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

## Secretary White applauds Illinois librarians

Secretary of State Jesse White applauded Illinois librarians and other members of the library community during National Library Week, April 11-17.

"I am enormously proud of the men and women of the Illinois library community who are doing outstanding work under difficult circumstances," said Secretary White. "These are very trying times as we deal with severe budget cuts that have seriously impacted our staffs and the essential services we seek to provide to our patrons. We are working harder than ever with fewer resources. Despite these obstacles, I see during my visits to Illinois libraries that librarians and library staff remain completely committed to providing the best possible service to library users. Librarians are some of our most dedicated, hard working and

knowledgeable public servants.

"Illinois has a network of more than 5,000 academic, public, school and special libraries that are without question the finest in the nation. Our libraries are so important to our communities, and I hope the citizens who use and enjoy libraries will thank their local librarians and library staff for their outstanding service."

While the library community deals with budget shortfalls, Secretary White noted that difficult economic times have resulted in more citizens using libraries.

"Members of the Illinois library community recently took a snapshot of a typical day at their facilities, and throughout the state results showed a

dramatic increase in library usage. Citizens who are looking for ways to save money are turning to libraries for books, magazines, DVDs, CDs or free Internet access. They realize that libraries are the best, most affordable and most reliable sources of information available. I strongly encourage library users to contact their elected officials and urge them to provide libraries with the financial resources they desperately need."

## TBBS move proceeding as planned

By July 2011, all Springfield-based State Library staff members are expected to be housed under one roof in the Gwendolyn Brooks Building at Second and Monroe Streets. That's the target date for completion of the Talking Book and Braille Service's move to the building from its current location at 401 E. Washington St., a few blocks away.

TBBS staff will occupy office space on the first floor of the Gwendolyn Brooks Building. To make room for TBBS employees and materials from the Washington Street facility, State Library Reference staff has spent the past year weeding old material from the library's collections. TBBS staff also is weeding

(continued on page 2)



### ON THE FRONT LINES —

Kelly Krieg-Sigman, director of the LaCrosse Wisconsin Public Library, was keynote speaker at the "On the Front Lines" conference in Springfield in March. See story and more photos on page 2.

May/June  
2010

## “On the Front Lines” conference

Nearly 200 library support staff from throughout Illinois came to Springfield in March for the three-day “On the Front Lines” conference. Sponsored by the State Library and hosted by the University of Illinois Springfield, “On the Front Lines” is a continuing education opportunity for “front-line” library staff working in all types of libraries. Participants obtained training, exposure and techniques that will enable them to deal effectively and efficiently with their day-to-day activities as front-line library employees. Some of this year’s sessions included the following topics:

- Optimizing Interlibrary Loan throughout ILLINET
- Preservation in a Hybrid World: Past, Present, and Future
- Copyright Compliance in a Web 2.0 World
- Reference Desk Realities
- Turning a Good Grant into a Great Grant
- Internet Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Forming a Green Team and Making It Work
- Programs for a Greener Library



Laura Barnes of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center discussed “Forming a Green Team and Making It Work.”

Shawn Healy of the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum presented a session on “Press Freedoms in the Information Age.”



Amanda Lundeen of the Attorney General’s office updated conference participants on changes to the Freedom of Information Act.



## Letters About Literature winners announced

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced the Illinois winners of the annual “Letters About Literature” contest. The national contest is presented by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores and sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and the Illinois State Library.

Letters About Literature promotes reading and writing among young people in grades 4 through 12. Students read a book and write a personal letter to the author explaining how the book changed their views of the world or themselves. Students may select authors who are living or deceased from any literary genre — fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. Judges appointed by the Illinois Center for the Book selected the top Illinois essayists for the three competition levels:

**Level I, Grades 4-6 — Carra Wu**, 5th grade, Deer Path Middle School in Lake Forest, for her letter to Frances Hodgson Burnett, author of *A Little Princess*.

**Level II, Grades 7-8 — Jana Mudrock**, 8th grade, Martino Junior High in New Lenox, for her letter to Jay Asher, author of *Thirteen Reasons Why*.

**Level III, Grades 9-12 — Allyssa Brown**, 12th grade, Athens Community High School, for her letter to Sarah Dessen, author of *Lock and Key*.

“These three talented young readers were among more than 6,300 Illinois students who took part in this year’s contest,” said Secretary White. “For the third year in a row, Illinois had more entries than any other state in the nation. I am proud of all the students who took part because they are developing a lifelong love of reading and learning.”

The three winning students received a tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, a plaque, a U.S. Savings Bond and a \$25 Target Gift Card. An awards ceremony was held in May at the State Library for the three winning students, their families and teachers. Photos from the ceremony will be included in the July/August edition of *Insight*. To read the winning essays, please visit [www.icftb.org/projects/projectse.html](http://www.icftb.org/projects/projectse.html).

The Center for the Book was established in 1977 as a public-private partnership to use the resources of the Library of Congress to stimulate public interest in books and reading. The Illinois Center for the Book was established in 1985 as an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The Illinois Center for the Book works to nurture and connect readers and writers, and honor Illinois’ rich literary heritage.

Target sponsors Letters About Literature as part of its national reading initiative, “Ready. Sit. Read!,” aimed at fostering a love of reading among children at an early age. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with non-profit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs.

### TBBS (continued from page 1)

materials from its collections and digitizing other items. The Secretary of State’s Physical Services Department is handling movement of TBBS collections as well as furniture and shelving.

The move will make it easier to shelve, locate and distribute TBBS materials to its print-disabled patrons. TBBS also in the process of distributing thousands of new digital talking book machines to patrons, mailing out 1,200 machines monthly. The machines are arriving in Springfield from the Shinano Kenshi Plant in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

## Live & Learn construction grants awarded

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded FY2010 Live & Learn Construction Grants to 24 Illinois public libraries to help pay for essential capital improvements.

"This important grant program helps public libraries pay for the cost of projects such as remodeling for disability access, new carpeting, interior or exterior painting and, in some cases, new construction or additions to existing facilities," said Secretary White. "Many of our public libraries simply don't have sufficient funds to pay for these improvements on their own, though in some instances these grants do require local matching funds."

"Our public libraries are cornerstones of our communities, and they have never been more important as they are today," he added. "During these difficult economic times, statistics have shown that more and more citizens are using their local public libraries for things like free Internet access, CDs, DVDs, newspapers and magazines. I am pleased to be able to award these grants to help maintain the infrastructure of our public libraries, and help them remain the best resource for information for the people of Illinois."

### Live & Learn Grant Recipients

**Huntley Area Public Library District** — \$10,394 for ADA upgrades.

**Streator Public Library** — \$50,000 for an addition with accessibility upgrades and fire code compliance.

**Wilmington Public Library District** — \$7,472 for automatic doors.

**Hinsdale Public Library** — \$34,858 for elevator improvements for accessibility.

**River Forest Public Library** — \$2,700 for accessible furniture and computer work stations.

**Bourbonnais Public Library District** — \$2,782 for accessible automatic doors.

**Peru Public Library** — \$42,254 for automatic doors and accessible circulation desk.

**Selby Township Library District in DePue** — \$12,415 for new heating/cooling system and energy-efficient lighting.

**Evans Public Library District in Vandalia** — \$15,000 for new carpeting throughout building.

**Dodge Memorial Library in Olive Branch** — \$5,402 for new entry doors, carpeting and workstations.

**Rosiclare Memorial Public Library** — \$15,500 for new heating/cooling system and tuckpointing on exterior.

**Bellwood Public Library** — \$25,000 for carpeting throughout building.

**Eldorado Memorial Public Library District** — \$25,000 for emergency generator to allow library to serve as an emergency operations center.

**Maywood Public Library District** — \$25,000 for interior painting, cleaning, sealing, and installing safety railings.

**Frank Bertetti Benld Public Library** — \$25,000 for new flooring, entry door and accessible circulation desk.

**Elizabeth Titus Memorial Library, Sullivan** — \$6,300 for accessible circulation desk in children's area.

**Evansville Public Library** — \$24,500 for accessible restrooms, carpeting and furniture.

**Park Forest Public Library** — \$25,000 for new furnishings for the Youth Services area.

**Cahokia Public Library** — \$13,000 to make parking lot ADA compliant.

**Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District** — \$125,000 for a 17,000 square-foot addition.

**Champaign Public Library** — \$112,465 for remodeling the public computer lab and other interior improvements.

**Hope Welty Public Library, Cerro Gordo** — \$31,500 for repairs, carpeting, drywall, cabinets and appliances, automatic doors and accessible circulation desk.

**Quincy Public Library** — \$125,000 for new heating/cooling system as part of a larger renovation project.

**Peoria Public Library** — \$49,258 for exterior improvements at the Lincoln Branch.

## Penny Severns Web-based grant application

In March, the State Library marked the start of what is hoped to be the eventual automation of all State Library grant programs. A Web-based version of the Penny Severns Summer Family Literacy Grant application was the pilot program used for the launch. Forty-seven public libraries submitted applications online. This Web-based application will hopefully lead to the complete automation of all State Library grant programs, from application to submission of reporting forms.

## Reading Council donates books by Laurie Lawlor

The Illinois Reading Council has donated to the State Library two signed, first-edition copies of Laurie Lawlor's 2010 Prairie State Award-winning book, *Muddy as a Duck Puddle and Other American Similes*. One copy will be housed in the Illinois Authors Room along with a plaque honoring all the Prairie State Award winners, and the other copy is available for circulation. Last year, the Reading Council donated the previous five Prairie State Award-winning books to the State Library.

## State Topographic Map Web sites

The State Library's Map Department has compiled a list of historic U.S. Geological Survey topographic map Web sites from states across the country, which has been scanned and can be viewed or downloaded free. The maps span a period from the 1890s to the 1950s and were the primary Geological Survey maps of the era. They are great tools for a wide range of historic and genealogical inquiries. The list can be found at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

## Broadband application submitted

The State Library and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has completed and submitted the statewide Round 2 application for federal funding under the Public Computer Center portion of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Information for the application was submitted by 92 public, academic and special libraries from across the state that asked to be included in the statewide application.

Equipment, software and personnel requests from the participating libraries resulted in a total request of nearly \$4.2 million in federal BTOP funds, which was matched by \$1 million from DCEO and more than \$800,000 in in-kind support from the participating libraries. The project cost totaled more than \$6 million. BTOP has not announced when Round 2 funding decisions will be made, but word is expected later this spring or early summer.

Debra Aggertt headed the effort at the State Library with vital assistance from Lawren Tucker, Kathleen Bloomberg, Suzanne Schriar, Cheryl Walker, Lisa Clay, Ron Winner and Jim Shepard.

## Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey

The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan and Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey FY2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) is available for statistical reporting at <http://collect.btol.com>. A printable, working copy of the survey and instructions are under the Instructions tab. Please take a few minutes and provide a data snapshot of your library's interlibrary loan and, if applicable, reciprocal borrowing activity. **The deadline for submission is September 30.** For questions, please contact the following:

- **USERNAME/PASSWORD:** Contact Becky Hunter, [bhunter1@ilsos.net](mailto:bhunter1@ilsos.net), 217-782-7849; Gwen Harrison, [gharrison@ilsos.net](mailto:gharrison@ilsos.net), 217-785-7334; or Ron Winner, [rwinner@ilsos.net](mailto:rwinner@ilsos.net), 217-785-1168; or call 1-800-665-5576, ext. 1.
- **CONTENT/SUBJECT MATTER:** Contact Gwen Harrison, [gharrison@ilsos.net](mailto:gharrison@ilsos.net), 217-785-7334; or Ron Winner, [rwinner@ilsos.net](mailto:rwinner@ilsos.net), 217-785-1168; or call 1-800-665-5576, ext. 1.
- **SOFTWARE OR TECHNOLOGY ISSUES:** Contact Bibliostat at 1-866-785-9935.

## Staff changes at the State Library

**Blaine Redemer** has moved from head of the Reference Section to the Library Automation and Technology Division (LAT) to run the Government Documents Unit under the supervision of Associate Director **Suzanne Schriar**. Working with Blaine in the unit are **Debbie Choate**, **William Echelbarger** and **Gina Korthals**.

**Sue Burkholder** has moved from LAT to Administrative Services under the supervision of fiscal officer **Greg McCormick**.

**Debra Aggertt** moved from LAT to Library Operations/Reference to coordinate outreach services for the State Library, specifically for reference services, documents depository awareness, and the Talking Book and Braille Service. She will work under the supervision of Associate Director of Operations **Kathleen Bloomberg**.

## SAVE THE DATE

**June 6-11**

Small Public Library Management Institute  
University of Illinois at Springfield

**June 13-18**

Institute for School and Public Librarians  
Bradley University, Peoria

**August 3-5**

Synergy Leadership Initiative  
Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton

**August 13-22**

State Library at the Illinois State Fair  
Springfield

**The Illinois State Library will be closed Monday,  
July 5, in observance of Independence Day.**



Insight  
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