Public access to “Find-It! Illinois” to be announced

Beginning in late October, library patrons will be able to locate a multitude of state information resources through a single Internet portal. The kick-off event announcing public access to “Find-It Illinois” and the Virtual Illinois Catalog will be held in conjunction with the Illinois Library Association conference in Chicago, Oct. 16-19.

Through “Find-It! Illinois,” people can access various state resources, including the new Virtual Illinois Catalog. The catalog provides access to 40 million items housed by

see “Find-It” on page 3

White to target state’s youngest readers on Family Reading Night

Creative plans are in the works as Illinois prepares to celebrate the eighth annual Family Reading Night on Nov. 18. This year, Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White is doing his part in promoting the theme, “Read Together, Grow Together,” by presenting more than 500 gifts of early childhood reading materials to new parents of infants born on this year’s Family Reading Night.

“It’s never too early to start reading to children,” said Secretary White. “Even babies appreciate the soothing sounds of their mother’s or father’s voice and the rhythmic cadence of the written word.”

Schools, libraries and literacy projects statewide have received more than 3 million posters, bookmarks, brochures, postcards and stickers to help promote the event and give to families.

“I encourage every family — mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, uncles, aunts and grandparents — to set aside this one night, without the distraction of the TV or telephone, to share an evening of reading together,” said Secretary White.

For more information about Family Reading Night events in your area, contact your local public library.
Survey profiles library trustees

Trustee: n. 1. “A person to whom another’s property or the management of another’s property is entrusted... 3. Any of a group or board of persons appointed to manage the affairs of an institution or organization.” — Webster’s New World Dictionary

How does the above definition relate to library trustees in the Illinois library community?

Other than facts such as how many trustees there are and that some are appointed and others elected, it was unclear what type of person comprised a public library trustee.

Last year the State Library decided to find out by developing a detailed library trustee survey and mailing them to the more than 4,800 library trustees across Illinois. Survey questions asked for current information about the trustee, from name, address and city of residence to their life experiences, educational background and suggestions for continuing education opportunities. Nearly 1,200 surveys were returned to the State Library, and now the library has a better picture of those who choose to serve as a library trustee. The survey revealed that 35 percent of the state’s trustees who responded belong to the Illinois Library Association, and 17 percent are members of the American Library Association. Budget and finance topped the list for the most popular subject of interest, and more than 10 percent of those surveyed asked for more programs on this subject.

Are you a library trustee? Do you know someone who is a trustee? See how you or they compare with those who answered our survey by reading the results of the survey to be published in the fall issue of Illinois Libraries, due out in November.

FirstSearch usage on the rise

In FY99, Illinois libraries conducted 4.75 million searches and downloaded nearly 1.5 million full-text documents from Illinois State Library-funded FirstSearch databases. The chart below illustrates the sizable increase each year.

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<th>FY97</th>
<th>FY98</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full-text documents downloaded</td>
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Madden, Barrette join Illinois Network Advisory Committee

The newest appointments made by Director Jean Wilkins to the State Library’s Illinois Network Advisory Committee are Michael Madden, Schaumburg Township Library District, and Linda Barrette, John A. Logan College, Carterville.

They join 15 other members of the committee on making recommendations on resource sharing and multi-type cooperation. The committee is currently reviewing proposed guidelines for digital imaging, implementation of the Virtual Illinois Catalog and offerings for statewide electronic resources.
White awards grants to library school students

Secretary of State Jesse White announced that 15 Illinois college students each will receive a $7,500 Illinois State Library Training Grant for attending a graduate library school accredited by the American Library Association.

“The State Library is committed to enhancing library service throughout the state,” Secretary White said. “These grants provide a great incentive for students to pursue an advanced degree in library science and put their knowledge to work at an Illinois library.”

Following graduation, grant recipients must work the equivalent of two years at the State Library or a library that is a member of the Illinois Library and Information Network.

Below are names of the 1999-2000 training grant recipients:

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS — CHAMPAIGN-URBANA:**
- Lynda Duke, Bloomington
- Carmen Epstein, Chatham
- Keshia Garnet, Chicago
- Gary Jones, Harrisburg
- Patricia Luebke, Carbondale
- Carmen Price, Chicago
- James Shepard, Chatham
- Betty Taylor, Mt. Carmel
- Jennifer VanWinkle, Naperville

**DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY — RIVER FOREST:**
- Mary Frueh-Lardie, Chicago
- Keisha Jordan, Chicago
- Lori Lorenz, Elmhurst
- Sarah Roll, Capron
- Leann Skeens, Glendale Heights
- Mark Williams, Naperville

Wilkins appoints working groups

State Library Director Jean Wilkins appointed members to two new working groups this summer to address key library issues.

Members of the **Interlibrary Loan Working Group** are:
- Kate Boyle — Suburban Library System, Burr Ridge
- Kathryn Harris, Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield
- Belle Hoffman — Arlington Heights Memorial Library
- Mary Hollerich, Northwestern University, Evanston
- Barbara Preece — Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
- Nancy Stump — University of Illinois, Springfield
- Laura Trower — LaSalle Public Library
- Lynn Wiley — University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign
- Lisa Wright — Library Research Center, University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign
- Kitty Wrigley — St. John’s Hospital, Springfield
- Barbara Alexander — Illinois State Library, Springfield

The working group is reviewing the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code to consider needed changes for today’s library environment.

Members of the **Delivery Working Group** are:
- Sue Beach — Quincy Public Library
- Pam Feather — DuPage Library System, Geneva
- Helen Gilbert — McKendree College, Lebanon
- Deanne Holshouser — Edwardsville Public Library
- Larry Kunas — North Suburban Library System, Wheeling
- Greg McCormick, Patricia Norris, Dennis Stratton — Illinois State Library, Springfield
- William McCully — Park Ridge Public Library
- Toni Tucker — Illinois State University, Normal
- Jim Ubel — Shawnee Library System, Carterville
- Ron Winner — Alliance Library System, Pekin
- Art Young — Northern Illinois University, Dekalb

The group is charged with reviewing vehicular delivery of library materials and making recommendations to the State Library this fall.

“Find-It!” (continued from page 1)

(hundreds of Illinois libraries. The catalog is available through a user-friendly interface using OCLC’s SiteSearch software. Development of the catalog was a joint effort among the state’s library systems and the State Library.

Library personnel are urged to become acquainted with “Find-It! Illinois,” at [http://findit.sos.state.il.us](http://findit.sos.state.il.us), and the Virtual Illinois Catalog in advance of the kick-off.

**RUSSIAN VISITORS.** Distinguished visitors from Russia toured the Illinois State Library in July as part of the Russian Leadership Program, sponsored by the Library of Congress. From left are: Igor Gruzin; Julie Curry, Springfield Commission on International Visitors; Igor Gadalov and Elena Arinchtein.
in closing...

BOOKED FOR LUNCH: The State Library has inaugurated a new lunch time program called “Booked for Lunch.” On the third Thursday of the month, from noon to 1 p.m., you can meet and have a book signed by a featured Illinois author in the library’s Illinois Authors Room.

Springfield writer Howard Humphrey was the featured author in September, and Jim Davis, author of Frontier Illinois, will be featured on Oct. 21. As part of Family Reading Night, several authors will be featured throughout the day on Nov. 18.

“Booked for Lunch” is free, and no registration is required.

GET IT AT THE STATE LIBRARY:
— Written in Illinois: A 50-minute video featuring interviews with authors Ray Bial, Bill Brashler, Carlos Cumpian, Maureen Holohan and Glennette Tilley Turner. Please request through interlibrary loan.


Key accomplishments for the year include a new division for library automation and technology, the first “Bring in an Expert” grants, an exhibit of Abraham Lincoln’s patent model, and a rewrite of the Illinois State Library Act passed by the General Assembly in spring 1999.

NEW ILLINOIS AUTHOR TITLES AT THE STATE LIBRARY:
• An Angel of Dreams, A Fable of Hope, by Rikk Dunlap. Led by an angel, Sheldon Humes rises from despair to a new life of hope.
• A Long Way From Chicago, by Richard Peck. Humorous tales of seven years of visits by two big city kids to grandma’s house in downstate Illinois.
• True At First Light, by Ernest Hemingway. Partially autobiographical. Hemingway in his last work tells a tale of beauty, laughter and insight against an African background.

INSIGHT

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