An Overview of the Illinois Library Association

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Vision

The Illinois Library Association is indispensable in leading efforts in library advocacy and collaboration, and serving as a springboard to innovation and excellence in library services.
Goals

• Advocating for the Public Interest
  – develop and promote strong public policy related to libraries, literacy and lifelong learning;
  – defend intellectual freedom and access to information;
  – increase public awareness of the value of libraries to society.

• Promoting Excellence and Innovation
  – provide outstanding programs of continuing education and leadership development;
  – support the recruitment, retention and professional development of a culturally and racially diverse workforce for libraries;
  – produce high quality publications and communications;
  – celebrate the achievement of excellence and innovation on behalf of the membership.

• Managing the Present to Prepare for the Future
  – In order to achieve these goals, ILA will use its resources wisely and maintain a flexible structure that promotes the diverse interests and broad participation of members.
Administrative Structure & Governance

- Three full-time staff members
- Sixteen member executive board
  - Officers and board members are elected by association’s members
  - Representatives from all parts of state and all types of libraries
Membership

- **Approximately 2,500 personal (individual) members**
  - 33% of Illinois’ librarians are ILA members
    - Majority work in public and college & university libraries
    - Library staff, trustees, and supporters are also members
- **Approximately 3,000 institutions are members**
  - 61% of Illinois’ public libraries are ILA Institutional members
  - 43% of Illinois’ college and university libraries are members
  - Also includes Schools (K-12), special libraries, and commercial firms who exhibit at ILA’s annual conference
- **Separate professional associations for school/special librarians**
  - Illinois School Library Media Association
  - Special Libraries Association Illinois Chapter
Committees

- Provide major support services for ILA membership
- Chairs appointed by current ILA president, approved by Executive Board
- Committee members are appointed or volunteer
  - Appointments are generally one year

Standing committees include:
- Advocacy
- Awards
- Best Practices
- Conference Program
- Cultural and Racial Diversity
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Intellectual Freedom
- ILA Reporter Advisory Committee
- iREAD
- Marketing
- Membership
- Nominating
- Public Policy
Forums

- Groups that represent special topical interests within the Illinois library community
- Comparable to ALA’s associations
- Forum managers are elected by the forum members
- Tasks throughout the year include:
  - Developing program ideas for ILA’s annual conference
  - Information sharing among forum members

Forums include:
- Government Documents
- Illinois Association of College & Research Libraries
- Leadership
- Librarians for Social Responsibility
- Library Trustee
- Public Library
- Reaching Forward: Forum for Library Support Staff
- Reference Services
- Resources & Technical Services
- Young Adult Services (Teens)
- Youth Services
Future of Illinois Library Cooperation
Rationale for Project

• Bring together a diverse group representing the geographic, demographic, and professional range of library services in the state to explore how to strengthen collaboration and prepare for a changing future.

• Outcomes
  – Key components of a vision
  – Desired attributes of a possible new approach
  – Benefits/risk assessment
  – Potential opportunities for programs, services
  – Conditions for success
  – Next steps
Trends identified

• Trends effecting library service discussed in small groups
• Facilitator translated themes that emerged as a result of small group discussions
  – Service
  – Cooperation
  – Collaboration
  – Education/learning
  – Interdependency
  – Inclusiveness/inclusion,
  – Adaptability
  – Innovation
## Envisioning Illinois Library Service in 2020

### Characteristics

- One statewide “brand,” one card, one message
- “Embedding” the library presence throughout the community, in other organizations, etc.
- Libraries as indispensable, ubiquitous, integrated
- Consolidation as both a “big stick” and “helping hand”
- Transcending the Google race
- School libraries open year-round
- Reorganization of systems by function, not geography
- Franchise model, standardize at a high level
- Improved advocacy and marketing by ALL libraries
- User/patron centered

### Conditions Needed

- Inclusive of all, with accountability and designated leadership
- Politically supported, stakeholders actively involved;
- Balanced between common good and self-interest
- Transparent, with data and examples to prove the case
- Based on experience (e.g., school consolidation from the 1960s)
- Subject to ongoing evaluation with means to measure progress
- Effectively branded to identify what libraries do that people cannot live without
How Do We Get To Our Ideal?

- Early buy-in from stakeholders (engagement of library community = critical mass)
- Clarity
- Discussions are not divisive
- Positive feedback from users and nonusers
- Financially sustainable
- User-focused
- Say library, not Google
- Transparency in the process
- Don’t endanger current success (risk)
- Data-based evaluation framework
- Strong multi-type relationships

- Clearly articulated vision that is easily grasped
- Bold enough to inspire—transformative
- Equitable throughout the state
- Specific tasks, accountability, resources for execution
- Bottom up process—roles for ILA, state library, library systems, CARLI, ISLMA, other organizations
- Prioritize
- Clearly defined benefits (by category)—needs to not appear self-serving
- Timing, and reasonable timeline for success
Unspoken Realities

• Possible consolidation of systems
• Restructuring of how public libraries are funded
• Role of the state library
• Potential closing of more libraries
• Elimination of jobs
• “Territorialism” and self-preservation resulting from scarce resources
After the Summit

• Three task forces formed
• Focus on a short list of core library cooperative services, which will be identified from focus areas developed by summit participants
  – Structure
  – Funding
  – Services
• Each task force issued a report, upon which the final draft plan was based
Meanwhile, out in the real world...

- State funding to library systems delayed and delayed and delayed
- As systems ran out of money, they laid off staff and cut services
- State Library placed priority on continuing delivery and shared automation
  - Five regional library systems laid off all staff not involved with delivery and automation and stopped doing CE and training
  - Three systems continue with consulting and training services for the time being
- Eight regional library systems consolidated into two
- In the midst of all of this, the committees continued their work and issued their reports, which culminated in a draft plan
Priorities Identified in Plan

1. Delivery
2. Shared Catalogs
3. Group Purchasing
4. Library and Professional Development
5. Advocacy and marketing
What’s Next

• Regional library systems consolidating
• Illinois State Library continues to support statewide delivery
• ILA working to fill gaps identified in task force reports
  – Established Advocacy Committee and hired Advocacy Coordinator to coordinate effort
  – Established Leadership Forum to fill professional development gap left by cancellation of Illinois State Library’s Synergy Library Leadership training program
iREAD
Mission

To provide high quality, low cost resources and products that enable local library staff to promote reading.
2011 iRead Theme – A Midsummer Knight’s Read
Artist: David Catrow
Craft Ideas for 2011
iREAD Theme

Fairy Magnet

Illuminated Name Card

Princess Hat
Craft Ideas for 2011

iREAD Theme

Shield

Jester Hat

Book Safe
Public Service Announcement for A Midsummer Knight’s Read
http://youtu.be/IMewskzD7L8
2010 iRead Theme – Scare Up A Good Book, Read!
Artist: Jill Campbell
Little Green Alien

Snapping Mouths

Monster Mask

Origami Bat
Links

Illinois Library Association
http://www.ila.org/

Future of Illinois Library Cooperation
http://www.ila.org/about-ila/the-future-of-illinois-library-cooperation

IREAD
• Main page
  http://www.ila.org/iread/iread-summer-reading-program
• Crafts
  http://www.ila.org/iread/a-midsummer-knight-s-read-showcase-crafts
• Public Service Announcement
  http://youtu.be/IMewskzD7L8