

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

IMPORTANT PUBLIC LIBRARY SURVEY

All Illinois public libraries are encouraged to complete an important survey starting Tuesday, September 8th. The national online survey for the Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study will be available at: <http://www.plinternetsurvey.org/> Your assistance in providing data helps ensure the most accurate national and state-level information possible about the state of technology access and funding in U.S. public libraries.

Participation in the survey is a requirement for all participants in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Opportunity Online Hardware Grant Program. Please complete the survey no later than October 31, 2009.

The online survey has three parts:

- Building/branch questions (e.g., speed of connectivity, services provided)
- System/administrative questions (e.g., operating and technology budget questions)
- Opportunity Online hardware grant participation evaluation questions (e.g., matching fund, impacts)

The main survey consists of fewer than 30 questions, although some have multiple parts. There are an additional 12 grant evaluation questions. One or more people in the library may assist in answering the questions, and a PDF of the survey will be available for download and use as a worksheet, if desired.

If you've responded to the survey in either of the past two years and have a copy of your responses, you should be able to use this as a starting point for the new survey. If you've never participated in the survey before, you will need to provide information including your maximum public access Internet connection speed and funding data. In light of the increased interest and need for reliable broadband data, you may consider contacting your Internet provider if you don't know your maximum Internet connection speed.

Every library director also will receive a survey announcement postcard in the mail in September. The survey is administered by the Center for Library & Information Innovation at the University of Maryland-College Park. The study is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the American Library Association.

FY2010 ADULT LITERACY GRANTS

Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded \$5.76 million in FY10 Adult Literacy Grants to help students develop and enhance their reading, writing, math and language skills.

"The state of Illinois continues to have some of the finest literacy programs in the nation, and I am delighted to once again provide more than 200 local literacy providers with funding that will allow them to help adult students achieve their utmost potential," White said. "I will continue to do all I can to ensure that every citizen of this state has access to quality literacy programs."

More than 22,000 students are served by these literacy programs, with 8,500 volunteer tutors offering their time to provide training. Local literacy programs allow students to obtain skills that put them on the path to lifelong learning.

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

- **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.
- **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, child-at-risk agency and a library.
- **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.

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 intercession 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 ex. 2024 with any questions.

PATENT LIBRARY CLOSES

The Illinois State Library has regretfully decided to relinquish our role as a United States Patent & Trademark Depository Library.

ISL Patent and Trademark librarian Margaret Collins retired recently, and ISL administration looked at staffing options for the Patent & Trademark Library following her departure. Designating existing staff to handle patent & trademark responsibilities is not possible long-term.

We have served as one of 88 patent libraries nationwide for twenty-five years. With advances in technology, it is now easier for inventors, researchers and patent attorneys to conduct patent searches via the Internet.

Our closing means the closest patent libraries are in St. Louis and Chicago. While we regret that our role as a Patent & Trademark Depository Library is coming to an end, we greatly appreciate the work of ISL staff that has made our patent & trademark role so important during the past twenty-five years. Our reference staff will continue to respond to basic patent and trademark questions.

ILEAD U

The State Library recently received a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The grant will be used to implement ILEAD U (Illinois Libraries Explore, Apply and Discover)--the 21st Century Technology Tools Institute for Illinois Library Staff.

The ILEAD U Steering Committee is seeking participants, mentors and instructors to implement Web technologies that foster community participation and develop leadership, innovation and positive change. ILEAD U will encourage both the experimentation with and building of participatory Web services and programs. The primary goal of this project is to help library staff understand and respond to user needs through the application of participatory technology tools. ILEAD U is designed in part on the State Library's hugely popular Synergy Library Leadership Institute.

Like Synergy, ILEAD U will involve three in-person seminars to be held February 23-25, 2010; June 15-17, 2010; and October 26-28, 2010. These sessions will be held at the University of Illinois/Springfield. There will be additional mandatory virtual meetings.

Participants will be part of five member teams. If you wish to be a *participant* in one of the five member teams, complete the application package to be **postmarked by October 30, 2009**. If you are accepted you will be notified by December 18, 2009.

If you wish to be a *mentor and/or instructor*, complete the application package to be **postmarked by October 16, 2009**. If you are accepted you will be notified by November 13, 2009.

Application forms and other information are located [here](#).

For more information contact [Gwen Harrison](#) or [Connie Frankenfeld](#).

LIBRARY SYSTEM STANDARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

A new set of draft standards on Cooperation & Collaboration is available for your input on the Library System Standards [blog](#). Please take the time to review the draft set of standards and add your comments and/or questions. To date, standards are available for comment in the following five areas:

- Professional Development & Consulting
- Resource Sharing
- Administrative/Leadership
- Technology
- Cooperation & Collaboration

Additional information about the committee's work as available on the Illinois State Library [website](#).

FY2010 SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARY GRANT

Information and applications for the FY2010 School District Library Grant Program have been posted at the [ISL website](#). The deadline to apply is November 20, 2009.

CALENDAR

2009

October 6 - 9	Illinois Library Association Conference, Peoria
October 15	Postmarked deadline to submit Public Library Per Capita Grant
October 29 - 31	Illinois School Library Media Association Conference, Springfield
October 30	CARLI Annual Meeting, Champaign
October 31	Complete the Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study
November 4-6	Synergy, Lisle
November 6	SLA IL Chapter Metropolitan Library System, Burr Ridge
November 20	Deadline to submit School District Library Grant
December 12	Deadline to enter 2010 "Letters about Literature" contest

2010

March 15 - 17	On the Front Lines, Springfield
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