

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY CONSULTANT'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2007

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Discover what is happening at the State Library through the weekly newsletter ISL-ANNOUNCE. Contact Pat McGuckin at pmcguckin@ilsos.net

TRY-IT! ILLINOIS ENDING NOV. 30

Try, Try-It! Illinois. Now in its eighth year, this database trial, sponsored ISL is about to wrap-up November 30, 2007. Available at <http://www.eliillinois.org/tryit/> the login is 4u2tryit and the password is illinois. The trial is available to all ILLINET member libraries, their staffs and their communities. For questions, contact Gwen Harrison at gharrison@ilsos.net or 217-785-7334.

CONSTRUCTION GRANT APPLICATIONS

Just a reminder that the FY 2008 Public Library Construction Grant program has been announced, with information available at:

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/constructgrant.html>

The required letter of intent should have been faxed, postmarked, or delivered to the State Library by October 19, 2007. Full applications must be postmarked or delivered to the State Library by December 14, 2007. Please refer all inquiries to: H. Neil Kelley at 217-782-1891 or nkelley@ilsos.net or Mark Shaffer at 217-524-4901 or mshaffer@ilsos.net

ASK?AWAY-- NO COST, NO HOURS TO STAFF, WHY NOT GIVE IT A TRY?

If you're a library that has yet to try the Ask?Away virtual reference service, you can sample it for free through December 15, 2007. And as an additional bonus YOU DO NOT NEED TO MONITOR CHAT HOURS TO PARTICIPATE IN ASK?AWAY. A new free trial will be offered January 15th thru May 15th, 2008. Take advantage of this great opportunity to provide 24/7/365 reference service to your patrons. For more information on Ask?Away go to <<http://www.askawayillinois.info/>> or contact Natalie Tagge at 217- 557-6329 or ntagge@ilsos.net

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White urges students in grades 4-12 to enter the 2008 Letters About Literature (LAL) contest, a national reading and writing contest sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Illinois Center for the Book in partnership with Target. The contest combines reading and writing, two skills that will benefit students for the rest of their lives. Entry forms, guidelines and other information can be found at

<<http://www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org/projects.html#lettersAboutLiterature>>

ER-XPO: THE STATE LIBRARY ELECTRONIC RESOURCE EXPOSITION

ILLINET member academic, public, school and special library staff are invited to attend the free Illinois State Library Electronic Resource Expo (ER-XPO) on Thursday, December 13, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Schaumburg Township District Library, located at 130 South Roselle Road in Schaumburg, Illinois. Sponsored by the Illinois State Library and the

Schaumburg Township District Library, the ER-XPO will feature Try-It! Illinois 2007 participating vendors.

- One-on-one contact with product representatives and focus sessions will be offered.
- Electronic resource representatives will highlight various databases applicable to all types of libraries (academic, public, school and special).
- Participating electronic resource representatives include but are not limited to: Gale, Encyclopedia Britannica, Alexander Street Press, Rosen Publishing, CQ Press, Morningstar, HW Wilson, World Book, EBSCO, Public Records, Standard & Pools, Greenwood, OCLC and ProQuest.
- There is no charge to attend the ER-XPO.
- School librarians are encouraged to bring their principals and/or superintendents. Public library trustees are also invited to attend.
- Boxed lunches will be available for purchase. To reserve your boxed lunch, contact Kris Kenney at kkenney@stdl.org or 847-923-3328. Payment for lunch must be made the day of the event.
- To register please log on to: <http://www.islcleo.org>.
- For more information, contact Gwen Harrison at 800-665-5576 (press 1 then select extension 1) OR 217-785-7334 OR gharrison@ilsos.net.

SYNERGY 2008

Dates have been announced and applications are being accepted for Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative 2008. Synergy 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 2008 will commit to a yearlong process. Three three-day seminars will be held: April 1-3, Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center, Utica; August 5-7, Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton; and November 18-20, Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel, Lisle.

Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative 2008 applicants are responsible for compiling and submitting their complete applications to Ellen Popit, Committee Chair, at Shawnee Library System. Applications must be post marked by Friday, November 30, 2007. All applicants will be notified in regard to their application by late January 2008. Questions about Synergy may be directed to Patricia Norris, Vandella Brown or Cyndy Colletti at the State Library (1-800-665-5576 Option #1) or Ellen Popit (1-800-455-4374 extension 2024).

SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARY GRANT PROGRAM a.k.a SCHOOL PER CAPITA

Grant packets for the School District Library Grant Program have been mailed to Superintendents. School librarians/grant writers should contact their superintendent for the packet. The FY08 grant application consists of three components: (1) online; (2) attendance centers; and (3) signature page. Take note that the attendance center component and the signature page are paper components that each have unique deadlines and must be postmarked and returned separately. Grant information and the online component are accessible at:

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/schoolpercapgrant.html>. (Please note that "what we do" should be entered with an underline between the words rather than spaces.)

CULTURAL AWARENESS: DIVERSITY IN ACTION

If your library is looking for more diversity and cultural competency training, take the "Creating More Inclusive Libraries" web-video presentation. The training shows how libraries and staff can become more conscious and aware in planning and in serving diverse populations. In the video version, you will view and hear Susan O'Halloran's "Walking the Talk" program lecture. There are three sessions, and each session has four segments. After each video segment, the Lincoln Trails Libraries System (LTLS) has provided downloadable handouts to use in your organization. The sessions are titled: What Is Inclusion? Focus on Patrons, and Focus on Administration. Take the free training at: <<http://www.librarydiversity.info/Inclusive.html>>. The web-video training was developed by LTLS with an LSTA grant awarded by the State Library.

ILLINOIS PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING AND TECH ACCESS SURVEY

Please complete the 2007 National Public Library Funding and Technology Access survey. In the fall of 2006, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded a grant to the American Library Association's Office of Research and Statistics (ALA) to work with Florida State University's Information Institute (FSU) to track library funding and technology trends on an annual basis to better understand how to improve support in those areas. These findings are compiled in the *Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study*. This year's survey has been in the field since September 2, 2007, and will be closing on November 25, 2007. Please complete this online survey at <http://survey.pnmi.com/> by November 25, 2007. The survey takes about 40 minutes to complete and the data you provide about your library will be instrumental for us and other library professionals.

VETS HISTORY PROJECT DVDS NOW AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

On September 19 Alliance Library System hosted an all-day seminar for librarians to learn about the Illinois Veterans History Project. The State Library arranged for the entire seminar to be videotaped, so that librarians who could not attend could still learn about this important initiative, how to conduct interviews with veterans, and how to get their communities involved. We're pleased to report that eight DVDs of the event have now been cataloged and are ready for loan from the Illinois State Library collection. "A Salute to Veterans" can be requested via interlibrary loan through OCLC and I-Share. We also are working to have the entire event placed on our website for downloading in the near future.

NEW DELIVERY SERVICE WEBSITE

The new Illinois Library Delivery Service (ILDS) will begin on January 2, 2008. A website has been established with answers to questions you might have about the new ILDS. Log on to www.illinoisdelivers.net

IPLAR FY2008 &

ILLINET INTERLIBRARY LOAN TRAFFIC FORM FY2007 AND FY2008

A new vendor has been selected for these reports and detailed information will be forthcoming. The timeline below summarizes when these reporting tools should initially be available for data input and completion:

1. IPLAR FY2008: January 14, 2008
2. ILLINET ILL Traffic Form FY2007: January 14, 2008
3. ILLINET ILL Traffic Form FY2008: March 1, 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15	“Empowering Library Staff to Meet the Needs of the Spanish Speaking Community” seminar, register at www.ilscleo.org
November 15	Family Reading Night
December 11	Illinois State Library Advisory Committee ISL
December 13	ISL Electronic Resource Exposition (ER-XPO), Schaumburg Township District Library
December 14	Deadline to submit entries for “Letters About Literature” writing contest