

Illinois State Library Report

Prepared for the Health Sciences Librarians of Illinois July 26, 2011 meeting

Despite the state's lingering fiscal problems and a still sluggish economic recovery, the State Library is pleased to be able to provide valuable assistance to Illinois' multitype libraries. During Fiscal Year 2012, which began July 1st, we will award more than \$40 million in grants--public library per capita grants, school district grants, library system grants, literacy and construction grants. Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has maintained state grant funding for libraries when other states have experienced much more severe cuts, and when any grant program is particularly vulnerable to cuts or total elimination.

Additionally, Secretary White has secured grants from sources new to the ISL. Grants from both the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity have recently provided much needed materials and services to libraries to support direct patron needs. In addition, the Secretary has selected three strategically located public libraries for new videoconference packages; the Helen Matthes Library in Effingham, the Galesburg Public Library, and the Quincy Public Library. These packages will ease communication challenges brought about by the recent regional library system mergers. As reflected in the ISL's *Strategic Plan*, Secretary White will continue to pursue other grant opportunities as allowed by ISL administrative capacity and authority from the General Assembly. At this time in our state's fiscal crisis, we applaud the efforts of the regional library systems to merge from ten to three (Reaching Across Illinois, Illinois Heartland and Chicago Public Library). We hope these mergers will, in the coming months, realize significant savings for administrative support.

Unfortunately, funding delays will once again figure prominently into cash flow challenges for all ISL grantees between now and the end of the calendar year. The General Assembly has extended the period during which payments from last fiscal year can be made until December 31, 2011. FY12 payments will not begin until after FY11 payments have been made.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to support libraries and library systems and the priorities of delivery, the automated consortial catalogs and the Talking Book programs. To fulfill this goal, in Fiscal Year 2012 we will once again suspend offerings traditionally supported by Library Services and Technology Act funding we receive from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. These suspended offerings include competitive grant programs, scholarships, and continuing education programs such as Synergy, the Small Public Library Management Institute and the Institute for School and Public Librarians. The ISL continuing education program, ILEAD U, is supported by a separate grant until 2012.

We are pleased to report that our Talking Book and Braille Service has completed its move from a stand-alone building in downtown Springfield into the State Library building at 300 South 2nd Street. All ISL staff, with the exception of Chicago office staff, are now housed under one roof.

OCLC, Inc. has been awarded the contract for *Resource Discovery and Sharing for Illinois Libraries* (i.e., discovery, cataloging and interlibrary loan services) as a result of a formal Request for Proposal process conducted by the Office of the Secretary of State. Pricing

information for ILLINET/OCLC Services for this fiscal year and next was recently distributed by the State Library to all Illinois OCLC member libraries. Pricing for FY13 will remain the same as FY12.

Billing services for ILLINET/OCLC Services will be performed by the new Illinois Heartland Library System (created from the merger of Lincoln Trail, Lewis and Clark, Rolling Prairie and Shawnee Library Systems). FY12 contracts will be issued from the Illinois State Library, and the invoices from the Illinois Heartland Library System.

OCLC WorldCat/FirstSearch and SILC, the Statewide Illinois Library Catalog, will continue to be available in FY12. The Illinois State Library is once again providing these resources for all Illinois libraries.

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