



# Illinois State Library

**Annual Report — Fiscal Year 2015**  
(July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015)

Jesse White Secretary of State and State Librarian

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I am pleased to present this annual report detailing the outstanding work performed by the staff of the State Library during state fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015). As set out in its mission statement, the State Library is committed to promoting excellence in information access and innovative services for government, libraries and the general public. Since 1839, the State Library has served as the principal library for Illinois state government officials and employees, and its role has expanded to include library development in Illinois.

More than 5 million items are housed in the State Library’s collection, concentrating on government and public policy. The State Library also coordinates the Illinois Library and Information Network (ILLINET), which consists of approximately 3,400 academic, public, school and special libraries statewide. In working to promote and enhance library services throughout Illinois, the State Library awarded more than \$44 million in grant funds for library and literacy programs in FY15.

It is an honor to serve as State Librarian, and I applaud the work of the State Library staff in addressing the educational and informational needs of state government and the citizens of Illinois.

Jesse White

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Secretary of State and  
State Librarian

## Administration

In May, State Library Director Anne Craig celebrated her 10-year anniversary. A staff reception was held to commemorate the event.

**Administrative Rules Changes**— New administrative rules for the Illinois Library System Act (75 ILCS 10) were effective in April 2015 following action of the Illinois General Assembly’s Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The finalized rules reflected comments submitted to the State Library from the library community and from testimony during a statewide public hearing held by teleconference in January 2015. The rules revisions include phasing out developmental membership and clarifying requirements for system members. Other rules amendments covered the Library Operations Division, State Library grant programs and public library non-resident services.

## State Library Grants

During state fiscal year 2015 (FY15), the State Library awarded grants in the following categories:

**Illinois Veterans’ Home Libraries**— Illinois Veterans’ Home Libraries in Anna, LaSalle, Manteno and Quincy received \$50,000. Funding was provided through the State Special License Plate Fund to be used for library services, reading and reference materials, and access to technology for veterans and their spouses living in the homes.

**Illinois Library Systems**— The State Library administered the library system area and per capita grant awards to three library systems that cover the entire state:

- Chicago Public Library System (CPLS) – Chicago
- Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) – Edwardsville
- Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) – Burr Ridge

The three library systems were allotted \$15.5 million to support their activities in priority areas that provide essential services to more than 1,850 multi-type library agencies with 3,372 library buildings.

The continuing priority areas included:

- Delivery of more than 15 million library resources such as books and DVDs that were exchanged among libraries to enhance customer access to information.
- Support for shared library automation programs that allow libraries and patrons to access and request millions of items from libraries around the state while also supporting automated library workflows such as circulation, cataloging and interlibrary loan management.
- Support for the administration of the systems’ finances, library membership and certification, technology infrastructure, and communications to members.
- Support for the Illinois Talking Book and Braille Service.

In FY15, three landmark projects continued or were completed. These projects were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS):

- CPLS continued the Patron Driven Acquisitions program, allowing thousands of items to be purchased following direct requests by patrons.
- IHLS added 61 new libraries to SHARE, its consortial online catalog, through the Dream Grant.
- RAILS managed the eRead Illinois program, a statewide e-book service that allows 5 million residents to access thousands of e-books purchased jointly by hundreds of libraries around the state.

**Literacy**— The Illinois General Assembly appropriated \$5.7 million to address the needs of those Illinois residents 17 years of age or older who function below the ninth-grade academic level or who are non-native English speakers. Basic skills and English language instruction were delivered through four categories of service:

- **Adult Volunteer Literacy:** Eighty-five projects provided training to 7,517 volunteers who tutored 18,053 adult learners. Seventy-three percent of enrolled adult learners were unemployed. As a result of their participation, adult learners were better able to function in their daily lives, support their families and gain employment or promotions. Incarcerated individuals made up 1,596 of the adult learners; 246 inmates, whose skills exceeded high school level, became peer tutors. Eighty-five percent of literacy programs included support from public libraries in the form of overhead, tutoring space, or special collections, and 3,686 adult learners obtained library cards. Since 1985, the adult volunteer grant program has awarded \$132 million to local programs.
- **Penny Severns Family Literacy:** Forty-eight family literacy projects provided basic skills instruction to parents and children through adult education, child education, parenting education, library services, and parent and child together activities. The project served 1,413 adults and 1,926 children. While some families were already library card holders, 61 percent of families received library cards as a result of participation. By engaging the whole family, this program increased skills of both adults and children.
- **Workplace Skills Enhancement:** A total of 20 Illinois businesses and their educational partners provided on-site assessment and instructional services to 404 employees to help them increase their basic skills to maintain employment or increase eligibility for promotion. Since the program's inception in FY90, 684 different Illinois businesses have conducted 1,119 projects and provided instructional services to over 40,000 Illinois workers. Services of this program reach adult learners who would not be able to attend other learning opportunities because of their work schedules. Because participating businesses must match the amount of the state grant award dollar for dollar, Illinois businesses provided about \$11.1 million in local matching funds to this program.
- **Illinois Adult Learning Hotline:** The hotline (available via telephone and the Internet) refers Illinois residents who wish to locate a literacy program to volunteer as a tutor or to become a student. Since 2001, the hotline has connected 53,000 learners to programs using a referral service based on census tract data that allows operators to direct students to literacy service providers nearest their residence.

**Live and Learn Construction—** Eighteen public libraries received grants totaling more than \$800,000 to help pay for essential capital improvements ranging from projects to address accessibility, to major interior and exterior renovations of existing buildings. These awards leveraged local matching monies totaling more than \$3.49 million. The libraries receiving grants were:

- Altamont Public Library
- Atlanta Public Library District
- Bensenville Community Public Library
- Berwyn Public Library
- Blue Island Public Library
- Elk Grove Village Public Library
- Highwood Public Library
- Hometown Public Library
- Morton Grove Public Library
- Oregon Public Library District
- Pinckneyville Public Library
- Putnam County Public Library District
- Rosiclare Memorial Public Library
- Sparta Public Library
- Tri-City Public Library District in Buffalo
- Waverly Public Library
- White Hall Township Public Library
- Williamsville Public Library

**Public Library Construction Act Grant (PLCAG) Program—** No new appropriation was made in FY15 by the Illinois General Assembly for the PLACG Program. However, the State Library received applications from nine public libraries requesting over \$23.8 million for construction projects; applications were not funded. An addi-

tional four libraries have met the qualifications under the carry-over status provided in the statute to receive grants when a subsequent appropriation is made. Carry-over applications total \$24.5 million.

During FY15, these libraries completed projects funded with FY13 PLCAG funds:

- Belleville Public Library
- Case-Halstead Public Library District in Carlyle
- Centralia Regional Library District
- Chatsworth Township Library
- El Paso Public Library
- Farmington Area Library District
- Glen Ellyn Public Library
- Marengo-Union Public Library District
- Marissa Area Public Library District
- Sidney Community Library
- Six Mile Regional Library District in Granite City

Of the remaining five projects, three have reached 90 percent completion and two are 60 percent complete. By the end of FY15, of the \$50 million first appropriated through this bond program in FY2013, over \$39.8 million in grant funds had been distributed to these libraries.

**Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid**— In FY15, more than \$15 million was awarded to 635 public libraries. One hundred percent of the eligible public libraries received grant funds of \$1.25 per capita, the maximum statutory level. The funding paid for such expenses as materials, personnel, equipment, electronic access, telecommunications and technology. An additional \$332,476 was awarded to 33 public libraries in Equalization Aid. Equalization Aid grants help ensure that public libraries receive a minimum level of funding. Libraries that qualify may receive both the Public Library Per Capita and the Equalization Aid awards.

**School District Library Grant Program**— In FY15, over \$1.3 million was awarded to 669 eligible Illinois public school districts in 3,030 qualifying school attendance centers through the School District Library Grant Program. These school districts served 1,666,073 students through school library media programs that benefited from the funds. Grants were awarded based on a formula of 75 cents per student, with a minimum grant award of \$750. The School District Library Grant Program provided funds that were used for the acquisition of library reading materials, electronic resource subscriptions, and/or improved technology to support student research.

**Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)**— More than \$5 million in LSTA funding was received from IMLS for grants for statewide initiatives and services, subgrant competitions for initiatives that improve access to library resources, connectivity and services. Public, school, academic and special libraries, as well as regional library systems, were awarded LSTA grant funds to provide access to information, support lifelong learning, encourage reading and develop innovative programs that have a direct impact on people of all ages and communities across the state.

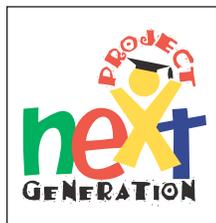
The State Library has worked with the IMLS as one of 16 pilot states to develop a virtual reporting tool for the collection of data about how LSTA dollars are disseminated and outcomes achieved across all states. The goal is to provide better data to demonstrate the collective value and impact of LSTA funds. LSTA funds are provided through the Grants to States Library Administrative Agencies Program, the largest grant program administered by IMLS.

Grants were awarded in FY15 using LSTA funds under the following IMLS goal categories:

- Support reliable and responsive access to information through excellent resource sharing capabilities, facilitated by the regional library systems.
- Reduce barriers for Illinois residents unable to read standard print material due to a visual or physical disability through services and technologies provided by the Chicago Public Library Talking Book Center; the

Illinois Talking Book Advisory and Outreach Center located in Burr Ridge; and the Illinois Machine Sub-Lending Agency in DuQuoin.

- Increase the knowledge of library staff and leadership through ISL's continuing education and professional development programs that result in improved library services.
- Educate at-risk students and bridge the digital divide through Project Next Generation programs at 21 public libraries.



**Project Next Generation (PNG)**— In FY15, \$289,310 was awarded to 21 public libraries through the PNG mentoring and technology program for the purpose of encouraging personal growth and the educational development of at-risk students. Students ages 10 to 18 work with mentors to become more proficient with technology and develop life skills, including effective communication, goal setting and conflict resolution. A total of 92 mentors and 1,183 students participated in the program. In addition, 183 students joined Secretary White for the annual PNG celebration at the State Library. This project was made possible in part by the IMLS.

**Targeting Autism: A National Forum on Serving Library Patrons on the Spectrum**— The State Library was awarded a \$100,000 IMLS National Leadership Forum grant, Targeting Autism, to address the needs of individuals and families affected by autism. Librarians and a diverse group of autism stakeholders were among a nationwide group of over 80 attendees at the first forum held on March 4 and 5, 2015, at the State Library. The forum focused on ways libraries can assist individuals on the autism spectrum to become productive members of society by linking them to enhanced educational and vocational opportunities. Ultimately, the Targeting Autism initiative will provide the foundation for a model for statewide autism support that can be adapted in other states and applied to serve other health-related and special needs populations. A follow-up forum will be held on March 10 and 11, 2016, at the State Library. This project was made possible in part by the IMLS.

### **Library Development Group Activities**

In addition to grant review oversight, the Library Development staff was involved with the following initiatives.

**Administrative Ready Reference**— With the help of librarians across the state and attorney at law Phil Lenzini, the Administrative Ready Reference, a resource used to answer library administration and governance questions, was updated and made available online.

**Data Coordination**— Beginning this year, all applications for 24 grant categories were submitted via a single coordinated system. Following the grant deadline, the Data Coordinator harvested information from each application to create tables in Microsoft Access. All data has been made easily available for individual and comparative statistical reports and other tasks during the grant year.

**Delivery Service Operations**— Resource sharing throughout ILLINET, the state's multi-type library network, is supported by delivery service operations that facilitate the shipment and return of books and other library resources throughout Illinois.

The four delivery service operations are:

1. CPLS
2. IHLS
3. Illinois Library Delivery Service (ILDS), which links delivery through a statewide backbone that encompasses the library system delivery hubs as well as academic libraries
4. RAILS

Over 16 million library resources were transported statewide:

- IHLS transported approximately 3.8 million items

- RAILS transported approximately 9.3 million items
- ILDS transported approximately 2.4 million items

**State Library Delivery Committee**— In FY15, the Delivery Advisory Committee completed its work and was formally discharged. Committee recommendations were implemented, including:

- The State Library created a centralized website to serve as a standardized resource on delivery.
- Delivery statistical data was collected, compiled, analyzed and disseminated in a uniform manner. The collected information is being reported routinely through the State Library's delivery website.
- The State Library and the library systems updated and implemented a statewide volume-based frequency standard.
- Library systems updated delivery frequency and began to designate community partnerships on the L2 (librarylearning.info) website.
- All delivery service providers agreed to a uniform holiday delivery schedule making delivery days standard across the state.
- Web-based trouble tickets or reporting forms were implemented by the systems for reporting delivery issues.

**ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code Revisions Became Effective**— April 1, 2015, the revised ILLINET Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Code [23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030.Exhibit A], which governs interlibrary loan transactions, became effective following acceptance by the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The ILLINET ILL Code was published both on the State Library website and as a print document. Paper copies were sent to all ILLINET libraries. In addition, an ILL Code Checklist and a list of ILL Best Practices were published online to assist librarians in implementing the ILL Code.

**Illinois Library District Boundary Map**— In July 2013, the State Library and Illinois Department of Revenue began working in collaboration to create an interactive map to assist in evaluating accurate library district boundaries and service area populations.

**Illinois Literacy Newsletter**— This quarterly publication provides Illinois residents with information on literacy initiatives, highlights grantee and learner accomplishments, provides useful resources, and a calendar of literacy related events and educational opportunities. The newsletter is distributed through email to 638 subscribers.

**Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR)**— This statutorily required annual statistical report, submitted by each ILLINET public library, includes data for the previous fiscal year's activity in areas such as revenues, expenditures, circulation and programming. The State Library compiles, preserves and publishes these annual reports. IPLARs are due to the State Library 60 days following the conclusion of the fiscal year of the public library. In FY15, 642 of 643, or 99.8%, of Illinois public libraries completed their IPLAR.

The State Library also participates in the national Public Library Survey (PLS), which is administered annually by the IMLS. The purpose of this survey is to provide statistics on the status of public libraries in the United States. In Illinois, the IPLAR data is submitted to PLS. Nationally, data is collected from approximately 9,000 public libraries with approximately 17,000 individual public library outlets in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and outlying territories. Public libraries are encouraged to use the collected data to compare themselves with their peers at the regional, state and national levels. During FY15, data from FY14 IPLAR for 638 public libraries with 801 outlets was reviewed by State Library staff and submitted to the PLS.

**Literacy Support Services:**

- **The Adult New Reader Book Club Collections** provide book collections available to grantees to conduct adult new reader book clubs. Each book collection contains 20 copies of 21 titles, a Discussion Leader Guide that contains background information about the author and book, and discussion questions. Thirty book discussions took place in FY15 using this resource.
- **Family Literacy Story Kits** include participatory literature-based activities that engage parents in educa-

tional experiences with their children. Twenty-three different children's titles are available in 25 kits. Twenty-five story kits were circulated to literacy projects by the State Library.

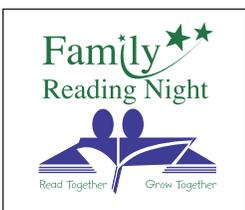
- **The Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutor Training** resource provides tutor training to prospective literacy tutors. The tutor training provides a web-based alternative for the local project's tutor training requirements.
- **Literacy Outreach and Agency Collaboration:** Nine hundred and forty-two participants attended 13 presentations made by literacy staff through conferences or webinars. Monthly emailed updates were sent to 683 grant program staff members. An ISL staff member serves as a statutorily required member on the Illinois Community College Board Advisory Council.

**Spotlight on Achievement and Service Awards**— In May, the Secretary of State and the Illinois Press Association honored 20 Illinois residents at the Annual Spotlight on Achievement and Service Awards held at the State Library. Ten adult learners from nearly 20,000 program participants were nominated and selected for a Spotlight on Achievement Award based on their accomplishments in improving their reading ability or English language skills. Ten tutors, chosen from over 7,500, were selected for a Spotlight on Service Award for their efforts in helping adult learners improve their literacy skills. Since the establishment of the Spotlight on Achievement Awards in 1994, 223 adult learners and 180 tutors have been honored.

**Try-it! Illinois**— Each year from October 1 to November 30, the State Library hosts Try-It! Illinois, a free statewide database trial. Try-It! Illinois offers library staff and residents an opportunity to use and evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources. Thanks to partnerships between the State Library and participating electronic resource vendors, there is no charge for accessing these databases during Try-It! Illinois. During FY15's Try-it! Illinois, over 5,000 users took advantage of the program. More than 30 vendors participated representing financial, reference, genealogical and other types of databases.

**Diversity Program**— The Diversity Program promotes cultural awareness, multicultural programming in libraries and the recruitment of minorities to the library profession. Three hundred and forty-four participants attended nine cultural programs, including "Empowering the Library Staff with Essential Information in Meeting the Needs of Spanish Speakers," "The Diversity Café with Russian Poet Rosina Neginsky," and 12 cultural exhibits.

**Reading and Writing Programs**— The Illinois Center for the Book, housed at the State Library, is the Illinois affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. All Centers for the Book carry out the national mission to sponsor programs that highlight their area's literary heritage and call attention to the importance of books, reading, literacy and libraries. The mission of the Illinois Center for the Book is to nurture and connect readers and writers, and honor our rich literary heritage. During FY15, the Illinois Center for the Book sponsored numerous programs and events including:



- **Family Reading Night**— The Secretary of State's annual Family Reading Night took place on Nov. 20, 2014. The purpose of the event is to encourage families to read together. To promote the event, 400,000 bookmarks and 7,300 posters were provided free of charge upon request. The theme for the year was "Reading Rocks."
- **Illinois Authors Wiki**— The Illinois Authors Wiki is a means to celebrate and share information about Illinois authors, illustrators and photographers. During the year, 126 author profiles were added to the Wiki bringing the total number to 3,578.



- **Illinois Emerging Writers Competition**— FY15 marked the 10th anniversary of this competition created by Secretary White to promote creative writing and recognize new poetic talent. The competition names three Gwendolyn Brooks poetry award winners who receive cash prizes and a plaque at an awards ceremony with Secretary White. The winners' poems are submitted for review and possible publication in Illinois literary journals. Illinois Poet Laureate, Kevin Stein, is the final judge of the competition.

FY15 Illinois Emerging Writers Competition Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award winners were:

- First place – Whitney Jones of Harrisburg for her poem “The Value of Fingers.”
  - Second place – Jessica Walsh of Roselle for her poem “The Library Again.”
  - Third place – Pablo Otavalo of Chicago for his poem “The Year of the Dragon.”
- **Letters About Literature**— This national reading and writing program encourages students to read a book and write a letter to the author reflecting on how the book changed their life or their views of the world. Judges select the state winners, finalist and semi-finalists on three competition levels based on grade level. These winners compete at the national level. Each first-place winner received a \$200 check and a plaque, while the winners’ teachers each received a \$100 check to purchase books for their schools’ libraries, as well as a certificate.

Nearly 7,000 students from across the state took part in the competition, making Illinois the highest participating state for the eighth year in a row. There were 1,001 semi-finalists and 115 finalists who received certificates. The high school level winner was also a national winner.

The following students received first-place prizes:

- **Level I, Grades 4–6 — Cameron Hailstone** of Gillespie, wrote to authors Scott Lamb and Tim Ellsworth about their book, “Pujols: More Than the Game.” A student at Gillespie Middle School, his letter was submitted by teacher Kim Henderson.
  - **Level II, Grades 7–8 — Claudia Levens** of Wilmette, wrote to author J.K. Rowling about her “Harry Potter” book series. A student at Wilmette Junior High, her letter was submitted by teacher Erin Schwarz.
  - **Level III, Grades 9–10 — Aidan Kingwell** of Oak Park, wrote to Mary Oliver about her poem, “When Death Comes.” A student at Fenwick High School in Oak Park, her letter was submitted by teacher Mary Marcotte. Aidan was also the Level III National Winner and was featured in a Washington Post article on July 13, 2015, entitled, “How a Poem Helped Save a Suicidal Teen’s Life.”
- **Literary Landmarks** — On April 25, 2015, the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in Galesburg was dedicated as an American Library Association Literary Landmark during the Carl Sandburg Festival. The ceremony was held in the Barn Theater; the audience included Sandburg scholars, supporters from around the world and prominent speakers.

The Sandburg event was first in a series of Literary Landmarks dedicated at Centers for the Book across the nation to celebrate Children’s Book Week (May 4-10). The designation officially distinguished the grounds of the three-room frame house where Sandburg was born on January 6, 1878, as an historic literary site.

- **Read for a Lifetime**— “Read for a Lifetime” is the State Library’s popular reading program for high school students that highlights contemporary and classic literature and promotes reading for pleasure. Students who read at least four titles from the list of 25 books selected for the 2014-15 school year received a certificate signed by Secretary White. The book list changes annually and includes a mix of classic and contemporary literature. During the 2014-15 school year:
  - 864 students from 50 high school and public libraries read 4,785 books.
  - 24 high school seniors received four-year participation certificates.
  - 18 students read all 25 titles and two seniors read all 25 titles all four years.
  - The top five most read books were “Divergent” by Veronica Roth, “The Giver” by Lois Lowry, “The Maze Runner” by James Dashner, “Eleanor and Park” by Rainbow Rowell, and “Burned” by Ellen Hopkins.

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## STAR Continuing Education Programs

FY15 STAR (Statewide, Targeted, Affordable and Relevant) continuing education programs were:

**ILEAD USA: Innovative Librarians Explore, Apply and Discover the 21st Century Technology and Leadership Skills Institute for the States**— In FY15, 10 state partners including Delaware, Illinois, Maine, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin, partnered to administer this continuing education initiative. The State Library received \$500,000 through a Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program grant from IMLS to expand ILEAD USA to include state partners. ILEAD USA was designed to help library staff understand and respond to user needs through the application of participatory technology tools. Throughout the United States, teams of five participants and a mentor attended three in-person sessions over the course of nine months. During the in-person sessions, they learned from the instructor corps to create a final team project which addressed a community need by utilizing technology. The professional library community and local communities have responded very positively to this initiative.

**Statewide Public Library Management Institute (SPLMI)**— To provide better library services for the citizens of Illinois, the Statewide Public Library Management Institute is a learning opportunity for public library directors to focus on public library management in Illinois. SPLMI celebrated its 20-year anniversary and its first year following a name change in which the “S” changed from Small Public Library Management Institute to Statewide Public Library Management Institute. First offered in 1995 to educate the new directors of small and rural public libraries on management and legal issues, over the years more than 800 new directors have attended. The directors who attend receive training on topics including but not limited to strategic planning, disaster prevention, public library management, and the role of library boards and library directors. In FY15, 49 library directors attended more than 50 hours of presentations during a six-day intensive learning experience at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Presentations included formal classroom experiences, team work and networking opportunities provided through the professional expertise of 50 qualified speakers. Eighteen committee members from libraries across the state as well as State Library staff organized the sessions, chose the speakers and supported the new directors who attended. SPLMI was made possible in part by the IMLS.

**SYNERGY: The Illinois library leadership initiative**— Synergy is a State Library continuing education program which strategically identifies and develops future Illinois library leaders. The leadership program enables participants to provide better library services for residents of Illinois; it enhances the skills and knowledge of the workforce in Illinois’ public, academic, school and special libraries. Twenty-nine librarians, 10 mentors and two facilitators participated in three in-person sessions over the course of six months. Held in Springfield and Utica, the curriculum included self-assessment; leadership theories; strategic tools for personal, professional and positional leadership; identifying the local, state and global environment; and developing a vision of librarianship. The Synergy leadership program is made possible in part by the IMLS.

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## State Library Operations Activities

In FY15, Library Operations staff members continued their work with acquisitions, cataloging, circulation, inter-library loans, outreach to state government, reference and information services, stacks, and shipping.

**The Collection**— More than 14,200 items were added to the library’s online catalog during the year, including Illinois and federal government documents in print and electronic formats. In addition to materials that were purchased and government publications received from state agencies and the federal government, the library added a number of donations from Illinois authors. A special effort is underway to add cataloging records of older Illinois documents to the OCLC and I-Share databases.

**Resource Sharing**— The State Library continued to be a net lender of materials to other libraries both through its shared catalog, I-Share, and through OCLC. During the fiscal year, more than 5,300 library materials and copies were shared with Illinois libraries and beyond.

**Circulation**— The top titles that circulated during the year to state library patrons and other libraries were:

- “2012 Wood Design Package”
- “Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets”
- “Areawide Waste Treatment and Water Quality Management Plan for Southern Illinois”
- “Journal of Cultural Geography”
- “Rosetta Stone. Español. Level 1”
- “Industry Norms and Key Business Ratios”
- “Civil Engineering Reference Manual for the PE Exam”
- “Practice Problems for the Civil Engineering PE Exam”

Most of these titles were purchased in response to requests from other state agencies.

**Electronic Resources**— During the year, the State Library expanded access to electronic resources for state government patrons. More e-books were purchased and cataloged for the library collection in addition to access for state government to other titles through the eRead Illinois program and the patron-driven acquisitions program provided by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries of Illinois (though December 2014). Licensed access to databases included the addition of law review journals.

**Outreach to State Agencies**— State Library staff continued the efforts to promote information to state government employees. In FY14, the State Library reported the following:

- Four additional Little Libraries were placed in state government office buildings. The program is based on the Little Free Library movement that has become popular throughout the U.S. State employees are on the honor system to borrow and then return books when they are finished. Each Little Library contains 14 to 17 books from the State Library’s collection, including one children’s book to promote Family Reading Night. Library staff members visit each location monthly to place new books in the Little Library. Information highlighting other State Library services and programs such as the Illinois Veterans’ History Project is also routinely included. Additionally, a bookmark was developed with QR codes for the State Library’s online library card application and research databases web page. The program celebrated its one-year anniversary in June 2015, having circulated 1,063 books. This program has been so successful that another six locations are planned for the next fiscal year. The Little Library sites as of June 30, 2015, are:
  - Office of the Attorney General
  - Office of the Auditor General
  - Court of Claims
  - Howlett Building
  - Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
  - Secretary of State-Driver Services
  - State Employees Retirement System
  - Stratton Building
  - Department of Transportation
  - Department of Veterans’ Affairs

The Little Library for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs was especially designed to include the U.S., State and Armed Forces flags.

- Thirty-five outreach sessions were held for state government employees with 238 people in attendance. Additionally, 396 new library cards were issued, a 20 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.
- The popular eRead Illinois project circulated 260 titles in FY15 to state employees. This two-year project began in 2014. Funded through a grant from the Secretary of State and the State Library to RAILS and IHLS, it provides State Library patrons (state employees and elected officials) access to a broad variety of mate-

rials. Other participants include libraries throughout the state and patrons of the Talking Book and Braille Service. Titles from eRead are included in the Little Libraries, which have promoted 172 individual titles.

- The reference outreach coordinator continued to visit state agency staff and librarians to discuss resources available at the State Library beneficial to their patrons.
- Operations staff members purchased materials on demand for state employees, particularly in technical and training areas. More than 30 titles were sent from the on-demand program to assist state employees with professional development.
- Six issues of the electronic newsletter “INFORM” were emailed to over 2,000 state government employees and elected officials. The newsletter features new library materials, training videos, maps and government publications along with training opportunities for state employees. The popular “Did You Know?” section features quotes and interesting facts from the library’s current interest titles or databases. The section includes hypertext links to each title or database and is designed to catch the reader’s interest with a wide variety of popular titles or information resources. Circulation staff members have noticed an increase in requests to renew or replace library cards within hours of “INFORM” being emailed to employees.

**Reference**—Reference librarians continued to respond to information requests from state government patrons and the general public. More than 3,700 questions from state government were answered including in-depth requests for legislative histories.

**Shipping**—Along with the usual mailings and shipments via the U.S. Postal Service and the Illinois Library Delivery Service (ILDS), staff members from all divisions of the library helped with a major distribution of booklets explaining proposed amendments to the Illinois Constitution that were on the ballot in November 2014. Through ILDS, nearly 200,000 booklets were distributed to Illinois libraries including English, English/Spanish, English/Spanish/Chinese, English/Hindi and English/Polish versions.

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### Talking Book and Braille Service



The Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) funds and administers the Illinois Network of Libraries serving residents with print impairments. The network consists of four service centers located throughout the state that provide personalized customer service to patrons with print disabilities. The Chicago Talking Book Center serves residents of the city. The Reaching Across Illinois Library System, Burr Ridge and East Peoria offices, is the home of the Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center that provides advising and outreach services to the remainder of the state. The Illinois Machine Lending Agency at the Illinois Heartland Library System in DuQuoin handles the circulation and organizes the repair of cassette and digital book players. The Regional Library, housed at the State Library, is the administrative and main circulation center for the program.

TBBS acts as a liaison with the Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The program is a partnership between state agencies and the federal government and is supported by both state and federal funding. In cooperation with the U.S. Postal Service, books are mailed as “Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped.” Approximately 793,000 audiobooks were delivered to patrons through the mail or via download from the Library of Congress’ Braille and Audio Reading Download program in FY15. In addition, patrons have the option to download books directly through eRead Illinois. Books delivered through the U.S. Postal Service account for 85 percent of books read.

Currency readers were made available to TBBS patrons for free due to a pilot program from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

In FY15 eRead Illinois provided TBBS users access to a digital collection of electronic books and commercially recorded digital audiobooks. The collection features new releases and popular titles in adult, young adult, and juvenile fiction and nonfiction that may not be available in the TBBS regular collection, including some in Spanish. Initial funding for eRead Illinois was provided by the Secretary of State through the State Library.

During 2015, patrons owning an Android device were able to download books directly to their cell phones and tablets, joining iOS device users who received that service in FY14. Services available through TBBS and eRead Illinois were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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**Government Documents**— The Government Documents Section (GDS) of the Illinois State Library encompasses two distinct functions within the library, the Federal Depository Library Program, for which the Illinois State Library is the Regional Federal Depository for the State of Illinois, and the Illinois Documents Program.

As the Federal Regional Depository, the GDS oversees 50 federal depository libraries around the state. The newest depository was added in May 2015 when DePaul University joined as the first all-online depository. The State Library added 15,728 new federal items, 9,243 were online and 6,485 were tangible.

The Illinois Documents Program has the statutory mandate to receive and disseminate certain state publications to the public through a public computer network (the Electronic Documents of Illinois database (EDI)) and to state documents depositories (15 ILCS 320/7(q)). To achieve this goal, the GDS works with state agencies that distribute state publications to deposit items into the State Library. For FY15, GDS received 2,086 volumes, 153 were distributed to the state document depositories. EDI added 8,576 documents exceeding 60,000 total documents deposited into the database.

**Illinois Digital Archives (IDA)**— IDA was created in 2000, as a repository for the digital collections of the Illinois State Library as well as other libraries and cultural institutions in the state of Illinois. Included in the IDA collection are photographs, slides, glass negatives, oral histories, manuscripts and letters, Illinois and federal government documents, postcards, posters, videos and maps. IDA contains over 160 collections from all over the state of Illinois. IDA in total has over 446,756 items. Libraries and other institutions that are unable to host their own digital collections can find a home in IDA. The State Library issued 13 Digital Imaging Grants in FY15 and those collections will be added to IDA. The collections include Ernest Hemingway items, Prison Records from the State Archives and a one-of-a-kind Victorian-era collection of orchid illustrations from the Chicago Botanical Gardens. Collections added in FY15 included the Cornelia Neltner Anthony and Frank D. Anthony Book Plate Collection from West Chicago Public Library District. The State Library applied along with CARLI, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Chicago Public Library to become a Digital Public Library of America Service Hub in FY15. The digital imaging grants were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Notable items digitized by the State Library in FY15 include:

- Illinois Nodes, volumes 1-8
- Illinois State Library Nodes, volumes 9-15
- Nodes. volumes 16-18
- Constitution of the State of Illinois: Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention
- Legislative Article: Comparative Information : An Appendix
- Illinois Libraries, volumes 1-4
- Index to Illinois Libraries, volumes 1-29