

In this issue

ISL state employee outreach campaign

Public libraries receive technology packages

New digital Talking Books and players available

Digital Divide grant

"Connecting to Collections" grant awarded

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

July/August
2011

INSIGHT

ISL state employee outreach campaign

The Illinois State Library continues its efforts to make state government officials and employees aware of the many services the State Library has to offer.

"The Illinois State Library is very proud to serve as the official library of state government, and we have many free tools and resources that we believe can help state officials and employees do their jobs more efficiently and effectively," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "These resources can be accessed with a free library card from the Illinois State Library. With a State Library card, users have access to a multitude of resources at work or at home, at any time of day or night."

Some of the free services available to State Library card holders include:

- Access to many information resources via the State Library's Gateway at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_have_gateway/home.html.
- Off-site access to special databases from office or home.
- Easy access to nearly 80 library collections, including all state university libraries, with items delivered to the user's office.
- Reference and research assistance.
- Large collection of Illinois and other maps.
- Federal and state documents dating back to 1837.



Secretary of State Jesse White displays his free library card from the Illinois State Library, and encourages all state employees and state government officials to obtain a card.

State government officials and employees may apply online for a State Library card at: www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/lda137.pdf. The card and a packet of information will be sent via interoffice mail.

State agencies also may request a presentation about State Library services (in person in Springfield or Chicago, or via Webinar statewide) by contacting Debra Aggertt at daggertt@ilsos.net or 217-558-1945.

Public libraries receive technology packages

Sixty-five Illinois public libraries have been chosen to receive nearly \$4,000 each worth of equipment, hardware and software to help businesses and entrepreneurs in their communities create new economic growth opportunities. The "Business and Libraries: Working Together" technology packages are the result of a \$300,000 grant obtained by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Items provided to libraries include a laptop computer with Microsoft Office Suite; projector and screen; DVD player; camcorder with tripod; two audio headsets with microphones; DVDs for OSHA-required training in both English and Spanish; Business Plan Pro, Sales and Marketing Pro, and Adobe Acrobat software; Acrobat training materials; jump drives; and books on starting and growing business.

"Our public libraries are cornerstones of our communities, and partnerships such as this between libraries, businesses and entrepreneurs have the potential to promote job growth and economic development," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "Librarians and library staffs have the knowledge and training to be the best and most reliable sources of information avail-

(continued on page 2)

New digital Talking Books and players available

New, easy-to-use digital Talking Books and players are now available to patrons who use the Illinois Network of Talking Book & Braille Libraries.

"I strongly encourage anyone who qualifies or who knows a friend, family member or loved one who may qualify, to sign up for this outstanding free service," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "The Talking Book and Braille Program has the ability to greatly enhance the lives of citizens who cannot read regular printed material because of a visual or physical disability."

More than 28,000 Illinoisans use the wide variety of materials provided by the Illinois Network of Talking Book & Braille Libraries. Users can choose from a large collection of digital audio books, braille materials, descriptive videos, magazines and other services. With the cooperation of the U.S. Postal Service, materials are shipped to participants and returned free of charge.

Eligibility for the program includes anyone, at any age, who needs large print or who has macular degeneration, arthritis, dyslexia, cataracts, cerebral palsy or any other type of visual or physical impairment that limits reading. Schools, nursing homes, hospitals and other organizations may use the service. For more information or to sign up for the service, please contact the State Library Talking Book & Braille Service at 1-800-665-5576, opt. 5, or visit www.ilbph.org.

The Talking Book program is administered by the Secretary of State, and is a division of the State Library. The Illinois network consists of the Talking Book & Braille Service regional library in Springfield; Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center in East Peoria; Voices of Vision Talking Book Center in Geneva; Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center and the Illinois Machine Sub-lending Agency in Carterville.

Technology packages (continued from page 1)

able to citizens. These technology packages represent new tools that our public libraries can use to assist economic development in our state."

Libraries were selected on the basis of their community's local unemployment rate, poverty level, proximity to a Small Business Development Center, SCORE or other business organization, and statewide geographic distribution.

Libraries receiving technology packages are:

- Acorn Public Library District, Oak Forest
- Alpha Park Public Library, Bartonville
- Bellwood Public Library
- Bensenville Community Public Library District
- Berwyn Public Library
- Bloomington Public Library
- Bradley Public Library District
- Brookfield Public Library
- Cahokia Public Library District
- Cairo Public Library
- Charleston Carnegie Public Library
- Chatsworth Township Library
- Cherry Valley Public Library District
- Chicago Public Library-West Englewood Branch
- Cortland Community Library
- Crystal Lake Public Library
- Decatur Public Library
- Du Quoin Public Library
- Earlville Library District
- Eldorado Memorial Public Library
- Elmwood Park Public Library
- Evans Public Library, Vandalia
- Evergreen Park Public Library
- Farmington Area Library District
- Flagg-Rochelle Public Library District, Rochelle
- Fondulac District Library, East Peoria
- Frank Bertetti Benld Public Library
- Gail Borden Public Library District, Elgin
- Galesburg Public Library
- Gilman-Danforth District Library
- Grande Prairie Public Library, Hazel Crest
- Greater West Central PLD-Augusta Branch
- Harold Washington Library Center, Chicago Public Library
- Harrisburg Public Library District
- Harvard Diggins Public Library
- Hillsboro Public Library
- Joliet Public Library
- LaSalle Public Library
- Lillie M. Evans Library District, Princeville
- Manteno Public Library District
- Marion Carnegie Library
- Marshall Public Library
- Mascoutah Public Library
- Maywood Public Library District
- Moline Public Library
- Morton Public Library District
- Mount Carroll Township Public Library
- Newman Regional Library District
- Niles Public Library District
- North Suburban Library District, Loves Park
- Paris Carnegie Public Library
- Paxton Carnegie Library
- Peoria Public Library
- Reddick Public Library District
- Sallie Logan Public Library, Murphysboro
- Schaumburg Township District Library
- St. Charles Public Library District
- Sulzer Regional Library, Chicago
- Sycamore Public Library
- Talcott Free Library, Rockton
- Towanda District Library
- West Chicago Public Library District
- West Frankfort Public Library
- Westville Public Library District
- Wilmington Public Library District

Nearly \$1 million awarded to bridge digital divide

A total of 41 public libraries and community college learning resource centers are sharing in a nearly \$1 million grant awarded to the State Library to enhance broadband computer access to citizens across Illinois. The “Eliminate the Digital Divide Program Grant” is being awarded by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to provide equipment, training and services for broadband-delivered education, employment and reading services to the unemployed, children, seniors, minorities, persons with disabilities and others.

“The digital divide prevents many low-income citizens from having access to important technology and educational programs that can greatly enrich their lives,” said Secretary of State Jesse White. “Having access to information allows citizens to engage in lifelong learning. These grants will allow libraries and other providers to offer critical services that will hopefully allow more Illinoisans to lead better, more productive lives. I thank Governor Pat Quinn and DCEO for working closely with us to bridge the digital divide in our state.”

Grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$26,000 were awarded to the following recipients:

- City of Chicago SD #299, ACE Tech Center
- 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
- 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
- Hoopeston 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/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
- Zion-Benton Public Library District

“Connecting to Collections” grant awarded

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded a “Connecting to Collections” Statewide Implementation Grant to a coalition of 15 Illinois organizations that includes the Illinois State Library. The \$182,000 grant (with a \$93,000 match from the organizations) will allow implementation of recommendations developed from a statewide planning project and expand several pilot programs.

Focusing on three key areas of need, the grant aims to increase awareness and communication about collections preservation; provide a broad program of preservation education and training; and make statewide cooperative disaster planning and preparedness easier. Funds will support a database of Illinois institutions holding collections; new regional Google Map coverage for use in emergencies; an expanded listserv and Web site; public events and Webinars on collections preservation; scholarships for advanced training; and regional workshops on disaster planning and recovery. The Illinois State Museum Society is the lead agency on the project.

Joining the State Library as partners are the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum; Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies in Mt. Carroll; Chicago Public Library; Illinois Emergency Management Agency; Illinois Fire Service Institute; Illinois Heritage Association; Illinois Humanities Council; Illinois State Archives; Macomb Public Library; SIU Carbondale’s Morris Library; U of I Urbana-Champaign’s Spurlock Museum; University of Chicago Library; and the U of I Urbana-Champaign Library.



Letters About Literature

Secretary of State Jesse White hosted a ceremony in his Springfield office to honor the Illinois winners of the 2011 Letters About Literature contest. The national reading and writing competition requires students to read a book and then write a letter to the author describing how the book impacted their life. This year's winners were (left to right): Level II (grades 7-8), Naasir Haleem of Naperville; Level III (grades 9-12), Stacie Cler of Bloomington; and Level I (grades 4-6), Conrad Oberhaus of Lincolnshire.

SAVE THE DATE

August 12-21

State Library at the Illinois State Fair

September 1

Illinois State Library Advisory Committee
State Library

October 18-20

ILA Annual Conference
Rosemont

October 24-27

ILEAD U
University of Illinois Springfield

**The State Library will be closed
the following state holidays:**

Monday, September 5 — Labor Day
Monday, October 10 — Columbus Day

State Library staff news

ISL Map Librarian **Tom Huber** has an article, "Road Testing a Scanner: Creating a Digital Map Collection at the Illinois State Library," in the latest edition of *Bulletin* of the Illinois Geographical Society (V. 52, No. 1, Spring 2011). The article deals with the scanning of Secretary of State highway maps dating back to 1917 and their subsequent placement on the Illinois Digital Archives site.

Ron Winner, youth services consultant and state data coordinator in the Library Development Group, retired in June. Reference Librarian Robert Jones will replace Ron.

Lynda Maddox, formerly of the Library Automation & Technology Division, has taken a position with the Secretary of State's Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) Division.

Helen Knecht is now a library technical specialist in the Technical Services Unit.

Becky Hunter is now an administrative assistant in the Library Development Group, Grants & Programs Unit.

Joe Natale, executive assistant for Planning & Outreach, celebrated his 30th anniversary with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Bella Belogorosky of the Diversity Program recently marked her 20-year anniversary with the Secretary of State.



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.