

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

CONSULTANT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2008

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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GATES GRANTS

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is coming back to Illinois! In 2001, they donated over \$4 million in computers and software to Illinois public libraries. We do know that this opportunity will once again only be for public libraries and their branches with the Gates Foundation determining eligibility. A local match will be required with a two-year commitment. We are anxiously waiting to hear more details, which we will share as they become available.

Thanks to system staff for verifying the names and addresses of member public libraries to help with this critical first step in the process.

LSTA RECEPTION AT THE ILA CONFERENCE – SEPTEMBER 24 @ NAVY PIER

We're only a few weeks away from this year's Illinois Library Association annual conference at Navy Pier in Chicago. We hope you'll join us to recognize the FY2009 LSTA Grant recipients at a special celebration. Conference attendees are invited to help cheer on friends and colleagues as we recognize this year's LSTA grant recipients.

This celebration will be held Wednesday, September 24th, 9:30 - 10:30 am, in room 203-207 at Navy Pier just prior to the ILA conference opening session. If you are registered for the conference, please bring your co-workers and anyone else that would like to attend the LSTA reception. If you are an LSTA grant recipient, please arrive early to pick up your ceremonial check and prepare for pictures to be taken.

If you are not registered for the conference, you can obtain a "free" pass to the exhibits at the ILA registration desk. You cannot attend programs, but you will be able attend the LSTA grant celebration then walk through and talk to vendors. Exhibits will be open Wednesday, September 24, from 12:30 - 5:00 pm and Thursday, September 25, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

L2, THE NEW STATEWIDE CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR

<https://www.librarylearning.info/>

It's been a long time coming, but Library Learning (L2), a new statewide continuing education calendar, is now available. It's been a pleasure working with our regional library systems to make L2 a reality. L2 provides one site for locating and registering for library-related educational opportunities regardless of which library system is the sponsor.

LIBRARY SYSTEM STANDARDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The Library System Standards Committee's inaugural meeting was held on Thursday, August 28. Members of the committee met with Nathan Maddox, Senior Legal Counsel for the Office of the Secretary of State, to discuss legal responsibilities for library systems. Preliminary brainstorming took place regarding assumptions about the library system standards and roles for library systems during upcoming years. The committee will meet again on October 9.

Very soon, there will be web based updates available about the revision of the library system standards AND rules. The page will be accessed via the following links:

- ISL web site: About the State Library/Committees (scroll down to Library System Standards Committee). The link was not in place yet as of September 8.
- ISL Web site: What's New/New Projects: Preliminary information is available when you click on Revision of Library System Standards and Rules. More information will be added regularly. Links to the library systems' strategic plans/long-range plans will be added any time now (thanks to the suggestion from Shirley May (DLS) and Tina (LCLS).
- Via the Library Systems page on WebJunction Illinois.

Throughout the process for revising the existing library system standards, input from the library community is essential. In addition to formalized opportunities for comment, your input is welcomed anytime throughout the next ten months. Please contact Kathleen Bloomberg at: kbloomberg@ilsos.net, ISL staff liaison.

THANK YOU

A big thank you goes to the regional library systems and ILSDO for stepping up to ensure libraries across Illinois have access to Wilson Select Plus.

SCHOOL LIBRARY PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE NOV. 26, 2008

The FY2009 School District Library Grant Program application is now available. The FY2009 School District Library Grant Program Application consists of three components:

1. The grant application online component to be completed and submitted electronically;
2. A paper component, *Part IV: District Attendance Centers: Eligibility*, to be completed and returned via mail; and,
3. A paper component, *Part VII: Signature Page*, to be completed and returned via mail.

Attendance centers must meet specific eligibility requirements to be considered eligible for funding. Funding is based on a maximum of \$0.75 per student for those attendance centers that meet the grant qualifications. For FY2008, the per-student amount was \$0.7233 with the minimum grant amount per school district \$100.

SYNERGY: THE ILLINOIS LIBRARY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE 2009

Applications are now being accepted for Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative 2009. The postmarked deadline to apply is Friday, November 28, 2008. Sessions will be held:

- ★ March 31 - April 2, 2009, Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center, Utica
- ★ August 4 - 6, 2009, Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton
- ★ November 4 - 6, 2009, Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel, Lisle

Selection Criteria:

1. Master's degree in Library and Information Science and/or School Library Media Specialist (32 hours in Library Science, Type 10 Certification. Indicate all specific certifications held. Teaching Certificate Endorsement not applicable).
2. Employed in an Illinois library/school media center.
3. Demonstration of leadership.
4. Commitment to attend all three leadership sessions and participate in intersession activities.
5. Ability to assume responsibility for all travel and for personal and incidental expenses.

For an application package, please go to:

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/pdfs/synergy2009_criteria.pdf

TALKING BOOK & BRAILLE SERVICE (TBBS)

TBBS is going through a long range planning process, which is especially important due to the cuts in the ISL budget. Preliminary plans are being made to host the Midlands/Regional biennial talking book

conference in June 2009. Twenty-two states will be represented that serve 49% of all readers in the program. Please contact Sharon Ruda sruda@ilsos.net if you have any questions.

LITERACY GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded \$6.39 million in FY2009 Adult Literacy Grants to help students develop and enhance their reading, writing, math and language skills. If you would like a complete list of literacy grant awards, go to:

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/press/2008/september/home.html>

The Adult Literacy Program is administered by the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library Literacy Office and awards grants in three categories:

1. **Adult Volunteer Literacy Grants** provide training for volunteers who tutor adults over the age of 16 in basic reading, math, writing or language skills. Participating literacy providers may include libraries, volunteer tutoring organizations, community based organizations, community colleges, regional offices of education, schools (individual & public), pre-school programs, school districts, domestic violence shelters, and correctional facilities.
2. **Family Literacy Grants** provide educational services to parents and children to enhance their basic reading, math, writing or language skills together and separately. Participation by the whole family increases the benefits of the instruction. Projects must partner with an adult literacy provider agency, child-at-risk agency and a library.
3. **The Workplace Skills Enhancement Project** provides on-site instructional services to the employees of Illinois businesses to enable the employees to increase their basic reading, math, writing or language skills, keep their jobs and increase their chances for promotion. Eligible employees read at or below the 9th grade level. Grantees must match the grant award and may also provide instructional services to prospective employees. The fiscal agent and submitting agency may be either the educational partner or the business partner.

Secretary White urges persons interested in becoming volunteer tutors to contact the Illinois Adult Learning Hotline at 1-800-321-9511.

THE BIG READ IN WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

<http://www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org/bigread/>

The activities of The Big Read in West Central Illinois are moving right along. The book selected for The Big Read is ***Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury**, who will be awarded the Illinois Literary Heritage Award from the Illinois Center for the Book as part of The Big Read activities. With its themes of censorship, freedom of thought, and the effects of television and technology on society, Bradbury's classic novel is as relevant today as it was when it was first published in 1953.

The kick-off for the beginning of The Big Read activities took place in Springfield on September 2 and activities will continue through mid-November incorporating Banned Books Week and Fire Prevention Week. There are many programs taking place throughout the partner communities.

Partners in this venture include: Alliance Library System, Beardstown Houston Memorial Library, Brookens Library at the University of Illinois at Springfield, Chatham Area Public Library District, The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Center for the Book, Illinois State Library, Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service, Jacksonville Public Library, Macomb Public Library District, Network Knowledge - WSECTV, Quincy Public Library, Lincoln Library, The Public Library of Springfield, Illinois, Rochester Public Library, Rolling Prairie Library System, Sherman Public Library District, Springfield School District 186 and the Springfield Urban League.

"You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them."

-- Ray Bradbury from
Fahrenheit 451

Individual communities are encouraged to apply for Big Read grants on their own but, if your library would be interested in participating in future larger geographical scope Big Read program with the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Center for the Book, please contact: Joe Natale at jnatale@ilsos.net or Bonnie Matheis at bmatheis@ilsos.net.

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

<http://www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org/projectse.html>

Letters About Literature, a national reading and writing promotion for children and young adults, is currently underway. The program invites 4th - 12th grade students to read a book that interests them and write a letter to the author explaining how the book changed their view of the world or themselves. National winners and honorable mentions will win \$10,000 and \$1000 grants to help promote reading programs at their school or community libraries. The deadline to enter is December 6, 2008.

The contest consists of three competition levels - Level I for grades 4 - 6, Level II for grades 7 & 8 and Level III for grades 9 - 12. One state winner is chosen for each level. State winners' letters are forwarded to the national judging; where six national winners (two at each level) and twelve national honorable mentions (four at each level) are selected.

Students can enter Letters About Literature through their schools, youth programs, libraries or individually. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Matheis bmatheis@ilsos.net.

Letters About Literature supports national standards for teaching language arts and reading as recommended by the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association. Letters About Literature is sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book, the Illinois State Library, Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian in cooperation with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target.

FORTHCOMING

September 23 – 26	Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, Navy Pier, Chicago
September 24	Join us for the LSTA Celebration at ILA, 9:30 am, Rooms 203-207 at Navy Pier
October 2 –3	Reaching Forward South Conference, Springfield
October 3 or 6	FY2009 LSTA Grant Management Workshop, ISL
October 7	ILLINET Network Advisory Council Meeting, ISL
October 15	Deadline to postmark applications for the Public Library Per Capita Grant
October 30	System Presidents & Directors Meeting, ISL
November 28	Deadline to postmark applications for Synergy 2009
November 6-8	Illinois School Library Media Association Annual Conference, Arlington Heights
November 26	School Library Per Capita Grant Application Deadline
November 28	Postmarked deadline to apply for Synergy 2009
December 4	ISL Electronic Resource Exposition (E-R-XPO), Schaumburg District Township Library
December 6	Deadline for students to enter Letters About Literature