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

## ILEAD U takes shape; seminars scheduled

ILEAD U (Illinois Libraries Explore, Apply and Discover), developed by the Illinois State Library with a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant, is taking shape and promising to be one of the most exciting Illinois library initiatives of 2010. The official title of ILEAD U is “The 21st Century Technology Tools Institute for Illinois Library Staff.”

Participants, mentors and instructors will implement Web technologies

that foster community participation and develop leadership, innovation and positive change. ILEAD U will encourage both the experimentation with and building of participatory Web services and programs. Examples of participatory technology tools include the following:

- Blogging tools
- Digital audio/podcasting
- Digital photography
- Digital video

- Gaming
- Instant messaging
- Photosharing site (e.g., Flickr)
- RSS
- Social networking (e.g., Facebook)
- Tagging (folksonomies)
- Videoconferencing
- Virtual reference
- Virtual worlds (e.g., Second Life)
- Web conferencing
- Wikis

Each five-member team will have two mentors to work with the project teams throughout the entire grant process. Participants will better understand and respond to user needs through the application of participatory technology tools and the creation of an easy-to-replicate model program.

The ILEAD U schedule will include three in-person sessions to be held February 23-25, June 15-17 and October 26-28 at the University of Illinois Springfield. There also will be additional mandatory virtual meetings.



The Illinois State Library was represented this fall at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., by Illinois Center for the Book coordinator Bonnie Matheis (second from left). Joining Bonnie were: (left to right) Drika Harrell, Junior League of Washington D.C.; Jeanne Jacob, Illinois State Society; Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services; and Therèse Magnuson, Illinois State Society.

(Photo by Earl Zuskoff, IMLS)

November/December  
**2009**

## ILA Annual Conference



Secretary of State Jesse White addressed attendees of the Illinois Library Association's Annual Conference in Peoria in October. He was honored by the ILA for fighting to increase per capita grant funding this year and for creating special license plates honoring President Barack Obama. Proceeds from the sale of the plates raised \$100,000 for summer reading programs.



Secretary White with staff and member librarians from Lincoln Trail Libraries System.



Secretary White with some of the state's regional library system directors: (left to right) Alice Calabrese, Metropolitan; Tom Sloan, DuPage; Sarah Long, North Suburban; Kitty Pope, Alliance; Jan Ison, Lincoln Trail; Joe Harris, Shawnee; Tina Hubert, Lewis and Clark; and Michael Piper, Prairie Area.

## FY10 Live & Learn Construction Grants

**Application deadline January 15**

Applications for the State Library's FY2010 Live & Learn Public Library Construction Grant Program are available at the State Library site at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com). Applications are due January 15.

Current grant offerings include \$50,000 matching grants for accessibility projects, \$25,000 non-matching mini-grants for libraries with limited funds, and matching grants of up to \$125,000 for new construction, additions, remodeling or conversions. A total of \$810,800 is available to be awarded.

## Lincoln Birthday Bicentennial wrap-up

The Illinois State Library concluded its yearlong celebration of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth with the showing of the exhibit "Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, a Man for All Times." The national traveling exhibit, which examines Lincoln's life, accomplishments and legacy, was displayed at the State Library for three weeks in November. Organized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the free exhibit went beyond the public images of Lincoln to focus on the evolution of his beliefs and his impact on the nation.

The exhibit was made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The State Library was one of only 40 sites nationwide selected to host the exhibition.

The Lincoln Birthday Bicentennial celebration involved a number of initiatives developed by the State Library and the State Archives, including development of a logo, a series of collectable bookmarks, a popular student essay contest, a flag distributed to Illinois public libraries, a poster, a teaching packet for Illinois classrooms, and colorful banners that were displayed outside the State Library and State Archives.

## Synergy 2010 schedule set

Dates and locations for the 2010 Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative seminars have been set. Seminars will be held April 20-22 at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center in Utica; August 3-5 at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton; and October 26-28 at Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel in Lisle.

Synergy is the statewide library community's proactive movement to recruit and nurture future Illinois library leaders. Objectives include self-assessment; discovering and developing personal values; identifying the local, state and global environment; fostering and expanding skills and tools for personal, professional and positional leadership; creating a cohort group; establishing mentoring relationships; and developing a vision of and beyond the field of librarianship.

The Illinois State Library, Shawnee Library System, Illinois Library Association and their partners are sponsors of the 2010 Synergy Initiative.



A delegation of librarians and government officials from Jilin Province in China visited the State Library this fall to learn how ILLINET works and how the library handles resource sharing. Staff members Lynn Bierma (third from left) and Dennis Weller (center) spoke to the group.

## Try-It! Illinois a success once again

Fifty vendors participated in the 10th annual statewide database trial, Try-It! Illinois, from October 1 through November 30. Each year, Try-It! Illinois offers the staffs and library users of the more than 5,000 ILLINET member libraries the opportunity to survey and evaluate a variety of electronic resources. Thanks to partnerships between the State Library and the participating electronic resource vendors, there is no charge for accessing these databases during Try-It! Illinois. Thanks to this year's participating vendors:

ABC-CLIO  
 Accessible Archives  
 Alexander Street Press  
 BioOne  
 Bowker  
 Business Publications, Inc.  
 CABI  
 Capstone Publishers  
 Carroll Publishing, Inc.  
 Children's Literature  
 Comprehensive Database  
 College Source Inc.  
 CQ Press  
 Credo Reference  
 Dun & Bradstreet  
 EBSCO  
 Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.  
 Facts on File  
 Gale-Cengage Learning  
 Geographic Research Inc.  
 Grolier Online from Scholastic  
 Library Publishing  
 H.W.Wilson Co.  
 Heritage Microfilm, Inc.  
 Ingram Library Services  
 Mango Languages

Marquis Publishing  
 Marshall Cavendish Digital  
 McGraw-Hill  
 Morningstar, Inc.  
 Natural Standard  
 Naxos of America, Inc.  
 netLibrary  
 Newsbank  
 OCLC FirstSearch  
 ORS Publishing  
 p4A.com.ltd  
 Plunkett  
 ProQuest  
 Questia School  
 Rand McNally Classroom  
 Reference USA  
 Rosen Publishing, Inc.  
 Standard & Poor's  
 Taylor and Francis, LLC  
 The World and I  
 Thomson Scientific  
 TumbleBook Library  
 Value Line, Inc.  
 Vault, Inc.  
 Visual Thesaurus  
 World Book, Inc.



## Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Winners

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced the winners of the 2009 Illinois Emerging Writers Competition. The competition promotes and encourages creative writing, and provides a unique opportunity and outlet for recognizing new literary talent. The competition was sponsored by the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book in partnership with Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein and the James Jones Literary Society.

### Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award winners

1st place: Vincent Francone – "Chicago"  
 2nd place: Valerie Wallace – "The Poem Stays"  
 3rd place: Mary Hotlen – "Year of Psalms"

### James Jones Short Story Award winners

1st place: Baird Harper – "Futures"  
 2nd place: Colby Cuppernull – "At the End of the Day"  
 3rd place: Deanna Sue Cording – "Driving Lessons"

Winners receive cash prizes and have their works submitted for review and possible publication in three Illinois literary magazines: *Downstate Story*, *Ninth Letter* and *RHINO*. Final judges were Kevin Stein for the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award and Kaylie Jones, talented writer and daughter of celebrated Illinois author James Jones, for the James Jones Short Story Award. Winning entries can be read at <http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/projects/projectsb.html>.

# SAVE THE DATE

December 9

ER-XPO: The Illinois State Library  
Electronic Resource Exposition  
Schaumburg Township District Library

February 23-25

ILEAD U  
University of Illinois at Springfield

March 15-17

On the Front Lines  
University of Illinois at Springfield

The State Library will be closed  
December 24-25 for Christmas  
and January 1 for New Years.

## ISL Patent & Trademark Library closes

The Illinois State Library has relinquished its role as a U.S. Patent & Trademark Depository Library. With the retirement of Patent & Trademark librarian Margaret Collins this fall, State Library administration looked at staffing options for the library and determined that designating existing staff to handle the library's responsibilities was not possible in the long term.

The State Library has served as one of 88 patent libraries nationwide for 25 years. With advances in technology, it is now easier for inventors, researchers and patent attorneys to conduct patent searches themselves via the Internet. The closing means the closest patent libraries are in St. Louis and Chicago.

While the State Library regrets that its role as a Patent & Trademark Depository Library has ended, sincere appreciation is extended to the library staff members who made the State Library's patent and trademark role so important over the past 25 years. State Library reference staff will continue to respond to basic patent and trademark questions.

## State Library staff news

**Brittany Striplin** has joined the Circulation Section at the Talking Book and Braille Service. **Patricia Ervin** has joined the Chicago office as a managerial assistant.

Reference librarian **Laura Large** was honored for her 35 years of service with the State Library. **Greg McCormick**, fiscal officer, marked his 25-year anniversary; **Tom Huber**, map librarian, marked his 15-year anniversary; and **Andrew Bullen**, coordinator for Information Technology, marked his 10th anniversary with the library.

**Natalie Tagge**, formerly a coordinator of the Ask?Away virtual reference program, has left the State Library and taken a new position as an instructor at the University of Illinois Springfield. Webmaster **Vicki Strohm** has taken a new position in the Information Technology division of the Secretary of State's office.

We bid farewell to two employees who are retiring at the end of the year: Digital Programs librarian **Connie Frankenfeld** and library technician **Donna Mayberry**. Thanks to both of you for your many years of outstanding service!

*Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the staff of the Illinois State Library wish you and yours a joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year!*



Insight  
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