

NEWS

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Area Libraries Present
Lincoln-Douglas Debates traveling exhibit
Marks the 150th anniversary of the nation's most famous political speeches

Champaign - The 150th anniversary of the greatest political discourse in American history will be commemorated by ten Lincoln Trail Libraries System member libraries. The following libraries will be hosting a traveling exhibit about the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. This free exhibit, coordinated by Lincoln Trail Libraries System, is sponsored by the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition on behalf of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Communities.

Bement Public Library July 15th - August 10th, 2008.
Champaign Public Library August 11th - August 31st, 2008.
Charleston Public Library September 1st - September 30th, 2008.
Paris Public Library October 1st - October 31st, 2008.
Danville Public Library - November 1st - November 31st, 2008.
Paxton Public Library - December 1st - December 31st, 2008.
Marshal Public Library - January 1st - January 31st, 2009.
Watseka Public Library - February 1st - February 28th, 2009.
West Union Public Library - March 1st - March 31st, 2009.
Eastern Illinois University - Booth Library - April 1st - April 30th, 2009.

The exhibit is one of eight identical exhibits visiting libraries in the state through September 2009 to raise awareness of the debates and why their words and topics still resonate with Americans today. Dates are still available for additional libraries to host the exhibit from May to September of 2009. For information on how your library can host the exhibit contact Joe Sciacca (217)352-0047 Ext. 206 or by email: jsciac@lincolntrail.info .

Each exhibit is 20 feet wide by seven feet tall and contains information about the debates, the political climate of the time, and the 1858 election results. Douglas, incumbent U.S. Senator, defeated Lincoln in 1858, but the notoriety that Lincoln gained during the Debates helped propel him to the White House when he again faced Douglas in the 1860 election.

Historians from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum helped to develop the exhibit's content, text and graphics. The traveling exhibits were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Founded in 1966, Lincoln Trail Libraries System has headquarters in Champaign and is one of 9 multitype library systems in the State of Illinois. The System serves 7 academic, 53 public, 42 school, and 16 special libraries in Champaign, Clark, Coles, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, and Vermilion counties. Lincoln Trail's mission is to connect the people of East Central Illinois to information through cooperation.