

Illinois State Library Consultant's Report April 2011

ELI Update

Please note that the ELI (Every Library in ILLINET) directory for Illinois libraries has moved to the L2 site: <http://www.librarylearning.info/libraries/>. There are now links on the Illinois State Library web site on the What We Do for "find Illinois libraries" and "L2 statewide CE calendar".

Project Compass

Libraries are playing a leading role in developing the workforce of the 21st century. Project Compass is a nationwide effort to support public libraries as they strive to meet the urgent and growing needs of the unemployed and underemployed.

Project Compass workshops are scheduled throughout the State to help public library staff increase their knowledge of available resources and handle the service needs of unemployed and job-seeking patrons. In an economy where more must be done with less, these workshops will also address how libraries can utilize existing resources and partnerships.

The goal of Project Compass is to support the workforce recovery efforts of libraries, particularly in counties with high unemployment. The program will introduce library staff to programs and services, which they can deliver to jobseekers in their communities. Workshops are free of charge to eligible participants.

Following is the list of workshops scheduled:

- Danville Public Library, May 6
- LaSalle Public Library, May 13
- Bourbonnais Public Library, May 18
- Cherry Valley Public Library District, May 20
- Lewis and Clark Library System, June 3
- Bensenville Public Library, June 10
- Taylorville Public Library, June 20
- Carthage, Carl Sandburg College, July 13

For additional information on these workshops and participant eligibility please send an email to Bill Erbes at projectcompass@benlib.org or log on to <http://il.webjunction.org/workforce-resources> or <http://il.webjunction.org/project-compass>.

OCLC/ILLINET Group Services

The Illinois State Library OCLC/ILLINET Group Services contract for bibliographic services, including cataloging and interlibrary loan, expires on June 30, 2011. All services subsumed under the Group Services contract are currently going out for bid. The Illinois State Library is presently coordinating the request for proposals (RFP) process with input from selected group of Illinois librarians. A decision regarding vendor selection should be reached by the end of April. At this time, however, we are unable to provide any pricing information for FY2012, for any services covered under the current Group Services contract.

Read For A Lifetime

The primary goal of this reading program is to promote the enjoyment of reading, by encouraging students to read both classic and contemporary literature, and rewarding them for their effort. Illinois high school students are encouraged to read at least four books from a list of 25 titles. The list represents a mixture of classic and contemporary literature. For more information, contact Jeanne Urbanek (jurbanek@ilsos.net or 217-524-0050). The list of books for the FY12 school year is posted at:

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/rfl.html

Jeanne Urbanek, coordinator of the Read for a Lifetime Program, received a wonderful fax this week from Camille Lutz, a special education teacher at Conant High School in Hoffman Estates: "Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to encourage my struggling readers to participate in the Read for a Lifetime program this year. Seven special education students participated in a special version of Read for a Lifetime. I cannot begin to tell you the effect this program had on my students. As I write this letter to you, I am sitting in one of my reading classes and there are four wonderful young ladies so involved in their newest individual novels that it brings tears to my eyes. They begged me to provide class time for them to read their books."

Illinois Emerging Writers Competition

Entries are now being accepted for the 7th annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition. This competition was created by Secretary of State and State Librarian, Jesse White to recognize new literary talent. The competition features the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award and James Jones Short Story Award. The deadline to enter is June 30th.

Entry forms and guidelines can be accessed at the Illinois Center for the Book Website (<http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org>) or directly at:

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/lda96.pdf. If you have questions, contact Bonnie Matheis (bmatheis@ilsos.net or 217-558-2065).

Letters About Literature

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing program that encourages students in grades 4-12 to read a book and write a personal letter to an author, explaining how the book changed their life or their view of the world. This year's state winners are:

- Level I, Grades 4 – 6--**Conrad Oberhaus** of **Lincolnshire**, who wrote to author Daniel Defoe about his book, *Robinson Crusoe*. Conrad is in the 5th grade at Daniel Wright Jr. High School in Lincolnshire.
- Level II – Grades 7-8--**Naasir Haleem** of **Naperville** wrote to author Mark Pftetzer about his book, *Within Reach*. Naasir is in the 7th grade at Jefferson Jr. High School in Naperville.
- Level III, Grades 9-12-- **Stacie Cler** of **Bloomington** wrote to author Helen Siiteri about her book, *The Adventures of Nicholas*. Stacie is a senior at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington.

The winners will be honored at an Award Ceremony with the Secretary of State in May and the Illinois winners' letters have been forwarded to compete at the National level. The winning letters and additional information about Letters About Literature can be viewed at the Illinois Center for the Book website: <http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org>.

Entry forms and guidelines for Letters About Literature 2012 will be available this September. If you have any questions or are interested in being added to the mailing list, contact: Bonnie Matheis (bmatheis@ilsos.net or 217-558-2065).

New Civil War Exhibit

In honor of this year's 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, the State Library is presenting a display showcasing books and maps about the conflict. See the display on the second floor atrium bridge.

Insight Available

The March/April issue of *Insight*, the State Library's bimonthly newsletter, is now available at the ISL website:

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/insight_030411.pdf

Construction Grant Review Committee

The Illinois State Library offers its thanks and appreciation to the committee for their hard work with the FY2011 Live and Learn Public Library Construction Grant applications and participation in a statewide videoconference to review the applications and make funding recommendations to the State Library and Secretary White. Members include:

Marilyn Boria, Elmhurst Public Library
Dennis Danowski, Macomb Public Library
Laura Frizol, LaSalle Public Library
Mary Medjo Me Zengue, Addison Public Library
Bev Obert, Rolling Prairie Library System
Douglas Pfeiffer, PSA Dewberry Architects, Elgin
Chadwick Raymond, Northbrook Public Library
Molly Scanlan, O'Fallon Public Library
Linda Summers, Nashville Public Library

Small Business Administration Grant

The Illinois State Library (ISL) has received a \$300,000 grant from the Small Business Administration (SBA) to enhance public library services for small businesses and entrepreneurs. ISL will use grant funds to provide over 60 public libraries with a package that includes hardware, software and training videos designed to assist small businesses. On April 15, 2011 the program will be announced in the ISL *E-News*.

Public libraries will have until May 16 to fill out the Interest to Participate Survey posted on the project website -

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/what_we_do/busandlibs.html

The criteria for selection includes the poverty rate in the area the public library serves and how a public has (or intends to) worked with a local chamber of commerce, Small Business Development Center, Service Corps of Retired Employees (SCORE), or other business support entity.

Public libraries chosen to participate will be notified on May 31. They will attend a workshop on the program and receive some of the items in the small business support package on June 29 at the University of Illinois in Springfield. The remainder of the package will be delivered by

ILDS. Prior to September 30, participating public libraries will attend a webinar to describe program activities in their service area. Limited funds for lodging assistance will be available from the grant by request.

Upcoming Events

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| May 11 | Spotlight on Achievement and Service Awards Ceremony, ISL
http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/who_we_are/literacy/spotlight-awards.html |
| May 16 | Deadline: Reflections on a Veteran essay competition
http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/PDFs/veterans2011.pdf |
| May 30 | ISL closed for Memorial Day |
| June 1 | FY2012 System Area and Per Capita Application is due |
| June 13 – 16 | ILEAD U, University of Illinois Springfield
http://il.webjunction.org/il-ileadu/ |
| June 30 | Deadline to Enter Illinois Emerging Writers Competition
http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org |