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

September/October  
**2012**

# INSIGHT

## Libraries, community colleges to receive equipment for print-disabled patrons

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced that 40 Illinois public libraries and community college learning resource centers will receive equipment to allow patrons with visual or physical impairments to download audio books. The recipients received an Eliminate the Digital Divide Program grant last year from the State Library through a program operated by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

“Many Illinois public libraries provide services for patrons who have visual or physical limitations that make it difficult to read regular printed materials,” said Secretary White. “I am pleased to be able to provide this equipment that will enable those library users to download audio books through the Internet.”

The equipment consists of at least 12 Kindle 4 e-readers, five digital cartridges and five USB cables. The cartridges and cables will help libraries train and assist print-disabled patrons to download library audio books through the Braille and Audio Recording Download (BARD) system. The Kindle 4 e-readers have a text-to-speech capability and include audio menus. While visually impaired patrons have priority access to the Kindle e-readers, they also may be used by other patrons at a library's discretion.

Print-disabled patrons must be enrolled in the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Program in order to use the new equipment. To register, visit [www.ilbph.org](http://www.ilbph.org) or call 1-800-665-5576, opt. 5.

Libraries and community colleges receiving new equipment include:

- Atkinson Public Library District
- Blue Island Public Library
- Bradley Public Library District
- C.E. Brehm Memorial Public Library District, Mt. Vernon
- Cahokia Public Library District
- Carbondale Public Library

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**Project Next Generation** — The Jesse White Tumblers entertained an enthusiastic crowd at Secretary of State Jesse White's pre-Illinois State Fair Project Next Generation picnic at the State Library in August. Project Next Generation is Secretary White's technology and mentoring program operating at 19 Illinois public libraries. See more photos from the picnic and State Fair on page 2.

## ISL at the Illinois State Fair



Secretary of State Jesse White joined students and mentors from the Kankakee (top) and Harrisburg Project Next Generation programs at his pre-Illinois State Fair Project Next Generation picnic at the State Library in August.



State library staffer Dee Ann Powless welcomed Secretary White at the library booth in the Secretary of State's tent.



Sharon Ruda (left) and Debbie Hurley were on hand at the Talking Book and Braille Service booth in the Illinois Building.

## Veterans' History Project in-person training

September 27, 9 a.m.-noon



Staff from the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center will conduct a workshop for Illinois library personnel on how to interview veterans for local veterans' history projects and Secretary of State Jesse White's Illinois Veterans' History Project on September 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants will learn basic oral history interviewing techniques and receive an overview of audio/video documentation and Veterans' History Project guidelines. There will be hands-on practice as well as a guide to suggested resources.

To register for the workshop, visit L2 at [www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=14103](http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=14103). For more information, contact Cheryl Walker at 217-782-0974, [cwalker@ilsos.net](mailto:cwalker@ilsos.net).

## Internet Archives CARLI project

The Internet Archives has posted material from the Illinois State Library that was digitized through the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) Book Digitization Project. Recent digitized materials include: *Illinois Issues* (2001-2010); *Executive Orders of the Governor* (1990-2010); *Annual Reports of the Illinois Courts: Administrative Summary* (1994-2010); and the *Annual Reports of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)* (1978-2010).

In a bit of history, Illinois state Sen. Barack Obama was co-chair of JCAR during that time and signed off on the 2002 annual report. Check it out at [archive.org/stream/2002annualreport00illi#page/n1/mode/2up](http://archive.org/stream/2002annualreport00illi#page/n1/mode/2up).

## E-News from the ISL

*E-News from the ISL*, the State Library's weekly electronic newsletter, is the best way to find out what's happening at the library. *E-News* is where you will learn *first* about grant offerings, continuing education opportunities and other library-related information. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving *E-News*, please send their email address to [pmcguckin@ilsos.net](mailto:pmcguckin@ilsos.net) with the subject line, SIGN THEM UP!

## Per Capita, Equalization Grant Application available

Public libraries can now apply for FY2013 Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grants. Applications are available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/plpc\\_equalization.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/plpc_equalization.html) and are due by **October 15**. For more information, call 800-665-5576, ext. 1, or email [isl\\_grants@ilsos.net](mailto:isl_grants@ilsos.net).

## Letters About Literature

### Deadline January 11

Secretary of State Jesse White is urging students in grades 4-10 to enter the 2013 Letters About Literature contest, a national reading and writing competition. Students must read a book and write a letter to the author, living or deceased, describing how the book positively impacted their life. The contest is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in cooperation with the Illinois Center for the Book.

“Every year thousands of students in Illinois enjoy participating in this inspiring competition,” said Secretary White. “Illinois has had more entries than any other state for five years in a row. I encourage all students to take part in Letters About Literature, and I hope their participation leads to a lifetime love of reading.”

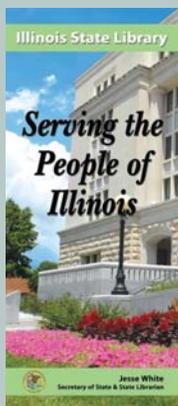
There are three levels of participation: Level I — grades 4-6; Level II — grades 7-8; and Level III — grades 9-10. One winner will be selected for each level and receive a \$100 award. Teachers of the winning students will receive a \$100 award to purchase materials for their school library. Winners and teachers will be invited to an awards ceremony in Springfield. The letters of the state winners will be forwarded for national judging. One national winner for each level will receive \$1,000, and one second-place national winner for each level will receive \$150.

The deadline to enter the competition is **January 11, 2013**. State winners will be announced in April. For more information, contact Bonnie Matheis at 217-558-2065 or [bmatheis@ilsos.net](mailto:bmatheis@ilsos.net), or visit [illinoiscenterforthebook.org](http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org).

## Try-It! Illinois returns

The State Library will again offer Try-It! Illinois, the popular annual statewide electronic resources trial, from October 1 through November 30. The trial offers the 5,000-plus ILLINET member libraries, their staffs and communities a wonderful opportunity to evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources. Thanks to the collaboration between the State Library and the participating electronic resource vendors, there is no charge for accessing these databases during Try-It! Illinois.

Look for the latest on Try-it! Illinois in the weekly electronic newsletter, *E-News from the ISL*, or contact Gwen Harrison at 217-785-7334 or [gharrison@ilsos.net](mailto:gharrison@ilsos.net).



## New ISL public services brochure

The State Library has developed a new brochure detailing services available to the general public. The brochure is available in print or may be downloaded at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/lda228.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/lda228.pdf).

## World War II poster Collection



Over the years the State Library has developed a collection of posters issued by various federal government agencies during World War II. The acclaimed collection of nearly 200 posters is housed in the Illinois Digital Archives (IDA) at [idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/isl5](http://idaillinois.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/isl5). The posters were part of an aggressive propaganda campaign to encourage and mobilize Americans to support the war effort. Well-known artists such as Norman Rockwell created the posters dealing with such topics as national security, rationing and conservation, investing in war bonds, military recruitment, civil defense and industrial production.

Audio descriptions have recently been added to the collection, enabling visually impaired patrons to enjoy the posters as well. Visually impaired persons also can find descriptive videos, DVDs and other materials in the collection of the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service. For more information or to apply for the service, visit [www.ilbph.org](http://www.ilbph.org).

## Libraries, community colleges to receive equipment for print-disabled patrons

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- Carthage Public Library District
- Centralia Regional Library District
- Champaign Public Library
- Cherry Valley Public Library District
- Colchester District Library
- Decatur Public Library
- DeKalb Public Library
- Des Plaines Valley Public Library District, Crest Hill Branch
- Eldorado Memorial Public Library District
- Freeport Public Library
- Frontier Community College Learning Resource Center, Fairfield
- Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin
- Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library District
- Greater West Central Public Library District, Augusta, Golden, Littleton Branches
- Harrisburg Public Library District
- Hoopston Public Library District
- John Wood Community College, Quincy
- Joliet Public Library
- Kaskaskia College, Centralia
- Kewanee Public Library District
- Lincoln Trail College, Eagleton Learning Resource Center, Olney
- Metropolis Public Library
- Mississippi Valley Public Library District, Fairmont and Collinsville
- Nancy L. McConathy Public Library District, Sauk Village
- Newman Regional Library District
- Peoria Public Library
- Quincy Public Library
- Rend Lake College Learning Resource Center, Ina
- St. Elmo Public Library District
- Sterling Public Library

Family Reading Night — Nov. 15, 2012

One World, Many Stories

Family Reading Night

Read Together, Grow Together

Thursday, November 15, 2012

Sponsored by:

JESSE WHITE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
AND STATE LIBRARIAN

ILLINOIS CENTER  
FOR THE BOOK

SPECIAL THANKS to the following libraries and agencies for sharing photos of Family Reading Night celebrations:

Heard Area Community Center, Chicago  
Larkin-Deagles-Beveridge School, Peoria  
Pace Learning Center, Chicago  
Barnes and Noble, Litchfield Park

## State Library staff news

**Suzanne Schriar**, associate director of the Library Automation and Technology Division, celebrated her 25-year anniversary with the State Library. **Deborah Hurley** of the Talking Book and Braille Service, **Gina Korthals** of the Government Documents Section, and Jeannne Urbanek of the Library Development Group all celebrated 15-year anniversaries.

**Alyce Scott**, former manager of the Digital Imaging Program, has joined the faculty at San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science as an online lecturer. Longtime reference librarian **Sandra Fritz** is temporarily joining the Automation and Technology Division to assume Alyce's duties.

**Rosalie Pecoraro**, former assistant to the chief deputy director, has taken a position with the Illinois Department of Transportation.



Insight  
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