

THIS MONTH AT THE ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

March 2020

Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian
Greg McCormick, Director

Message from Greg McCormick, Director of the Illinois State Library

As the Director of the Illinois State Library, I would like to share with you information our office has received from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and other experts about COVID-19 (commonly referred to as coronavirus).

As you are aware, concerns about COVID-19 require an abundance of caution and have resulted in certain Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines pertaining to the sanitization and disinfection of surfaces and facilities. The American Library Association is guiding libraries to the CDC and state resources on this issue, with a special emphasis on the IDPH, serving as a key resource. The Illinois Library Association is advocating the use of similar online resources that libraries may choose to access. First and foremost, it is advised to thoroughly clean and disinfect items or areas that patrons and library employees touch regularly. Those items include, but are not limited to, door handles (including the stalls of the restrooms, if any), railings, chair arms, counters and restroom areas. In addition, we suggest that you consider the handling of library materials being returned to your facility.

The CDC's best practices change as more information becomes known about this virus. For the CDC's most up-to-date practices, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>

I thank you for your commitment to serving your community as an invaluable resource and safety net as well as your efforts to minimize the spread of all viruses, including COVID-19.

Michael Dunbar Collection

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has announced the addition of over 125 items from Springfield artist and author Michael A. Dunbar to the library's collection. The collection consists of newspaper clippings, exhibition catalogs, posters, pins, CDs, books and historic documentation. "Michael Dunbar is a world renowned sculptor and preservationist who has been instrumental in ensuring Illinois residents have access to high quality works of art in our state buildings and museums," said White. "The collection will give people a glimpse into Mr. Dunbar's visions and the risks he took to develop enormous projects and help other Illinois artists realize their potential." The permanent collection will be available to view at the State Library Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Many items are also available through interlibrary loan to local public libraries. For more information, contact the State Library at 217-785-5615.

Make Sure Illinois Counts

The 2020 Census is underway. The once-a-decade constitutionally mandated national population count determines the amount of federal funds local communities and states receive for libraries, schools, infrastructure, healthcare and other programs and activities. Also, the number of members each state has in the United States House of Representatives is impacted by the Census. A complete and accurate count is vital to maintain Illinois' level of federal funding and Congressional representation. As trusted institutions, public libraries would be a place where individuals could go to respond input census data on public access terminals. Important census dates are as follows:

- March 12-20: A letter from the Census Bureau will be sent inviting people to self-response online.
- March 16-24: Reminder letter will be sent to non-responders.
- March 26-April 3: A post card will be sent to non-responders.
- April 8-16: A letter with the census form will be sent to non-responders.
- April 20-27: A reminder post card will be sent to non-responders.

- May 13-July 24: In-person data collection will be conducted as a U.S. Census representatives will attempt to collect data at a residence eight times.

Project Next Generation Grant Applications Extension

The Illinois State Library is currently accepting applications for FY21 Project Next Generation (PNG) grants. PNG programs encourage personal growth and the educational development of at risk, middle to high school students through the use of mentors, technology and immersion in library based group projects. Public libraries that have completed the 2020 Annual Certification and are recognized by the State Library as a full member in good standing of an Illinois library system are eligible to apply. The announced deadline to submit an application is March 15, 2020, but because that is a Sunday, applications will be accepted through March 16, 2020. If you have questions about this grant offering, contact Rita Stephens at 217-782-5506.

Library Certification Closes March 31

The Annual Online Certification is required of all library system members in order to qualify for continuing system services and grants programs from the State Library. The window for certification will close March 31, 2020. Libraries are also required to complete the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey before completing certification. The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey can be completed any time prior to the certification deadline, March 31, 2020. As of March 2, 2020 a total of 1,375 libraries or 76.55% have completed Annual Certification. There remain 420 ILLINET member libraries that need to complete Annual Certification. Approximately to date, 78.89% of ILLINET member libraries have completed Annual Certification. More information about certification is available at the State Library's Annual [Library Certification webpage](#).

Public Library Construction Act Grant (PLCAG) Program applications Due April 15

The State Library will be accepting applications for the PLCAG Program for FY2020, with those applications due on or before April 15. The State Library has been accepting applications for this program every year since the program's inception in FY2012. To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted electronically to construct-grant@ilsos.gov and include all of the applicable required supporting documentation. Information on the required supporting documentation as well as an overview of the program to include program rules and regulations can be found at https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/publib_construction.html.

Learning Opportunities

Library specific, online courses and webinars are always free through the [WebJunction Course Catalog](#), providing relevant learning at your fingertips. Nearly 2,000 library staff across Illinois have signed up for a free account to take advantage of the over 320 self-paced learning opportunities and archived webinars ranging from access and equity to young adults and teens. In January 2020 alone, there were over 3,400 enrollments by the Illinois library workforce to use these learning opportunities. All programs are online, so you are able to take advantage of the training without traveling. On March 31, 2020, take advantage of [Call to Action: Public Libraries and the Opioid Crisis](#). This live webinar will present a newly published call to action, offering strategies for public libraries to consider as they determine a local response to the nationwide opioid crisis.

IPLAR Survey Now Available

The FY19/20 Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) survey is now open. Each public library is required to submit the IPLAR 60 days after the library's fiscal year end. The instructions and worksheet are available on the [IPLAR Login Screen](#). The 2020 Survey is similar to 2019, but the Capital Needs Assessment is not required this year. When completing the 2020 Illinois Public Library Annual Report for your library, please remember to refer to the charts available for Section 17 [Counting Electronic Items](#),

and Section 18 [Reporting Electronic Item Usage](#) . Check out this link for Section 21: [Counting Wifi Sessions and Website Visits](#) For more information about the IPLAR survey, please visit the State Library [IPLAR Web page](#).

Public Libraries Survey Search and Compare Tool Now Available

Each year, the public library annual report data for Illinois is imported into the [Public Libraries Survey](#) (PLS). The PLS is part of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). FY2017/18 data is now available through the [Search and Compare Tool](#). You can use the Tool to compile trend and comparison analyses of other libraries in Illinois and other states. Statistics include library visits, circulation, size of collections, public services hours, staffing, electronic resources, operating revenue and expenditures and number of service outlets. ([details](#))

Directors University Registration

The fourth annual Directors University will be held June 1-5, 2020, at the Illinois State Library in Springfield, Illinois. Lodging will be at the State House Inn, 101 E. Adams Street. This week-long University is intended for first-time directors and directors new to Illinois from public libraries of all sizes. Approximately 50 participants will be selected to attend, with the intent of maintaining both geographic distribution and variation in size and structure. Preference will be given to new directors who have not previously attended Directors University or the Statewide Public Library Management Institute (SPLMI). Applicants must have been named the permanent director of the library by May 1.

Additional information about Directors University is available on the [ILA website](#).

Digitization Course

[Digitization from Design to Delivery](#) is a course covering the principles, processes, and standards guiding the digitization of cultural heritage materials, as well as providing an introduction to the preservation of the resulting digital objects. Participants will understand the planning and management of a digitization project; best practices for scanning; selection; metadata; copyright; and digital preservation. The course runs for 12 weeks begins April 6, and at the conclusion, an Advanced Certificate of Completion will be issued through the American Library Association. Registration is at the [ALA Store](#) .

Re-entry Reference Guide Available

The Office of the Secretary of State has published a reference guide to provide individuals who have been incarcerated in federal, state, county and local prisons with information to help them successfully re-enter society. The guide includes information on reinstating driving privileges, obtaining a state identification and driver's license, REAL ID, practice drivers' license test, alcohol and drug awareness program and voter registration instructions. To obtain a PDF of the publication, contact Joe Natale at the Illinois State Library at 217-558-1745 or jnatale@ilsos.gov.

Free Ray Bradbury Centennial Poster Sets Available

The first of three sets of Centennial posters to honor world renowned Illinois author Ray Bradbury are available. The poster sets, published by the Ray Bradbury Experience Museum through an Illinois Humanities grant, are free for schools and libraries. Each poster set has 1 English poster, 1 English brochure, 1 Spanish poster and 1 Spanish brochure. The poster sets can be used to educate students and patrons about Bradbury's life and writing.

Poster set 1 – “How did I get from Waukegan to Red Planet Mars?” is currently available. It highlights places named for Ray Bradbury in Waukegan, IL; Hollywood, CA; on the Moon; and on Mars. The brochure describes the Centennial, his life, and his works relating to Waukegan. Poster set 2 will be available in April. Poster set 3 will be available in June.

Ray Bradbury famously loved libraries and claimed he received his education at the library. Some quotes include: "I discovered me in the library." and "The library fueled all of my curiosities, from dinosaurs to ancient Egypt." Waukegan, his hometown, will celebrate his Centennial throughout 2020.

To view, download or request poster sets go to: raybradburyexperiencemuseum.org/centennial.

2020 "ILLINOIS READS" Author Spotlights

ILLINOIS READS is an annual statewide reading initiative of the [Illinois Reading Council](#) to promote Illinois authors and the importance of reading for Illinois citizens of all ages – from birth through adult. Each year, there are six different books by Illinois authors and/or illustrators selected at six different age bands for the reading list. Illinois Secretary of State, Jesse White, is the Honorary Chair and the [Illinois Center for the Book](#) is a program partner. Learn more about the selected Ages Birth – 4 Years authors and their 2020 ILLINOIS READS books below.

JACOB GRANT is a children's author and illustrator who lives in Oak Park. He writes and illustrates his own books and illustrates those of other authors. His book, "[Bear's Scare](#)," is an adorably illustrated story that shows new friends can come in all shapes and sizes – even if you don't think so at first.

Glen Ellyn author, **BOB RACZKA**, and Gibson City native illustrator, **LARRY DAY**, teamed up for the book, "[Beware!](#)" A cute story about a bee and a bear that meet ... and panic! Is it possible they can become friends? The book received a starred review from the School Library Journal.

Author and illustrator **RICH LO** lives in Naperville. He shares a rich part of his heritage in his bilingual color concept book, "[Chinese New Year Colors](#)." The book uses remarkable watercolor paintings to celebrate the rainbow of traditional items seen during the Chinese New Year.

Illustrator **KATE PUGSLEY** lives in Chicago. Her debut children's book, "[Mermaid Dreams](#)," is an adorable picture book that follows a shy little girl on a magical underwater daydream adventure while she's visiting the beach with parents. Her fanciful illustrations will pull children into this book.

Children's author, **HEIDI BEE ROEMER** lives in Orland Park. A former instructor for the Institute of Children's Literature, she wrote, "[Peekity Boo-What You Can Do!](#)," a delightful preschool picture book that goes through a toddler's end of the day bedtime routine in a cheery rhyming text.

Former bookstore owner, **PATRICIA TOHT**, is a children's author who lives in Chicago. Her book, "[Pick a Pumpkin](#)," is an enjoyable celebration of a favorite tradition. This Booklist starred review book pairs a delightful read-aloud verse with nostalgic illustrations that are sure to delight even after Halloween.

Literacy Spotlight

This month's Literacy Spotlight highlights **The Literacy Council** in Rockford. A woman came to the United States from Syria, escaping an environment of war and uncertainty. She immediately started to learn English and found it very difficult since it is so different from her native language of Arabic. Learning English has made her more confident and independent. She was able to pass her driver's license test in English, and can now navigate her way around, being able to read maps and signs. She is able to talk to her children's teachers and take them to doctor appointments without depending on a translator or help from a friend. She is also now a tutor.

Salute to Veterans

This issue of ENews is saluting Theodore 'Ted' R. Buck. Mr. Buck served in the Air Force during the Korean War and Vietnam War. Mr. Buck shares his account of serving during these conflicts. His Illinois Veterans History Project oral history interview is available at <https://youtu.be/W9UfjcO3egs>.

State Library's comprehensive online calendar

To view the State Library's calendar of events and deadlines, visit <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/calendar/home.html>.

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