



Advocacy and Legislative News

Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendar now and plan to travel to Springfield on April 21, 2004 for the annual Library Advocacy Day sponsored by the Illinois Library Association, the Illinois Library System Directors Organization, the Illinois School Library Media Association and the Illinois State Library. This is a great opportunity for the library community to discuss the issues and needs of libraries with their lawmakers.

Library Advocacy Day
April 21, 2004
Springfield

New FCC Rules on E-Rate

The FCC has announced new rules that modify the E-Rate program, a federally-funded program that provides telecommunications discounts to qualified schools and libraries. Today's Third Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking includes measures to discourage waste, fraud, and abuse; to simplify the administration of the program; and to make the distribution of funds more equitable. Additionally, the FCC announced that approximately \$420 million in unused funds from previous years will be carried forward and disbursed in funding year 2003. More information on the Third Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be available at <http://www.universalservice.org/> in the coming days.

FCC Enacts the Broadcast Flag Copyright Protection Rules

On November 4, 2003, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decided to enact broadcast flag copyright protection rules that would go into effect in 2005. The ruling is designed to facilitate the transition to digital television (DTV) by mandating the "broadcast flag" copyright protection scheme. In December 2002, ALA and the other major U.S. library associations filed comments with the FCC on the impact of the then proposed rule. The library associations have joined with consumer advocates, the consumer electronics industry, and others in arguing that the imposition of the broadcast flag will prevent libraries, educational institutions, and consumers from exercising their fair use and other rights under copyright law. For more information, visit: <http://www.ala.org/copyright> and go to Regulatory Matters in the left-hand column.

End of an Era: ERIC Clearinghouse Closed

An era in the provision of information on early childhood education is coming to an end. The ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education (ERIC/EECE) recently closed, one of 16 clearinghouses for educational information across the country that are being closed by the U.S. Department of Education. The University of Illinois has been operating its clearinghouse since 1967. It has served parents, teachers, day care providers, researchers, and national education organizations by answering

their questions and digesting and abstracting educational literature for the ERIC database.

Celebrating Exploration

This year seems to be the year for celebrating exploration. The year 2004 marks the bicentennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark exploration. A series of "Lewis & Clark Preparing for Discovery in Illinois" kits were recently made available to libraries interested in providing programming on the explorations of Lewis and Clark. The kits are being housed at Mattoon Public Library and are available for check out through LINC. The kits are loaded with curriculum guides specially created for this project, maps, books, posters, CDs, videocassettes or DVDs, and realia such as ink wells, candles, trading items, costumes, models, etc. Information about the kits, the curriculum guides, and the contents is also available at <http://www.lcls.lib.il.us>.

On a more national note, the Wisconsin Historical Society used CONTENTdm to digitize a special collection called "American Journeys: Eyewitness Accounts of Early American Exploration and Settlement." This digital library contains more than 18,000 pages of eyewitness accounts of North American exploration, from the sagas of Vikings in Canada in AD1000 to the diaries of mountain men in the Rockies 800 years later.

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In Our Libraries

Synergy Participants Selected

Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative 2004 is the statewide library community's proactive movement to recruit and nurture future Illinois library leaders. Librarians selected to participate in Synergy commit to a yearlong process, beginning with the first session at Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center, continuing through intersession activities, and ending with the session at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Hotel. Lincoln Trail Libraries System is pleased to announce that four of the librarians chosen to participate in this, the third year of Synergy, are from the LTLS area. Congratulations to **Elaine Bearden** of The Urbana Free Library; **Lian Ruan** of the Illinois Fire Service Institute, Champaign; **Yanira Vegerano**, Douglass Branch Library, Champaign; and **Lucy Webb**, Provena United Samaritans Medical Center, Danville. Synergy was made possible through a joint effort of the Illinois State Library, the Illinois Library Association, and the Illinois Library Systems.

LINC News

LTLS is pleased to welcome **The High School of Saint Thomas More** as a new member of the shared automation system, LINC. There are currently no grant funds to offset the start up costs involved in joining LINC. In spite of this obstacle, Saint Thomas More raised the funds necessary to join LINC. This organization's commitment to cooperation as a means to providing better library

service to students, members of LTLS, and to the state is commendable.

Five new members were elected to serve on LINC Policy Council by the LINC Directors Group. The new members are:

- **Alice Cisna**, Arthur Public Library District - At-Large Representative
- **Rick Dulaney**, Cissna Park School/Public Library District - At-Large Representative
- **Anne Newman**, Paxton Carnegie Public Library - At-Large Representative
- **Scott Drone-Silvers**, Lake Land Community College Library - Special/Academic Representative
- **Fred Schlipf**, The Urbana Free Library - Public Library Serving over 10,000 Representative.

The LINC Policy Council is responsible for setting policies that guide LINC procedures and ensure the smooth functioning of the shared automation system.

Library Happenings

Jenny Cisna, Director of the **Mattoon Public Library**, joined Shirley Pierson at **Williams Elementary in Mattoon** for a story hour. The event was scheduled in celebration of American Education/Children's Book Week in November.



Mattoon Public Library Director Jenny Cisna (center) celebrates Children's Book Week with a 4th grade class at Williams Elementary School in Mattoon.

Chrisman Public Library was gearing up to move to their new location on the square.

Staff at **Champaign Public Library** recently revised and improved the library's web site. The site features spots on what's new, reader's advisory, and kid and teen pages. Visit the site and learn more at <http://www.champaign.org>.

Celebrating Exploration

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Read the words of explorers, Indians, missionaries, traders, and settlers as they lived through the founding moments of American history. View, search, print, or download more than 150 rare books, original manuscripts, and classic travel narratives from the library and archives of the Wisconsin Historical Society at <http://www.americanjourneys.org/index.asp>.

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 is a new column highlighting various aspects of library system work and accomplishments.

Area Librarians and Trustees Serve on Lincoln Trail Libraries System Board

Lincoln Trail Libraries System is governed by a board of trustees, made up of 13 individuals representing the various regions and library types that make up LTLS. The board oversees the finances of the system and works to ensure the system is positioned to facilitate the kind of cooperation that makes for strong library service in LTLS and throughout Illinois. The newest additions, who are now into the second half of their first year of service, are Emily Turner Condill, Urbana School District #116, as School Library Interest Director and James P. Quisenberry, The Urbana Free Library, as Public Library Trustee Director. The other members are:

- Carolyn Adkins, Tuscola School District #301
- Laura Barnes, Illinois Waste Management and Research Center Library, Champaign
- Russ Dankert, Champaign Public Library
- Garold Eaglin, Marshall Public Library
- Jim Eldridge, Rantoul Public Library
- Paula Kaufman, University of Illinois Library
- Sharron Kreider, Central Citizens' Library District, Clifton
- Cheryl Kurtenbach, Melvin Public Library
- Richard Lutz, Blue Ridge Township Public Library, Mansfield
- Nina Pals, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Medical Library, Mattoon
- Susan McKinney, St. Joseph Township Swearingen Memorial Library

Serving on the board is a great way to learn about Illinois library systems and to network with library professionals and board members from all different types and sizes of libraries.

"What I enjoy about being on the board is getting to know so many different library professionals," said Carolyn Adkins, current LTLS board president, "and the cookies are the best in the world." She went on to say that she does and learns so many things that she never would have if she was not serving on the board. "I meet university, medical, and large public library representatives," and "get to know first-hand what is going on at the state level. These benefits make my board experience extremely worthwhile."

Each year there are new opportunities to serve on the LTLS board of trustees. If you are interested in meeting a variety of library professionals and library representatives and learning more about how library cooperation builds strong libraries by serving on the LTLS board, please contact Jan Ison at (217) 352-0047, Ext. 221, or send an e-mail to jison@lincolntrail.info.

LTLS Welcomes New Director to Alliance Library System

Kitty Pope was recently named Executive Director of the Alliance Library System. During her career, Ms. Pope has been a high school librarian, teacher, and a children's librarian. She has also served as Regional Director of a multi-type library system covering one third of Saskatchewan, Canada. Ms. Pope assisted in the creation of a multi-type library system in the United Arab Emirates. Most recently, Ms. Pope has been the Assistant Director and Manager of Customer Services for the second largest library

in Canada serving the City of Calgary (922,000 population). She will be located in the new Alliance Library System Service Center at 600 High Point Lane, East Peoria, IL 61611, (309) 694-9200), e-mail kpope@alliancelibrarysystem.com.

Advocacy Now: Ensuring Strong Library Service in Illinois

Illinois, like many states, is undergoing a period of reorganization. Many communities, organizations, and agencies are changing as a result. Being insiders to the library world, we often take for granted our important position in local communities and in society-at-large. We speak of remaining relevant, but often fail to share our relevancy and efforts to remain so with the people we serve and with the legislators who write laws and set the budgets that impact our ability to provide service.

The Illinois Library System Director's Organization (ILSDO), Illinois Library Association (ILA), Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA), Special Library Association (SLA), Illinois Library Computer Systems Organization (ILCSO), and the Illinois State Library (ISL) continually seek opportunities to help the librarians, library staff, library board members, and library supporters become vocal advocates for libraries and the services they provide. These organizations feel that those who are involved with and who care about libraries should be able to easily pursue important objectives such as monitoring legislative activity at the state and national level, preparing for challenges and opportunities, and actively engaging in countering or supporting legislation that impacts libraries. Simultaneously, the

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Advocacy Now: Ensuring Strong Library Service in Illinois

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political arena is entering a period of unprecedented use of the Internet. The Dean campaign demonstrated that extensive support can be generated using a virtual forum.

In addition, CapWiz enables library supporters to find information on bills and their sponsors and to contact state and federal legislators for the purpose of expressing opinions on those bills. CapWiz also allows library supporters to generate letters and email to the editors of local Illinois newspapers.

CapWiz was developed by Capitol Advantage (Founded 1986), a company dedicated to providing

grassroots solutions for corporations, non-profit groups, associations, educational institutions, and other organizations.

The CapWiz Advocacy Project, developed through a partnership between ILSDO, ILA, ISLMA, SLA, ILCSO, and ISL, was designed to facilitate library advocacy objectives and leverage the virtual environment as a means to do so. CapWiz is the new information and advocacy portal for Illinois Library supporters. CapWiz provides information on the Illinois congressional delegation; federal, state, and local legislators; legislative issues affecting Illinois libraries; and a statewide directory of print and broadcast media outlets.

CapWiz

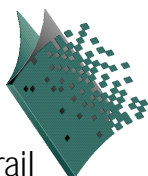
<http://capwiz.com/ila/state/main/?state=IL>

Horizon Upgrade Brings Expansion of Web Communications at LTLS

LTLS has been transitioning from traditional to web-based communications for some time. However, the upgrade of the LINC

shared automation system to Horizon software has required more extensive exploitation of this media. Between the need to communicate with several hundred library staff members and the tight turn-around required by the upgrade, web communication has become increasingly important.

The growth of LINC participation alone has made web communication critical. Over the past 15 years, LINC membership has grown from 20 to 91 agencies with over 500 staff members. LTLS' use of the web as a means of communication has positioned the organization to communicate effectively and efficiently with library staff across the system. In addition, LTLS is able to meet the many deadlines associated with the Horizon upgrade. Most importantly, the new communication mechanisms made possible through use of the web allow member libraries to keep abreast of the upgrade and to be actively involved in the decision making. Find out how LTLS connects with member libraries using electronic newsletters, FAQs, surveys, and more by visiting <http://www.ltls.org/automation.html>.



Lincoln Trail
Libraries System

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