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A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library — Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Librarian

March/April  
**2012**

## Secretary White awards nearly \$12 million to public libraries

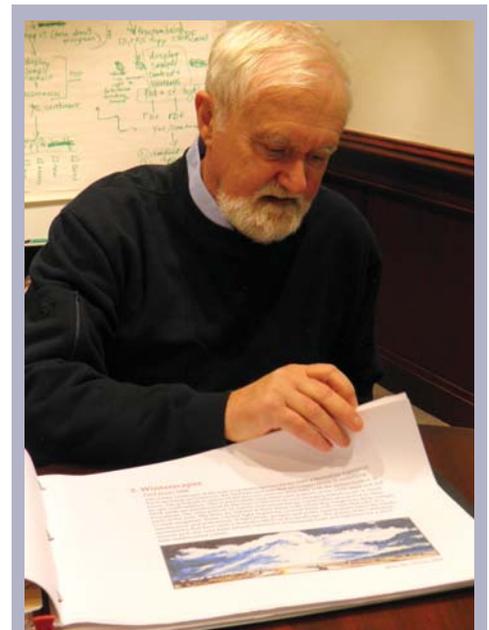
Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White recently awarded nearly \$12 million to 620 public libraries statewide. The funds come from fiscal year 2012 Illinois Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid Grants.

“I am extremely proud of the outstanding service Illinois’ public libraries provide to our communities,” said Secretary White. “Our public libraries have never been more important to their patrons, serving nearly 12 million people. I truly believe public libraries are the cornerstones of our communities, and I am pleased to

help them provide funding to serve the public.”

Per capita grant funding is authorized under Illinois library law and pays for expenses such as materials, personnel, equipment, electronic access, telecommunications and technology. Equalization aid grants ensure certain public libraries with low library tax bases a minimum level of funding for library services.

For a list of libraries that received the grants, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) (click Departments, Illinois State Library).



### ILLINOIS ARTIST PRESENTS GIFT TO STATE LIBRARY

— Adorning the interior walls of the Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building is a permanent collection of 33 works of art — paintings, prints, drawings and photography by various contemporary Illinois artists. The artwork is part of a unifying concept titled “Portrait of Illinois,” selected through a combination of limited invitations and open competitions held prior to the library’s opening in 1990. More than 1,700 works of art were submitted and pared down to the 33 works permanently on display. One of the works is by Fred Jones (above) of Macomb. Jones recently visited the State Library to present two portfolios to the library. His gift includes signed prints and poems by artists and poets from across Illinois.

## Future of Resource Sharing Committee

The first meeting of the Future of Resource Sharing Committee was held at the State Library in February. Chaired by Mary Konkell, head of Technical Services for the College of DuPage, the group represents a wide range of multi-type Illinois libraries and consortial catalog groups.

Much of the committee’s discussion focused on the challenges of selecting the best resource-sharing solutions in the midst of evolving technologies. One example of this shifting paradigm is how the proliferation of e-book subscriptions

changes the role of libraries from collectors of tangible items to access providers of digital information.

In the coming months, the committee will examine existing automated library service options, new vendor platforms, open-source software and cloud-computing options. Recommendations by the committee will assist the State Library in determining the services and features necessary for meeting the changing resource-sharing needs of Illinois libraries.

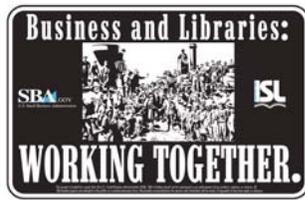
## Text a Librarian

The State Library has implemented "Text a Librarian," a new service where patrons may use the text message feature on their cellphone to send and receive information from the library. Text a Librarian is intended for simple, quick reference questions (up to 160 characters) that can be answered in brief responses. To use the service, patrons must start the body of the text with the keyword **ASKISL**, followed by a space, then their question. **Send texts to 217-953-0575.**

"As the official library of state government, the Illinois State Library offers reference and information services via e-mail, in person, and by telephone or fax," said Secretary of State Jesse White. "This new texting service provides another means by which we can fulfill the important information needs of our patrons. I encourage cellphone users to take advantage of this convenient new service."

Text a Librarian is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Although the State Library does not charge for the service, message and data rates from the patron's service carrier may apply.

State Library reference librarians answer approximately 8,000 questions annually. Many of the inquiries are in-depth questions asked by state employees. For questions requiring lengthy or detailed responses, patrons should continue to use the State Library's e-mail or telephone reference service.



## "Business and Libraries: Working Together"

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced that approximately \$63,000 has been awarded to 63 Illinois public libraries for technology packages to promote new economic growth opportunities in their communities. "Business and Libraries: Working Together" technology packages consist of a tablet computer and a collection of business-related books totaling about \$1,000. The materials may be loaned to local businesses or used at the library.

Last year, 65 public libraries received similar packages funded by a grant obtained by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Due to the lower actual cost of last year's packages, surplus funds from the grant were available for additional Illinois public libraries this year. Libraries that applied for packages last year but were not selected were allowed to receive packages this year.

"A special thanks to Senator Durbin for his efforts in obtaining this grant for Illinois libraries," said Secretary White. "I'm pleased that small businesses and entrepreneurs in more communities will be able to use these tools in promoting economic growth throughout Illinois."

The 63 libraries receiving the technology packages are:

- Altamont Public Library
- Bertolet Memorial Library, Leaf River
- Bethalto Public Library District
- Carnegie-Schuyler Library, Pana
- Carol Stream Public Library
- Central Citizens' Library District, Clifton
- Colchester District Library
- Creve Coeur Public Library
- DeKalb Public Library
- Dundee Township Public Library District, East Dundee
- East Dubuque District Library
- El Paso Public Library
- Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library, Hampshire
- Farmersville-Waggoner Public Library District
- Freeport Public Library
- Fremont Public Library District
- Galatia Public Library District
- Geneseo Public Library District
- Glenview Public Library
- Highland Public Library
- Homer Township Public Library, Homer Glen
- Huntley Area Public Library District
- Justice Public Library District
- Limestone Township Library, Kankakee
- Litchfield Public Library District
- Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District
- Martin Township Public Library, Colfax
- Mercer Carnegie Public Library District, Aledo
- Mississippi Valley Library District, Collinsville
- Mokena Community Public Library District
- Morrison-Talbott Library, Waterloo
- Mount Morris Public Library
- Mt. Carmel Public Library
- New Lenox Public Library District
- Northlake Public Library District
- Odell Public Library
- Olney Public Library
- Oswego Public Library District
- Pinckneyville Public Library
- Pittsfield Public Library
- Plainfield Public Library District
- Polo Public Library District
- Prairie Trails Public Library District, Burbank
- Rochester Public Library District
- Rock Falls Public Library District
- Rock Island Public Library
- Rushville Public Library
- Schmalzing Memorial Public Library, Fulton
- Sheldon Public Library District
- Sherman Public Library District
- Six Mile Regional Library District, Granite City
- Sterling Public Library
- Stickney-Forest View Public Library District
- Three Rivers Public Library District, Channahon
- University Park Public Library District
- Vienna Public Library
- Villa Park Public Library
- Warren County Public Library District
- Williamsfield Public Library District
- Williamsville Public Library
- Winfield Public Library
- Wood Dale Public Library District
- Zion-Benton Public Library District

*The SBA's funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a nondiscriminatory basis.*



## “On the Front Lines” scholarship winners

Congratulations to the following individuals who received scholarships to the “On the Front Lines” conference for front-line library staff on March 12-14. The scholarships covered the registration fee, conference-supplied meals and a two-night hotel stay. Complete coverage of the conference will be available in the next issue of *Insight*.

- Julie Abbott, Cook Memorial Public Library District
- Robin Beck, UIC Library of the Health Sciences, Urbana
- Michele Bigham, Lovejoy Public Library
- Marvin Blackwell, Chicago Public Library
- Edwana Boyd, Chicago Public Library
- Lindsay Braddy, Poplar Creek Public Library
- Ryan Buller, Malpass Library, Western Illinois University
- Mary Jo Chrabasz, Naperville Public Library
- Sarah L. Clark-Williams, Library of Rush University Medical Center
- Melissa Cornwell, Camargo Township District Library
- Amy Curtiss, Rock Island High School
- Sarah Davis, Evans Public Library
- Carissa Faber, Neponset Public Library
- Justin Georges, Western Illinois University Library
- Christine Gerrish, Case-Halstead Public Library
- Brenda Glenn, Morton Grove Public Library
- Beth Huffines, Roodhouse Public Library
- Rashonda Hurt, Chicago Public Library
- Ruth Johnson, Calhoun High School
- Melanie Kassing, Mascoutah High School Library
- Michael King, O’Fallon Public Library
- Cindy Knafl, Moraine Valley Community College
- Roxanne Korpala, Stickney-Forest View Public Library
- Britta Krabill, Six Mile Regional Library District
- Jessica Marie Lawrence, Collinsville Public Library Center
- Marznea Lecka, National-Louis University Library
- Thomas Mantzakides, Library of the Health Sciences, U of I at Chicago
- Tami Pettis, Sheffield Public Library
- Jessica Pollitt, Fox Lake District Library
- Jamie Poorman, Marshall Public Library
- Tania Rivero, Library of Rush University Medical Center
- Kathy Ruhmann, Sparta Lincoln Middle School
- Carrie Rutherford-Stapleton, Metropolis Public Library
- Linda Schreiber, Bertolet Memorial Library District
- Colette Shelby, Plainfield Public District Library
- Sheryl Siebert, Chenoa Public Library
- Cindy Stachowicz, Central Citizen’s Library District
- Evangeline Stephenson, Three Rivers Public Library District
- Sandra Wood, Colona District Public Library
- Merna Youngblood, Frontier Community College

## Illinois Public Library Annual Report

The Illinois State Library has released the FY11-12 Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR) using the Bibliostat Collect software for data collection. To access the Bibliostat Collect site, **you will need your library’s Illinois State Library user name and password**. You also will need Adobe version 6.0 or higher for PDF printing.

For assistance with your user name/password, e-mail Becky Hunter at [bhunter@ilsos.net](mailto:bhunter@ilsos.net) or call 217-782-7849 or 1-800-665-5576, ext. 1. For questions regarding content/subject matter and edit checks, e-mail Robert Jones at [rjones@ilsos.net](mailto:rjones@ilsos.net) or call 217-785-1168 or 1-800-665-5576, ext. 1. For questions about software and technology issues, contact the **Bibliostat Help Desk at 866-785-9935**.



## Emerging Writers Competition winners published

Three winners of the 2010 Illinois Emerging Writers Competition have had their works published recently. **Janice Croom** and **Tacuma Roeback** both had their short story winning entries published in the new edition of *Downstate Story* magazine. Croom won for her short story, “Twenty-five Years is Silver,” and Roeback for his short story, “Catharsis/Cox.” **Keli Stewart** had her first-place poetry entry, “after birth,” published in the fall/winter edition of *Quiddity* magazine.

The Illinois Emerging Writers Competition is an annual writing contest sponsored by Secretary of State Jesse White and the Illinois Center for the Book. Read all the winning entries at [illinoiscenterforthebook.org/](http://illinoiscenterforthebook.org/).

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## Illinois Library Day – April 18

Illinois Library Day, a day set aside for the library community to meet with their lawmakers in Springfield and discuss issues of importance to librarians, is set for Wednesday, April 18. Training and special briefings will be held the evening before. For more information or to register for the day’s events, visit the Illinois Library Association’s website at [ila.org](http://ila.org).

## State Library staff news

Congratulations to **Cherryl Walker** of the Automation and Technology Division, who was named the March Secretary of State Employee of the Month.

**Cheryl Johnson** has moved from the Circulation staff of the Talking Book and Braille Service to the Library Operations Division. **Bre Anne Broccardo** has taken Cheryl's place at TBBS.

We're sad to report the passing in February of **Liz Lueck**, a talented State Library reference librarian for 32 years before retiring in 2004. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Liz's family and friends.



### 2011-12 Illinois Blue Books available —

The new 2011-2012 *Illinois Blue Books* are hot off the presses! The *Blue Book* may be ordered on the Secretary of State's website at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) (click Publications, Contact Us) or by calling the Secretary of State Communications Department at 217-785-8234. Previous *Blue Books* also are available upon request.

# SAVE THE DATE

**April 12**  
Illinois State Library  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
State Library

**April 18**  
Illinois Library Day  
Springfield

**May 9**  
Spotlight on Achievement and Service  
Literacy Awards  
State Library

**The Illinois State Library will be closed  
the following state holiday:  
Monday, May 28 — Memorial Day.**



Insight  
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