

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

**BROADBAND STIMULUS MONEY**

As part of this year's sweeping federal economic stimulus legislation, rules for the awarding of broadband money have been released. The first application deadline is August 14.

The Illinois State Library is exploring the submission of a statewide application in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity under the Public Computer Centers program (part of the Broadband Technology Opportunities program commonly referred to as "BTOP"). Public libraries, community colleges and other Community Technology Centers are eligible under this category.

**ADMINISTRATIVE/LEADERSHIP STANDARDS FOR LIBRARY SYSTEMS**

The Library System Standards Committee met recently and approved a draft of Administrative/Leadership standards for comment by the Illinois library community. These standards are posted on WebJunction Illinois.

To view the draft Administrative/Leadership standards and previously posted committee documents, go to the "Library Systems" page (in the Illinois Center area at <http://il.webjunction.org/il-systems>) and scroll down to the documents posted in the Overview section.

To comment on the Administrative/Leadership standards:

- You must be signed in to post comments
- Click on the Discussion tab on the Library Systems page
- Then click on the thread where you want to post comments, i.e. the Administrative/Leadership Standards discussion thread.
- Then click on "Reply" in response to the first comment that is posted or another one

For more information, please contact Kathy Bloomberg at 217-785-0052

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION OPPORTUNITY ONLINE HARDWARE GRANTS**

The Opportunity Online Hardware grant program is an initiative sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to help public libraries and their communities build sustainability for free computer and Internet access at the public library. This initiative focuses on libraries that are not yet able to adequately serve their patron's technology needs and are also serving high-poverty communities with limited access to computers and the Internet.

This program differs from the previous foundation initiatives, in that it includes a local funding match requirement and it provides funds to purchase computers, peripherals and the associated training and technical support rather than the equipment itself. These matching grants provide an incentive for libraries to engage the community to raise funds and communicate the value of technology in libraries. The Public Library Association will be providing advocacy training for three-person teams from each library to build skills, confidence levels and motivate others to sustain technology at the library.

July 16<sup>th</sup>, the foundation made formal announcement about these grants to Illinois libraries. For more information, please contact Karen Egan at 217-782-7749 or visit <http://il.webjunction.org/il-oo>

**WEBJUNCTION NEWS <http://il.webjunction.org/>**

WebJunction Illinois encourages users to continue to take advantage of the free online courses made available through the WebJunction Illinois Course Catalog. To make your experience with the Course Catalog as smooth as possible, please check the "Remember Me" box before you add courses to your cart and checkout. This will ensure that you can complete the checkout process successfully.

There has been a steady increase in use of WebJunction Illinois. In August 2008, there were 50 course registrations. In the month of April 2009, there were 1,407 course registrations. Also in the month of April 2009, there were 6,765 visits to WJIL with an average of 7.02 pages viewed and a total of 47,463 total pages viewed.

**ILLINOIS PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORTS**

Just a reminder--public library district annual reports are due 9/1/2009. All municipal public library (city, town, township, village) are due 30 days after the close of their fiscal year. Information about the 09 IPLAR is accessible at [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats\\_new/iplar2009.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/iplar2009.html) (whats\_new must be entered with an underline not a space)

**CALENDAR 2009**

- 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