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Jesse White Announces “Text a Librarian” Reference Service
Patrons receive information from the Illinois State Library

Springfield—Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White announced that the Illinois State Library has implemented “Text a Librarian,” a new service where patrons may use the text message feature on their cell phone to send and receive information from the State Library.

“As the official library of state government, the Illinois State Library offers reference and information services via e-mail, in person, and by telephone or fax,” said White. “This new texting service provides another means by which we can fulfill the important information needs of our patrons. I encourage cell phone users to take advantage of this convenient new service.”

“Text a Librarian” is intended for simple, quick reference questions (up to 160 characters) that can be answered in brief responses. To use the service, patrons must start the body of the text with the keyword **ASKISL**, followed by a space, followed by their question. Send the text to **217-953-0575**.

Each year our reference librarians answer approximately 8,000 questions. Many of the inquiries are in-depth questions asked by state employees. The “Text a Librarian” service is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Although the State Library does not charge for this service, message and data rates from the patron’s service carrier may apply.

For questions requiring lengthy or detailed responses, patrons should continue to use the State Library’s e-mail or telephone reference service. Learn more about “Text a Librarian” and all State Library reference services at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_have/askisl.html.

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