

**ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
CONSULTANT'S REPORT
AUGUST 2009**

APPROPRIATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR GRANTS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES FOR PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS

Recent legislation signed into law, Public Act 96-35 and 96-37, provides an appropriation of 50 million dollars to the Secretary of State's budget to fund a new grant program for permanent improvements to public libraries.

The steps to bring this new program, which is separate from the existing Live and Learn Library Construction Grant Program, to fruition, have just begun. Initial activities include the development and administration of a statewide survey of all Illinois public libraries; the drafting of Administrative Rules to govern the program; the determination of eligibility and the state's share of the allowable project costs based on a mathematical formula included in the legislation; and the State's offering and sale of bonds to finance the program.

The Illinois State Library has begun to address these issues and will share all pertinent information with the ten Illinois Library Systems and the public libraries in Illinois. Please watch our weekly newsletter for updates.

Please contact H. Neil Kelley at 217-782-1891, Patricia Norris at 217-524-5867, or Mark Shaffer at 217-524-4901 if you have questions.

SYNERGY 2010

Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative 2010 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.

Librarians selected to participate in *Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative 2010* will commit to a yearlong process, beginning with the first session at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center through intersession activities and ending with the session at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel. Each site has been chosen for its unique Illinois flavor and for the natural progression, geographically, personally, professionally, as Synergy and its participants travel across the state.

Information about and the application for Synergy 2010, the Illinois Library Leadership Initiative, have been posted at: <http://il.webjunction.org/synergy> Applications must be postmarked by Monday, November 30, 2009.

Please call Vandella Brown at 217-785-9075, Cyndy Colletti at 217-524-3529, Pat Norris at 217-524-5867, or Ellen Popit at 1-800-455-4374 extension 2024 with any questions.

NEW LIBRARY SYSTEM STANDARDS BLOG

The Library System Standards Committee has set up a blog devoted to the library system standards at: <http://illibrarysystemstandards.wordpress.com/>

Your input is vital to make the standards as meaningful and useful as possible. Please take the time to review the various drafts and provide your input. The committee is very appreciative for the input that has been provided to date.

In order to comment on the material in this blog, enter your name and email address in the "Leave a Comment" section of the page you wish to comment on. Your email address will not be visible to others viewing the blog, but your name will. If you wish to remain anonymous, please list your name as "Anonymous."

If you would like to review the earlier comments go to <http://il.webjunction.org/il-systems> click on the Discussions tab, and then click on the various "Posts."

The Library System Standards Committee's next meeting is scheduled August 31, at the Illinois State Library. For more information, please contact Kathy Bloomberg at 217-785-0052.

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing promotion sponsored by Target and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress; and locally with the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book. Students read a book and write a letter to the author letting the author know how the book has changed their life or their view of the world. Last year's winners wrote:

A letter to Nancy Farmer, the author of *A Girl Named Disaster*:

"That was when I realized that there are flaws in life, and you have to find the good part about life even then or you will never be happy. After reading your book, I haven't complained once about my medicine or my blood tests. Instead I have found happiness with my friends, family, and all the good things in my life."

A letter to Jay Asher, the author of *Thirteen Reasons Why*:

"Though many of these people were doing obviously terrible things, some of them had no idea what they were doing. For example, the teacher/guidance counselor of Hannah, Mr. Porter, she relied on him to save her, to say the perfect thing that would show maybe, just maybe, somebody cared enough to keep her alive. This showed me how people who are depressed depend upon every word that you say to them."

A letter to Cherie Bennett, the author of *Life in the Fat Lane*:

"I remember sitting in health class watching a video on obesity, listening to the kids around me as they hollered, "Why don't you just put down the fork!", "Why would you let yourself get like that?", "How could you let your kids get that big?" to the video. I just sat there silently as I answered their questions in my head, thinking how they could never truly understand till they have experienced it themselves. ... This book made me realize that weight was nothing compared to personality. It is something that we are first judged on I turn to this book for reassurance each time I feel myself being put down because of my weight. It is inspirational to anyone, fat or thin!"

As well as being a program that can easily be knitted into the classroom or library curriculum, Letters About Literature also gives the school or public libraries of the national winners monetary grants to implement reading programs - **\$10,000** for National winners (6) and **\$1000** for National honorable mentions (12). In 2005, Illinois had a 4th grader, national winner from Peoria.

If you would like more information or would be interested in judging Letters About Literature, (about February – March) please contact Bonnie Matheis at bmatheis@ilsos.net.

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY E NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter for the latest announcements, updates and information from the Illinois State Library, at: http://www.librarynewsletters.org/isl/?_mode=S

CALENDAR

2009

August 14 - 23	Illinois State Fair, Springfield – Be sure to visit the ISL booth in the SOS tent and the Talking Books booth in the Senior Building
August 31	Library System Standards Committee, ISL
September 7	ISL closed for Labor Day holiday
October 6 - 9	Illinois Library Association Conference, Peoria
October 29 - 31	Illinois School Library Media Association Conference, Springfield
October 30	CARLI Annual Meeting, Champaign
November 6	SLA IL Chapter Metropolitan Library System, Burr Ridge
December 9	ER-XPO: The Illinois State Library Electronic Resource Exposition, Schaumburg Township District Library (register at L2)

2010

March 15 - 17	On the Front Lines, Springfield
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