PARTICIPANTS
Ann Bishop, Library and Information Science
Chip Bruce, Library and Information Science
Sharon Irish, School of Architecture
Carle Nixon, Illinois Chapter of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators
Kim Petzing, Allerton Park and Conference Center
Walt Robinson, Atmospheric Sciences

ACTIVITIES SUMMARY
Living on the Prairie has become a community of teachers and students who use the Worldwide Web to share ideas about the natural and cultural history of central Illinois. The Inquiry Page (<www.inquiry.uiuc.edu>) provides a framework for people to exhibit some of the results of their investigations, share ideas and offer feedback. The silicon and culture aspects of the project also have a carbon component as teachers, students, and community members have met face to face over the last year. The project website is growing, with links to other campus and community activities. All the participants have been grouped into an online Prairie Community Inquiry Lab (CIL) (<http://inquiry.uiuc.edu/cil>) where members of the community can come together online. For example, a surface water quality unit developed by teachers at Urbana Middle School is now available at the Lab and the CIL is linked to the Prairie website. We met several of our original goals: 1) we held a teacher workshop on both The Inquiry Page and the Illinois environment; 2) together with teachers we are building a web resource for communication and documentation about Living on the Prairie; 3) we continue to work with the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators on an exhibit that will be part of two Prairieshare events in the Spring of 2004; and 4) we supplied classroom teachers with funds for prairie-related supplies and field trips.

PLANS
We have been privileged to work with several other campus projects that have lent their expertise and resources, namely: Prairienet, the Telenature Project and the CAMPWS water project Living on the Prairie made use of and contributed to the software development for the Community Inquiry Labs (CILs). Now in development are plans for incorporating bulletin board, calendar, syllabus maker, and other tools. This fall several UIUC faculty and staff are making classroom visits to local schools. The winter 2004 teacher workshop and the spring 2004 Prairieshare in Urbana and Monticello—will involve many of those listed below. The Chilian artist and poet Cecilia Vicuña and some Living on the Prairie participants are collaborating on the development of a website, called "Semiya," inspired by Vicuña's work with seeds. (<http://www3.isrl.uiuc.edu/~rampraka/seeds/index.htm>) We hope this spin-off will become an integral part of Living on the Prairie. We are seeking both internal and external funds to develop this aspect.

STATISTICS
There have been several layers of participants: UIUC faculty, staff and graduate students; elementary and secondary school teachers; students in grades 3-8.

Contributing UIUC Faculty, Staff and Students
At least 26 UIUC faculty and students have worked on this project: in addition to those named above, Lesley Deem, Janet Eke, and Bryan Heidorn from the Library and Information Sciences School, Jerry Soube from Landscape Architecture and Allerton Center; Umesh Thakkar of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications all contributed. LIS and Education graduate students included Carey Campbell, Muchgan Nazarova, Brent Palmer, Pratik Pathaaswarth, Steven Pouliakis, Rajeev Ramprakash and the projects graduate assistant from Landscape Architecture, Aspara Raghunathan. Other UIUC staff who have given invaluable support include Ken Robertson, Marie Metz and Mike Jeffords of the Natural History Survey, Prairie Flowers (Howard Hughes Program) staff members, Carolyn Zanta and Rebecca Hall, retired Geography professor Bruce Hannon, Grand Prairie Friends activist Deborie Casels and Environmental Council staff member Lisa Merrifield.

Elementary and Secondary School Teachers
For most of the past year, 15 to 20 teachers from across central Illinois have been involved in each event. The teachers came from Urbana, Monticello, White Heath, Vandalia, Milford, and Champaign. Valuable input was received early on from Eric Hillman of Monticello Schools and Joan Kamler of Urbana Public Schools.

Students (about 792 students)
130 6th graders from Monticello
100 7th and 8th grade students from Monticello
45 8th grade science students from Urbana
205 6th graders from Urbana
37 3rd graders from Urbana
100 5,7,8 graders from Milford
30 4th graders from White Heath
100 middle school students from Vandalia
15 teens from Don Moyers Boys and Girls Club, Champaign