State Library staff news

The Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) Division in Springfield this summer assumed responsibility for all circulation of TBBS materials for Illinois patrons living outside of Chicago. Joining the expanded TBBS circulation operation on a part-time basis are: Marcus Birch, Jodie Bruce, Michael McCarthy, Sara Moler, Erica Powell, Cynthia Ryan, Stephanie Tuttle and La Tanya Williams. Jamie Mott joined the ISL staff on November 1 as a reference librarian.

Promoted to new titles in the Circulation Department of the Library Operations Division were Dan Dixon and Matthew Henninger. Taran Ley’s temporary assignment as Reference Outreach Coordinator is now permanent. Adam Green has moved from the TBBS circulation staff to a full-time position in Library Operation.

Secretary of State Jesse White hosted a ceremony at the Illinois State Library in September commemorating the success of the Illinois Veterans’ History Project. The event was spearheaded by White to provide a permanent database featuring the names and stories of Illinois war veterans and civilians who served during times of war.

“In 2005, we created the Illinois Veterans’ History Project,” said Secretary White. “Today, there are more than 6,500 records from veterans who have submitted their stories to the project. I am so proud that so many veterans have been willing to share their stories and memories with us.” Secretary White served as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army and as a member of the Illinois National Guard and a reservist. “Countless words have been written and spoken about the brave men and women who have served our nation. But I believe the most important words are those written and spoken by the heroes themselves. The Illinois Veterans’ History Project provides a permanent home to honor our country and our veterans, and also reminds us of the men and women who gave their lives and made the ultimate sacrifice.”

About 100 veterans attended the ceremony, which recognized the ongoing partnership between the Veterans’ History Project, the Department of Illinois Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Illinois Court Reporters Association. The DAV has arranged for veterans to be interviewed for the project, and volunteer court reporters are recording and transcribing the interviews. Secretary White thanked Eric Huckaby, assistant adjutant of the Department of Illinois Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and Deborah Cohen-Rojas, a member of the Illinois Court Reporters Association, for their members’ contributions to the success of the project. Also taking part in the ceremony was Erica Borggren, director of the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs, members of the Macon County Honor Guard and the Chatham Glenwood High School Titan Fever Show Choir under the direction of Jeff Gennar. The State Library hosted two displays: The 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne, World War II Reenactment Group and the Illinois Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall.

Annual library system certification to begin Jan. 2

The annual online certification process for libraries that are members of a regional library system will begin Jan. 2, 2014. This will be the second year of the annual certification process, which is required of all library system members — full or developmental — in order to qualify for system services and grants and programs from the State Library. The window for certification will close March 31, 2014.

The State Library’s Annual Library Certification is available at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/librarycertification.html. The site includes a link to the data and questions included in the certification form, a link to the online certification portal (accessible January 2-March 31), and a timeline and Frequently Asked Questions document about the annual certification process.

The certification portal requires the agency’s control number and the main administrative branch number, as well as certain basic indicatory information for each library system member. For more information, contact Pat Boze at pboze@ilsos.net.

Live & Learn Construction Grants

Applications due January 10

Public libraries may apply for FY13 Live & Learn Public Library Construction grants at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/libraries/liveandanlearnconstruction.html. Grants will be awarded in three categories:

Remodeling for Accessibility — Grant award range: $2,500-$50,000

- 70-100 percent of total project funds must be used specifically for remodeling an existing building for compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).
- State’s share will be a maximum of 50 percent of the project’s total cost, for a maximum of $30,000.
- Local matching funds required.

Mini-Grants — Grant award range: $2,500-$35,000

- Available to public libraries with limited funds and incomes of less than $15 per capita (see Eligibility Requirements at the link above).
- Remodeling or refurbishing existing library buildings.
- Projects include new carpeting and floor coverings, new furnishings (shelving excluded), remodeling, energy conservation, electrical, roofing, elevators, ceilings, HVAC, plumbing, doors/windows, fire protection, book drops, circulation desks, security systems, technology wiring, and interior or exterior painting.
- Local matching funds not required.

New Construction/Remodeling — Grant award range: $25,000-$125,000

- New library construction.
- Additions to and/or remodeling of existing library buildings.
- Conversion of existing buildings not currently used for library services.
- State’s share will be a maximum of 50 percent of the project’s total cost, for a maximum of $125,000.
- Local matching funds required.

Emerging Writers Competition winners announced

Secretary of State Jesse White has announced the winners of the ninth annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition, Cwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award.

First place: Jonathan G. Travelstead of Murphyboro for his poem DuPont Paint Factory.
Second place: Pablo Otavalo of Chicago for his poem Great-Grand.
Third place: Richard Holinger of Geneva for his poem Seems the Whole World’s Staring In: A Tryptich.

“I created the Illinois Emerging Writers Competition to promote creative writing and provide a unique opportunity for recognizing new literary talent in the state,” said Secretary White. “Illinois has a long and rich literary heritage, and these poets are adding to the tradition established by legendary Illinois poets like Illinois’ very own Cwendolyn Brooks. Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I’m pleased to congratulate this year’s talented winners.”

The competition is named for the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Cwendolyn Brooks, and is co-sponsored by the Illinois Center for the Book and Kevin Stein, who succeeded Brooks as Illinois Poet Laureate and who selected the final winners.

The winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in Ninth Letter, RHINO and Quirkity magazines and Poetic License Press publications. The winners read their poems and received their awards from Secretary White and Kevin Stein at the State Library at the State Library in November. The winning poems are available at www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org.

ILA conference

Secretary White presented a $100,000 check to Chicago Public Library Commissioner Brian Bannon during the Illinois Library Association annual conference in Chicago in October. The award will fund the cost of a two-year Patron Driven Acquisitions pilot program at the library.

Funding for the grant is appropriated by the General Assembly to support library services in Illinois.

Project Next Generation Grants awarded

More than $231,000 in FY13 grants has been awarded to 16 libraries hosting Project Next Generation programs. Project Next Generation was created by Secretary of State Jesse White and is the first-ever statewide mentoring program for youth people to be administered through Illinois public libraries.

Project Next Generation is administered by the State Library. Project mentors work with students at public libraries to develop technology skills and guide them in exploring life skills such as effective communication, goal-setting and conflict resolution. Grants are awarded only to public libraries serving low-income populations with a demonstrated need to expand access to technology among youth. More than 6,600 students have completed the program since its inception in 2000.

PNG grant recipients are:
- Beards town Houston Memorial Library
- Bloomington Public Library
- Carbondale Public Library
- Centralia Regional Library District
- Champaign Public Library
- Decatur Public Library
- Elwood Park Public Library
- Harrisburg Public Library
- Hayner Public Library District
- Joliet Public Library
- Kankakee Public Library
- Mississippi Valley Library District
- Peoria Public Library-Lincoln Branch
- Richton Park Public Library
- S REAL Public Library
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  - 70-100 percent of total project funds must be used specifically for remodeling an existing building for compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).
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  - Library must address legal requirements for making the building ADA compliant.
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Third place: Richard Holinger of Geneva for his poem Seems the Whole World’s Staring In: A Tryptich.

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Try It! Illinois 2013

Thanks to everyone who took part in Try It! Illinois — the State Library’s popular, free statewide electronic database trial, which ran from October 1 to November 30. The trial offered all ILIUNET member libraries, their staffs and patrons an opportunity to use and evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources free of charge. Special thanks to the Try It! Illinois participating vendors:

- ABC-CLIO
- Academic Press
- Ambrose Video Publishing
- AtoZdatabases
- BioOne
- Capstone
- Career Cruising
- CQ Press
- Cleo’s Reference
- EBSCO
- Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.
- FactCite: Lincoln Library Online
- Facts on File
- Final E-Z Reading Series
- FINTEL
- Gale-Cengage Learning
- Geographic Research, Inc.
- Glandium LLC
- Grey House Publishing
- Heritage Microfilm, Inc.
- Information Today Inc. – Faulkner
- Information Services
- Learning Express
- Mango Languages
- Morningstar, Inc.
- My Heritage – World Vital Records
- myON
- Names of American, Inc.
- OCLC FirstSearch
- ORS Publishing
- Oxford University Press
- pA.com, Inc.
- Plunkett, Ltd.
- ProQuest
- Record Information Services, Inc.
- Rosen Publishing, Inc.
- S&P Capital IQ
- Sage Publications/Adam Matthew
- Schuolastic, Inc.
- SCOLA
- Sunburst Digital
- Taylor and Francis, LLC
- TeachingBooks.net
- The World and I Online
- ThinkMap
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Secretary White hosts Veterans’ History Project ceremony

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