



LTLS Celebrates the LINC Up to New Horizon

On April 8, 2004 the LINC libraries successfully came up on a new automation system, using a product called Horizon. This day was the result of many months of work transferring data on all of the patrons, items, and titles owned by the libraries that belong to the LINC system, as well as configuration information specific to each library. Previous to coming up on Horizon on April 8, over 400 library staff had to be trained on the new system. This training occurred at Lincoln Trail Libraries System, primarily in the month of March.

The new system uses the same type of online web catalog that the old system used. However, the similarities end there. The staff side of the product is entirely different. Running on the Windows operating system, there are pull-down menus, the ability to cut/paste, and a graphical interface to the functions that libraries use every day to track materials, patron records, and circulation.

The staff of LTLS thank the members of LINC for all of their input and for their patience during contract negotiations, the many steps to make ready for the transition, and the actual migration to the new system. A special thanks is due the people who negotiated contracts, implemented the new system, and made training run so smoothly:

Contract Negotiation: Jan Ison, Pat Boze, Joe Sciacca, and Kim Fraser.

Implementation: Pat Boze, Rita Johnson, Ozzie Meza, Helen Neal, Ramona Rollins, Donna Schaal, Joe Sciacca, and Merdy Smith.

Training: Donna Schaal, Merdy Smith, and the H-Team (Jan Hickox of Casey Township Library; Sharon Davis, Sue Haley, Laura Kinney, Chris Kuechler, Brian Lee, Sharon Sizemore, Joy Specht, Betty Spero, Nanette Wargo, and Laura Weis of Champaign Public Library; Ruth Straith of Charleston Carnegie Public Library; John Dunkelberger, Howard Grueneberg, Elaine Hershberger, Cindy Scheidemantel, and Kathy Wicks of The Urbana Free Library).

Entries Sought for Exploring Illinois Libraries Exhibit

A new exhibit on the history of libraries in Illinois is being assembled for debut at the Illinois Library Association conference at Navy Pier next September. Illinois librarians are invited to share what is special, unique, or just interesting about their institutions. The goals of the exhibit are to include at least "a token" from every library in Illinois, grab the attention of the Chicago press, and engage conference participants. Library directors and staff may submit up to five items that represent the library: a picture, a portrait, an important document, an artwork,

an oddity from the history closet, etc. Exhibit categories are individual libraries with their history, library education, geographical focus, people and organizations, founding patrons, architecture, non-bookish hobbies of librarians, special collections, oddities, programs and projects, catalogs and such, and major grant programs. Maybe you have something unique to share about your library--perhaps a staff photo, an innovative trustee, a renovation picture, an award, or a child's artwork.

You may send information in digitized format or by submitting the actual item, document, or image. If you are not able to send a digitized image, you may submit the item to your library system by July 2004 for digitization. Be sure to mark each item carefully to ensure safe return and to provide information such as the date of the item, name of library, city, state, zip, director's name, email, phone, year library founded, collection size, patron base, suggested category, item description and why it is important to your library. Questions about digitization may be directed to Donna Schaal at LTLS (217-352-7153 Ext. 204 or dschaa@lincolntrail.info). If you have digital images already (minimum of 150 dpi, preferably 260 dpi, 4x6" size) you may send those via email to cfjtt@eiu.edu or to LTLS on a CD or zip disk. Questions about this exhibit may be directed to Allen Lanham (phone: 217-581-6061, fax: 217-581-7534, email: cfakl@eiu.edu) or Jocelyn Tipton, ILA Conference co-chair (phone: 217-581-7542, email: fjtt@eiu.edu).

In Our Libraries

Diann Peabody, librarian at the Watseka Public Library, was named Citizen of the Year. The award, presented by the Times-



Republic newspaper, is given to "an individual who has had an impact during the past year on Watseka and the surrounding community...[and was] given to Diann because she was instrumental in bringing about the library remodeling and expansion project which has contributed to the quality of life for persons in the community."

Laura Barnes, librarian/clearinghouse specialist at the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center Library in Champaign, was recently elected to serve as a director at large for the Illinois Library Association. Ballots were cast by 727 out of 2,330 personal members, or 31 percent of the association membership. Serving on the nominating committee were Pamela Gaitskill, Carol Hall, Joe Harris, Brenda McElroy Pacey, Valerie Wilford, Denise Zielinski, and Kathryn Harris, chair.

The Urbana Free Library has reached the first major construction milestone. At the end of February, The Urbana Free Library's newest addition was completed enough to

house the library and services while the original building and addition are renovated. Throughout the month of March, staff and volunteers helped to move more than 250,000 items, 1,000 sections of steel shelving, dozens of tables, hundreds of chairs, and nearly 100 computers into the new part of the library. In addition, the archives have also been relocated to a new storeroom, where compact shelving will allow efficient storage of Champaign County records and thousands of books on genealogy and local history.



The Urbana Free Library staff take time to pose in the new children's department.

activities for the children, divided into groups called "Thing 1" and "Thing 2."

The following LTLS librarians were selected to participate in the Annual Small Public Library Management Institute: **Wanda Thompson** of Central Citizen's Library District in Clifton, **Sally Newbury** of Gilman-Danforth District Library, **Jennie Cisna** of Mattoon Public Library, **Holly Thompson** of Rantoul Public Library, **Elaine Bagwell** of Sidney Community Library, and **Rick Balsamello** of Westville Public Library District. Each year the Illinois State Library and the University of Illinois at Springfield host an institute designed to develop the skills of small public library directors and managers.



Marshall Public Library treated 90 children from Kindergarten through 4th grade to stories, puzzles, computer games, and a huge birthday cake in honor of Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday. They even signed a huge birthday card for the famous author. Ten students from Indiana State University led

Librarian Cathy Senior of Charleston CUSD #1 was selected to participate in the Illinois State Library's Annual Institute for School and Public *(continued on p. 3)*

Submission of your library's news is always welcome. Contact Amy Weber: fax 217-352-7153; e-mail aweber@lincolntrail.info.

Did You Know?

This column highlights various aspects of library system work and accomplishments.

Library Automation has long been a tradition at Lincoln Trail Libraries System, and it was part of the library system landscape from its earliest moments. One of the first acts of LTLS, shortly after its creation, was to develop a union catalog of library holdings. In 1966, the LTLS Board of Directors voted to create a union catalog of the holdings of three libraries: Champaign, Danville, and Urbana. This consisted of microfilming their card catalogs, which were reproduced as cards and interfiled at LTLS. In March of 1978, the LTLS Board voted to automate circulation of materials held by the system. Then just a month later, an automation contract was signed and a plan for "full" bibliographic records was developed.

In 1980 an automation users group was formed, and in 1982 the system's collection was disbanded while a centralized computer system was installed. In 1985 automation activities were further expanded to incorporate even the smallest public libraries, and in 1986 the LTLS Board committed to conversion to a full MARC database in order to support a full functioning online catalog.

The 1990's saw several major changes to the automation program as the libraries voted to migrate to a major integrated library automation system with fully-featured functionality in circulation, cataloging, acquisitions, serials, reserve room, and community resources management, as well as the ability for patrons to place requests directly through a public access catalog. The first

online web-based catalog was implemented in 1998. The consortium continued to grow in size and reached over 85 libraries by 2004. Most recently, in April of 2004, the libraries migrated to yet another integrated library system called Horizon.

Today LINC has over 650,000 unique items and over 1.9 million holdings. Currently there are 63 agencies or 91 buildings that are full online members, 4 agencies/buildings that are pre-online, and 3 agencies/buildings that are union listed. Though automation is a tradition at LTLS, it is also a source of innovation and advancement. In addition to providing access to a shared bibliographic database, LINC has evolved into an information gateway and provides access to ILLINET Online (a database of more than 9 million additional titles in 56 academic and special libraries) and to a range of databases via OCLC FirstSearch (includes access to books and periodicals from all over the globe--more than 888,000,000 items in WorlCat alone). LTLS hopes that the transition to Horizon marks the beginning of another forty years of continued tradition and renewed innovation. ●



Stacey Knight, a librarian at Eastern Illinois University Booth Library, plays the role of Elizabeth I at the exhibit opening and ribbon cutting ceremony.

In Our Libraries

(continued from p. 2)

Librarians. The event was held on the campus of Bradley University in Peoria.

"Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend," a national traveling exhibition that focused on the brilliant monarch who ruled England from 1558 until 1603, was hosted at Booth Library for six weeks, from March 4-April 16, 2004. The colorful six panel exhibition explored Queen Elizabeth I's many accomplishments, the court intrigue that sought to dethrone her, the reasons she never married, her patronage of the arts, and her intense interest in exploring and accessing new lands for England. An excellent supporting program, comprised of lectures, films, recitals, and panel discussions, was coordinated to run with the exhibit. Over 1,000 people attended the supporting events. In addition to the traveling exhibit, Booth Library faculty prepared and presented nine displays depicting Queen Elizabeth and the Elizabethan age.

Concurrent events with the "Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend" exhibit were held at several surrounding public libraries and school libraries. Booth Library was one of only 40 libraries in the United States selected to host the traveling exhibition, which was organized by the Newberry Library in collaboration with the American Library Association.

(continued on p. 4)

Illinois Library Advocacy Day a Success

More than 300 members of the Illinois library community traveled to Springfield from all parts of the state April 21 for Library Advocacy Day 2004. Participants gathered at the State Library to hear remarks from State Library Director Jean Wilkins, Illinois



LTLS Advocacy Day participants met with nearly all of the LTLS Senators and Representatives. The group above had a discussion with Senator Dale A. Righter (back row, far right), Illinois Senate District #55.

Library Association President Nancy Gillfillan, ILA Statehouse Lobbyist Kip Kolkmeier, ILSDO President Sarah Long, and ISLMA President Leslie Forsman. Wilkins announced that the State Library will continue to offer FirstSearch databases such as ArticleFirst, Medline, and WorldCat at no cost to ILLINET member libraries during fiscal year 2005. Wilkins, Gillfillan, Long, and Forsman held a news conference in the State Capitol to discuss the Advocacy Day theme, "Libraries: A Great Return on

Investment," and urged lawmakers to maintain state funding for libraries. Participants met with the Senators and Representatives from their districts.

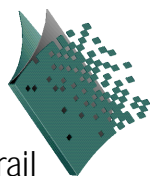
Thanks to ILA, ILSDO and ISLMA for organizing a successful Advocacy Day.

In Our Libraries

(continued from p. 3)



Dr. Clarice Boswell (r.) discusses quilt codes with Pat Haskins of Sibley. **Piper City Public Library** sponsored a program featuring Dr. Boswell of Plainfield, a fifth generation descendant of a slave family. Boswell held the attention of the 130 who attended her program, "Pre-Civil War Quilts: Their Hidden Codes – To Freedom of Slaves Through the Underground Railroad." Dr. Boswell shared replicas of the quilts along with stories and information about them, the slaves who made them, and the descendants of the slaves.



Lincoln Trail
Libraries System

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