The Illinois State Library promotes excellence in information access and innovative services for government, libraries and the general public.

The State Library’s dual identity is established in the State Library Act: “It is the policy of the State of Illinois, to promote, support, implement and maintain library services on a State level for all State Officers, Offices, the General Assembly, the Judiciary and all State agencies, bodies and commissions, and to promote, support and implement library services on a statewide basis.”

The Illinois State Library…

PROVIDES LIBRARY SERVICES TO STATE EMPLOYEES & ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Issues free library cards.
- Provides access to the library’s collection of more than 5 million items.
- Provides reference services by email, phone, text and in person; on-site Internet and wireless access; and remote access to research databases.
- Provides access to more than 190,000 maps and more than 74,000 library collections worldwide.
- Collects and maintains electronic copies of State of Illinois documents, both current and historic.
- Acts as the regional depository of federal documents for the State of Illinois.

BUILDS AND FUNDS LIBRARIES

- Coordinates a network of over 4,000 academic, public, school, and special library buildings (more than 1,800 agencies) by developing administrative rules and policies that govern libraries’ cooperative relationships, such as interlibrary loan and network membership.
- In FY2015:
  - Awarded nearly $45 million in state and federal library grants, including library construction grants, public library per capita grants and school library grants.
  - Funded grants to three library systems and other efforts that support sharing and delivery of over 15 million items to library patrons statewide.

HELPS ILLINOIS READ; PROMOTES EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Historically funds more than 150 literacy programs each year, reaching over 21,000 adults and children.
- Provides support for over 7,500 volunteer tutors, teachers and mentors.
- Provides the Illinois Digital Archives, an online repository of digital images of photographs, manuscripts and documents from Illinois libraries.
- Provides the Electronic Documents of Illinois, an online repository of digital state documents.
- Pairs more than 1,180 at-risk young individuals with more than 90 mentors in 21 Illinois public libraries through Project Next Generation.
- Highlights Illinois literary history, reading, literacy and libraries through the Illinois Center for the Book and its programs.
- Records the names and stories of Illinois veterans through the Illinois Veterans’ History Project. To date, more than 5,500 entries – including audio, video and transcribed interviews – have been recorded.

ASSISTS SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- Provides reading services and equipment to over 16,000 print-disabled readers through the Illinois State Library’s Talking Book and Braille Service.

NUMBER OF LIBRARIES AND LITERACY PROVIDERS ELIGIBLE FOR FY15 GRANTS

- 222 academic libraries and branches
- 798 public libraries and branches
- 796 school libraries
- 260 special libraries and branches
- More than 200 literacy providers

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