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The State Library was well represented at this year’s State Fair, where its programs were featured at three locations on the fairgrounds. Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White; Jean Wilkins, Director, Illinois State Library.

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State Library showcases programs at the Illinois State Fair

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The library’s Automation and Technology Division returned to Tech Town this year with an exciting new exhibit called “Lifelong Learning Can Be Fun!” Among other things, the exhibit featured a children’s educational computer game, access to OCLC First Search, and information about the library’s Internet portal, Find-it Illinois.
More prominent authors on tap for Illinois Authors Book Fair

Two well-known Illinois authors have been added to the list of headliners for the 2004 Illinois Authors Book Fair, March 26-27, at the State Library.

Robert E. Hartley, author of Lewis & Clark in the Illinois Country: The Little-Told Story, will give the keynote address at the Illinois Authors Gala Dinner Friday evening at the State Library. Also, Hartley will sign his book and will answer questions from the audience.

Elizabeth Berg, popular author of books about women’s lives in transition, will discuss her work at the gala dinner. Berg’s works include Durable Goods, Never Change and Open House, which was selected by Oprah Winfrey for her popular book club.

These two authors will join bestselling author Erik Larson, who was showcased in the July/August issue of Insight. For more information about the Illinois Authors Book Fair and gala dinner, please contact Carole Gair at 217-785-6925 or cgair@ilsos.net.

Springfield couple donates autographed Brooks poem

State Library employees are excited to receive an autographed copy of a poem written by Gwendolyn Brooks. The poem, called “In the Time of Detachment, In the Time of Cold,” was originally distributed as a broadside to guests at a banquet of the Final Assembly of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission in Springfield on May 1, 1965. Jack and Virginia Myers of Springfield donated the poem to the State Library, which was reprinted in June in memory of the late Pulitzer Prize winner and Illinois poet laureate.

LibraryU Reloaded

The State Library received a Public Library Training Grant totaling $201,750 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation U.S. Library Program to develop a much-requested statewide Web-based training program for Illinois librarians. The grant will allow the State Library to transform a small pilot project known as LibraryU at www.libraryu.org into LibraryU Reloaded — a statewide program to provide ongoing training for Illinois librarians.

If Illinois librarians can enhance their knowledge and skills by obtaining this multi-faceted training, the result will be improved library service for patrons,” said Secretary of State Jesse White. Designed to become a training model for other states, LibraryU Reloaded will allow users to access the training on their computers at work, at home, or at one of six Gates Training Labs in Illinois. Information about the Illinois Authors Book Fair and gala dinner please contact Carole Gair at 217-785-6925 or cgair@ilsos.net.
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Elizabeth Berg, popular author of books about women’s lives in transition, will offer remarks at the Illinois Authors Gala Dinner Friday evening at a hotel near the book fair. She also will give a presentation on the book fair on Saturday. Berg’s works include Durable Goods, Never Change and Open House, which was selected by Oprah Winfrey for her popular book club.

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Though the initial focus of the program is public libraries, employees of Illinois academic, school and special libraries also will have access to the training modules. Perhaps most importantly, LibraryU Reloaded will eventually allow all 12 million Illinois public libraries to participate in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation State Partnership Program.

LibraryU Reloaded is an investment in the future of Illinois public libraries and public access computing in Illinois.
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