportunity for the State Library to help bring cutting-edge technologies into the state to impact the state and national economy, and potentially create new jobs and improve the quality of life for all citizens. During the year before the State Library's PTDL opened, Illinoisans received 2,351 patents. Every year since then, the number of patents issued to Illinoisans has increased.

Patent and trademark materials available at the State Library provide technical information that frequently cannot be found elsewhere. Individuals may use these resources to:

- Determine whether an idea can be patented;
- Obtain state-of-the-art information in a specific subject area;
- Find specifications and drawings of known patents;
- Prepare lists of prior developments to be cited by patent applicants; and
- Gain access to information about registered and pending federal trademarks.

Those who have served as State Library PTDL librarians since its inception include Jeanne Oliver, Kim Bauer, Jane Running and Margaret Collins, who has held the position since 2002. Support staff over the years has included Bruce Brown, Sharon Layne, Dennis Weller and Cheryl Rowland.

Promotion continues to be the bedrock of the PTDL, with staff conducting workshops for the public, reaching out to students, and providing Internet access to search for patent and trademark information. For more information about the Patent & Trademark Depository Library, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library.

IDA Highway maps on IDA

Illinois highway maps produced by the Secretary of State's office dating from 1917 to the present are now available on the Illinois Digital Archives at idaillinois.org. The maps were scanned at 400 dpi (including verso) and are in JPEG2000 format. For copies of the files in either the raw TIF or JPG formats, please contact Tom Huber in the State Library's Map Department at thuber@ilsos.net or 217-785-5606.



IDA NOW MORE USER-FRIENDLY — State Library Digital Imaging Program Manager Alyce Scott conducted workshops for staff recently to instruct them on using the Illinois Digital Archives. IDA has a new look and has undergone changes to make the site more user-friendly. Check out the new look at idaillinois.org.

Connecting to Collection Grant

The Illinois State Library and the Illinois State Archives are sharing in a \$40,000 Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Illinois State Museum Society will partner with the State Library, the State Archives and other organizations to establish the Illinois Collections Preservation Plan and Network.

The partnership will hold a series of meetings across the state and via teleconference to consider critical preservation topics with government organizations, large public and private institutions, and small and mid-sized collections-holding organizations. The meetings will focus on four themes: providing tools and assessing needs for improving conditions and collections care; disaster training and cooperative response; building public preservation awareness through training and programming; and integrating existing preservation grants for statewide benefit. The project partners will establish the statewide plan and network to carry out the recommendations of The Heritage Health Index.

Other partners in the grant project are the Illinois Heritage Association; Illinois Association of Museums; Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; University of Chicago; Illinois State University; Macomb Public Library; Early American Museum; Newberry Library; Chicago Public Library; and the Art Institute of Chicago.



Insight
Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian
Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building
300 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1796
Produced by the Secretary of State Communications Department.

SAVE THE DATE

April 13-19
National Library Week

April 23
Illinois Library Day
Illinois State Library

May 13
Spotlight on Achievement and Service
Literacy Awards
Illinois State Library

May 31-June 5
Small Public Library Management Institute
University of Illinois at Springfield

June 7-12
Institute for School and Public Librarians
Bradley University, Peoria

CLOSED
The State Library will be closed
Memorial Day, May 25

State Library staff news

Robert Jones of the Reference Division received his Masters of Library and Information Science degree from the U of I at Urbana-Champaign in December.

Patricia Norris and **Karen Egan** of the Library Development Group received certificates of completion for a course related to grant management taken in Washington, D.C. last November. Representatives from all 50 states took the course and exam on cost principles related to federal regulations.

Dee Ann Powless, Reference librarian and cataloger, was recognized by Secretary of State Jesse White for more than 35 years of service to the Secretary of State's office. Secretary White also honored **Connie Frankenfeld**, Digital Programs librarian in the Library Automation and Technology Division, for 25 years with the Secretary of State's office, 16 of which have been spent with the State Library.

Jodi L. Miller has joined the Talking Book and Braille Service as an intermittent operations assistant.