

**Illinois State Library
Consultant's Report
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On The Front Lines Conference * March 16-18

<http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=5241>

On the Front Lines, the sixth statewide library practitioners' conference will be held March 16-18 at the University of Illinois at Springfield. The event is designed to equip and enlighten "front line" staff with training, exposure and techniques that will enable them to handle their work more effectively and efficiently.

Don't miss this exciting learning opportunity! Conference sessions will focus on topics of interest to all types of front line library staff with program tracks including technology, resources, networking, customer service, and off the beaten track.

The registration fee of \$15.00 is applicable to one, two and/or three days of this event. This fee includes breakfast, lunch (when applicable) and all programs. To peruse the agenda, register and learn about other details, log on to L2. Contact Gwen Harrison at gharrison@ilsos.net or call 217-785-7334 with any questions.

New LSTA Grant Offerings Available

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/servicetechnologygrant.html
Applications are now being accepted for the FY2010 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant offerings. All types of libraries (academic, public, school and special) and regional library systems are eligible for funding. Over the years, LSTA grants have produced hundreds of worthwhile new programs in Illinois libraries and library systems to explore new technologies, develop new services, collaborate and explore alternative and creative methods of delivering library services.

Descriptions of the new grant offerings, applications, deadlines and other information can be found at the Illinois State Library website. Contact Karen Egan at kegan@ilsos.net or call 217-782-7749 with any questions.

US Libraries Initiative Pending

This grant program is designed to help public libraries still struggling to provide and sustain reliable technology services. Anne Craig and Karen Egan recently returned from a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation US Libraries Initiative meeting where they learned details about the grant program that will soon be offered to Illinois public libraries. About 86% of the Illinois public libraries that initially qualified based on poverty levels completed the required Tech Atlas inventory by the deadline. Only those libraries that completed the inventory will be eligible for consideration for the grant funds.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is currently analyzing the Illinois Tech Atlas data to determine which libraries may be eligible for grant funding. We will hear the results in March and the Illinois State Library will immediately notify the public libraries to confirm participation in this two-year program as well as the regional library systems. The Illinois State Library will be submitting a grant application to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the funding on behalf of the eligible public libraries in Illinois. Stay tuned for more details!

Webjunction Illinois

<http://il.webjunction.org/illib-news>

A new feature on WebJunction Illinois called "Illinois Libraries in the News" is worth taking a look at because it will feature current news articles highlighting the accomplishments/good news from Illinois libraries.

Reference Resource

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_have/gateway/home.html

Looking for a newspaper story or an obituary that was originally published 30 days ago? One of the research databases accessible from the Illinois State Library's Gateway to Electronic Resources is Newsbank's *Illinois Newspaper & St. Louis Post Dispatch Package*, which provides a searchable interface to the full text of over 100 selected Illinois newspapers and the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. Each paper provides unique coverage of local and regional news, including companies, politics, sports, industries, cultural activities, and people in the community.

Revision of the System Standards

<http://il.webjunction.org/il-systems>

As part of its work in revising the existing Standards for the Services of Illinois Multitype Library Systems, the Library System Standards Committee has prepared a draft of Professional Development & Consulting standards for library systems and system members. Your comments are welcomed. The committee will review the comments at its meeting on Feb. 17, 2009. The document is available on WebJunction Illinois.

Information on how to post comments about the standards, including how to comment anonymously, is provided at the top of the page. Scroll down to the standard, then click on the link to read it. Please contact Kathy Bloomberg at kbloomberg@ilsos.net if you have questions.

Literacy Update – Kudos to Public Libraries!

Final reports completed by Adult Volunteer Literacy projects funded by the Secretary of State reveal the variety of ways in which libraries partner with literacy programs:

- ★ 63% of Illinois public libraries participate in Adult Volunteer Literacy programs.
- ★ 539 (75%) public libraries offer the library as a tutoring site.
- ★ 510 (71%) public libraries refer prospective students and volunteer tutors to literacy programs.
- ★ 452 (63%) public libraries provide tours and orientation.
- ★ 284 (40%) public libraries house a bilingual collection.
- ★ 273 (38%) public libraries help advertise the literacy program.
- ★ 198 (28%) public libraries house a high-interest/low vocabulary reading collection.
- ★ 143 (20%) public libraries donate a high-interest/low vocabulary reading collection to literacy programs.

Collaborative Project

On behalf of the Illinois State Library, the Lincoln Trail Libraries System and Prairie Area Library System have recently started working with the Ohio State Library on a collaborative open-source software (OSS) statewide resource-sharing (SWRS) project. The Ohio State Library is taking the lead for this project with other State Libraries as partners. The desired result will be the development of a connector that for the purpose of this project is any method a programmer can use to access the circulation functions of an Integrated Library System. It is an alternate way outside of the NCIP standard or a workaround to be used until the standard is successfully

implemented to communicate across disparate systems. An RFP will be issued and an evaluation team made up of contributing partners will review the responses.

Subscribe to Novelist by March 31

In response to overwhelming demand for Novelist and Novelist K-8 and Novelist Plus and Novelist K-8 Plus, the opportunity to take advantage of this offer has been extended to March 31.

Pro-rated pricing for Novelist and Novelist K-8 or Novelist Plus & Novelist K-8 Plus, or an upgrade to the Novelist Plus and Novelist K-8 Plus package, is now available. These offerings are available to ILLINET member academic, public, special and high school library buildings and to middle and elementary library buildings. The Illinois State Library pays 50% of each library building's fee. Contact Gwen Harrison for more information at gharrison@ilsos.net.

Upcoming Institutes

Applications are currently being accepted for the Institute for School & Public Librarians at Bradley University in Peoria, June 7 – 12 and the Small Public Library Management Institute, at the University of Illinois in Springfield May 31 – June 5. These information rich six-day institutes have been praised for providing practical strategies and educational resources.

Public library directors are encouraged to apply for the Small Public Library Management Institute. http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/2009splmi.html

School and public librarians are encouraged to apply for the Institute for School & Public Librarians. <http://www.bradley.edu/continue/librarians/index.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12	Illinois State Library is closed in honor of Lincoln's birthday.
February 16	Illinois State Library is closed in honor of President's Day
Feb. 17, March 16, April 24	Library Systems Standards Committee, ISL
March 12	Illinois State Library Advisory Committee, ISL
March 16-18	"On the Front Lines", University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS)
March 26	ILLINET Network Advisory Council, ISL
March 31	LSTA Letters of Intent due
March 31-April 2	Synergy, Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center, Utica
April 23	Illinois Library Lobby Day in Springfield
May 1	LSTA applications due
May 31-June 5	Small Public Library Management Institute, University of Illinois at Springfield
June 7 – 12	Institute for School & Public Librarians, Bradley University, Peoria