



IACRL

Newsletter



Volume 29, Number 2
Fall 2006

SHUMAKER NAMED ACADEMIC LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR

Jana Brubaker, Northern Illinois University

Earl Shumaker, head of the Government Publications Department at Northern Illinois University, has been named the 2006 Illinois Academic Librarian of the year. This award has been given by IACRL annually since 1985 to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to academic and/or research librarianship at the statewide level, and to library development. Earl has been the head of the Government Publications Department since 1978. He is also currently the coordinator of the NIU Branch Libraries System. In addition to his duties at NIU, Earl provides reference service and bibliographic instruction on the weekends at Waubonsee Community College.

Earl became active in the Illinois Library Association when he arrived at NIU in 1978. Over the years he has served on numerous ILA committees including the Marketing Committee,

(see Librarian of the Year, page 11)

In this issue ...

IACRL at ILA
Navy Pier, Chicago, IL
October 3-6, 2006
Business Luncheon | Sessions

ALSO INSIDE:

- Renovations & Information Commons Plans
- CARLI Grant Winners
- Librarians on the Move
- Recent Publications by Illinois Academic Librarians
- Center for Conservation & Preservation at ISU
- Virtual Reference Initiative from State Library

Musings on the 2006 IACRL Conference

Felix Chu, Western Illinois University

In the keynote speech, Michael Jon Jensen talked about his experiences and predictions in publishing and scholarly communication.* In regard to the scholarly ecosystem, while many of his predictions came to pass, some of the insights gained from a few inaccurate forecasts were encapsulated in saying that the "fundamental error was in thinking that technology was the driver, rather than the human culture using the new technology." He wants us to step back from considering individual problems such as books from uni-

*The full text of Jensen's keynote address is at <http://www.nap.edu/staff/mjensen/iacrl/>.

(see Musings, page 10)

**IACRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2006-2007**

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Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville

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Elizabeth Burns, Distance Learning
Lewis and Clark Community College

LIBRARIANS ON THE MOVE

Karen Hovde, Northern Illinois University

Jean Evans sees in autumn 2006 her new job as Collection Development and Reference Librarian at *IMSA (Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy)*, to which she comes from her previous position as reference and instruction librarian at Kishwaukee College.

The newest library staff member at *Monmouth College* is **Lauren Jensen**. Lauren was recently appointed Public Services Librarian at Hewes Library. She completed her MLIS in August 2006 from the University of Illinois, and has a BA in History and Political Science from Illinois Wesleyan University.

In July, **Phyllis C. Self** (BS, MS and PhD from UIUC) was named Dean of Libraries at *Western Illinois University*. She comes to Macomb via Richmond, Virginia where she was Vice Provost for Academic Technology at Virginia Commonwealth University. She was previously Head of the Tompkins-McCaw Medical Library at VCU following appointments at the University of Cincinnati, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and UIUC.

Marcia Thomas returns from an extended
(see *On the Move*, page 6)

IACRL Newsletter, Volume 29:2, Fall 2006

General Editor, Isaac Hunter Dunlap · Managing Editor, Sarah George

Please send news to the IACRL Publications Committee,

c/o Hunt Dunlap, WIU Libraries, Macomb, IL 61455 (ih-dunlap@wiu.edu).

Send Address Changes to ILA, 33 W. Grand Ave., Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60610

(ph: 312-644-1899; ilarla@ilarla.org)

The Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries is an Illinois Library Association forum and a chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Academic Librarians in Action at ILA

Sarah George, Illinois Wesleyan University

Looking for new ideas to incorporate into the new school year? This year's ILA Conference will be at Chicago's Navy Pier, October 3-6. The conference, "Illinois Libraries: Generating Value in Dollars and Sense" promises over seventy sessions, including a whole host by your fellow academic librarians. Be sure to check these programs out!

Tuesday, October 3

Academic Library Tour (8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Tour includes University of Chicago, Center for Research Libraries, University of Illinois-Chicago, and the Newberry Library.

Defending Access (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

Mary Munroe, Northern Illinois University and others

Thinking Outside the Borders (1:30-5:00 p.m.)

Susan Schnuer, UIUC

Wednesday, October 4

Beyond Espresso: The Library's Role in 2015

(2-3 p.m.)

Mary Ellen K. Davis, ACRL *Sponsor: IACRL*

Making the Switch: Shifting Library Career

Gears (4-5:30 p.m.)

Liz Burns (Moderator), Lewis and Clark Community College *Sponsor: IACRL*

Thursday, October 5

Management Issues for Reference Librarians

(9-10:30 a.m.)

Sally A. Anderson, North Park University

Accessible Electronic and Information Technology

(9-10:30 a.m.)

Elizabeth Leake, ITS Customer Support Services *Sponsor: IACRL*

Building Digital Collections: Basics of Digitization

and Access (9-10:30 a.m.)

Jenny Benevento and Amy Maroso-Hatcher, UIUC

Prescription for Success: Consumer Health Information on the Web

(9-10:30 a.m.)

Tammy L. Mays, University of Illinois at Chicago

IACRL Luncheon Meeting

Thursday, October 5, 2006

12:35 – 1:55 p.m.

(pre-registration required)

Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call for additions and changes to the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes
3. Welcome and introduction of the 2006-2007 Executive Committee
4. Recognition of the Academic Librarian of the Year
5. 2005-2006 Annual Report
6. Conference discussion
7. New business

Growing Your Own: Best Practices for Recruiting for Diversity in Your Library

(2-3:30 p.m.)
Allen Lanham, Eastern Illinois University, and others

Friday, October 6

Connecting Collections to Communities: Building Ethnic Collections in Public and Academic

Libraries (9-10:30 a.m.)

Kathleen Bethel, Northwestern University, and others

The Library as Destination

(9-10:30 a.m.)
Allen Lanham, Eastern Illinois University, and others

What's in Your Closet? Organizing and Digitizing Local History Collections

(11-noon)

Thomas Woods, University of Illinois at Springfield, and others

(see *Academic Librarians*, page 4)

And the CARLI Grant Winners Are...Illinois Libraries with \$216K

Elizabeth Clarage, CARLI

Many interesting and worthwhile grant proposals were received this past spring by the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI). Many thanks to those who participated in the grant proposal process including the people and institutions that submitted grants and the library directors that volunteered to read and score the grants.

The consortium awarded over \$216,000 in collections grants for this fiscal year. The titles of the projects funded and a main contact for each grant are **Africa & African Diaspora Collection**, William Thompson at Western Illinois

University; **Alternative Energy Monograph Partnership**, Julie Arendt at Southern Illinois University Carbondale; **Anthropology**, Jill Althage at Northeastern Illinois University; **Doctoral Dissertations and Masters Theses on Illinois History**, Jeffrey Hancks at Western Illinois University; **Ethics & Globalization**, Dean E. Cody at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; **Faculty and Teacher Development for Teaching in a Globalized World**, Bonnie Chauncey at Northeastern Illinois University; **Homeland Security**, Brian F. Clark at Western Illinois University; **Labor: Past, Present and Future**, Susan Shultz at DePaul University; **Performing Arts Cooperative Collection Project [Year 2]**, Dean Howd at Western Illinois University; **Religion in the Contemporary United States Collection Project**, Brent Etzel at Augustana College; **Visual Culture Cooperative Collection Project**, Dean Howd at Western Illinois University; and **Women's Studies: Women at Risk in a Global Society**, Vanette Schwartz at Illinois State University.

If you would like more information about the grants program as well as the grants that were funded this year, please check the CARLI website at <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/> or contact Elizabeth Clarage at clarage@uillinois.edu or (815) 753-9168.

CARLI holds many workshops, training sessions, and meetings for interested individuals. Information is distributed by listserv announcements and news items on the CARLI website. The CARLI calendar includes all these items. It can be found at <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/calendar/calendar.php>. Two dates of interest for collection development people are **November 2, 2006**, the **CARLI Bibliographers' Meeting** and **November 3**, the **2006 CARLI Membership Meeting**.

(Academic Librarians — from page 3)

Library Professional Education: Making the Grade (9-10:30 a.m.)

Karen Brown, Dominican University; Linda Smith, UIUC; and others

You may also be interested in two events sponsored by CARLI:

Reception – Tuesday 5-6:30 p.m.

Update – Thursday, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

For more information, the conference program and registration information is available on the ILA's web site:

<http://www.ila.org/events/conference.htm>.

IACRL PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Jana Brubaker, Northern Illinois University | Liz Delfert, SIU-Edwardsville
Scott Drone-Silvers, Lake Land College | Hunt Dunlap (Chair), Western Illinois University
Sarah George, Illinois Wesleyan University | Karen Hovde, Northern Illinois University
Kathleen Joswick, Western Illinois University | Matthew Paris, SIU-Edwardsville
Beth Schobernd, Illinois State University | Rita Stalzer, Loyola University Chicago
Vince Tinerella, Northern Illinois University

Renovations and Information Commons Plans for Illinois Academic Libraries

Rita Stalzer, Loyola University Chicago

Several Illinois academic libraries were recently renovated or are planning to renovate/remodel their existing libraries. Some libraries are also planning an information commons.

Loyola University Chicago

The big news for librarians at Loyola University Chicago is the new Information Commons building already in construction. The project will be completed by November 2007 and is scheduled to open in spring semester 2008. This new facility is located on the shore of Lake Michigan between Cudahy Library and the Madonna della Strada Chapel at the Lake Shore Campus. It will have a physical connection to Cudahy, creating one large library facility that will meet the needs of all users. According to Dean of Libraries Robert Seal, the IC will offer 216 computer workstations, 700+ study seats (not counting classroom furniture), several classrooms, 35 group study rooms, wireless access throughout the facility, a café, and much more. See the Loyola IC website: <http://libraries.luc.edu/about/ic/index.shtml>. The renovation of Cudahy library is in the planning stage and will probably be constructed after the Information Commons has been completed. It will feature a welcoming space for three areas: Reference, Periodicals, and Government Document on the first floor. An additional floor will be added to the existing building of four levels to provide for more study space and group study rooms. Since the library is situated on the shore of Lake Michigan, windows on the east side of each floor will be favorite places for students and faculty to enjoy the view as they are doing their studying and research.

University of Illinois at Springfield

At the University of Illinois at Springfield, the librarians are planning the renovation of the Brookens Library Level One lounge space into a café. One of the short term goals for the Library's strategic plan, completed in June 2006, was to create a café on Level One. The library received a gift that supplied the funding so that now they have entered into the serious planning that will result in construction. One of the partners in this endeavor is Information Technology Services; they plan to maintain a 24-hour computer lab adjacent to the café. According to Jane B. Treadwell, University Librarian & Dean of Library Instructional Services, the librarians have applied for an LSTA grant to complete the transformation of Level Two of Brookens into an information commons. "While we already have in place the technological configuration that one associates with an information commons (robust hardware and software applications and help for technology as well as reference questions), the area needed a 'face-lift' to look more welcoming to students. We are in the process of reducing the amount of floor space devoted to collections and introducing more seating, especially for groups." In addition to reupholstering some 60 task chairs and ten lounge chairs, the library is adding more browsing materials, including DVDs of popular films. "If we receive the grant," Treadwell continued, "we will also add a self-check machine and redeploy the current reference desk as a 'collaboration station' while combining the existing reference and circulation functions at one desk." A special printer that can be operated easily by people in wheel chairs is also coming to the facility.

(see *Renovations*, page 6)

(On the Move — from page 2)

absence to *Illinois Wesleyan University* as Director of Technical Services.

Marc Gartler takes on the position of Director of Library Services at *Harrington College of Design*, following the retirement of former Director **Elaine Lowenthal** at the beginning of the year.

Parkland College (Champaign, IL) welcomes **Jane L. Smith** as the new Information Services and Instruction Librarian. Jane holds an MLIS from Dominican University and a BA from Illinois State University.

Daniel Kraus and **Eben English** are new Reference librarians at *Morton College*, Cicero, Illinois. Both are recent graduates of the University of Illinois' LEEP program. Daniel's background includes experience as a film director/writer and a contributing author to *Cosmopolitan*, *Playboy* and *Salon.com*. Eben has worked for the Internet Public Library and is the Archivist and Assistant Webmaster for the Chicago Reader.

Robert Seal was appointed Dean of Libraries at *Loyola University* in October 2005. He comes to Loyola from Texas Christian University, where he was Dean of Libraries for many years. Recent appointments at Loyola include **Michael Napora**, Associate Dean of Libraries for Public Services and Collections; **Cathy Miesse**, Assistant Dean of Libraries for Technical Services and Outreach. **Ursula Scholz** is the new Head of Access Services, and **Jennifer Stegen** is Head of Interlibrary Loan. **Chulin Meng** is Head of Library Systems. Chulin received most of his education and experience in Peking, and is currently a doctoral student at UIUC. New also to Loyola is **Bill Cuthbertson**, Government Documents/Data Services Librarian and bibliographer for Political Science, Law, International Studies, and Peace Studies. Bill has worked most recently at Indiana University.

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(Renovations — from page 5)

Eastern Illinois University

Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library was recently renovated. According to Dean of Libraries Allan Lathrop, "We have ample computing capabilities throughout the building with both wireless and table-top connections. Although we have patron areas dedicated exclusively for computing, we do not call any of them 'information commons.' We feel that providing access to the Internet and to e-materials throughout the library and beyond is what serves our patrons best."

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Charlotte Johnson, of SIU Edwardsville, reports that Lovejoy Library is in the initial stages of planning for a learning commons and a multimedia center. Instead of one central area, various spaces throughout the building are being arranged and evaluated for different types of usage (quiet/collaborative, individual/group, no-tech/low-tech/hi-tech). The number of desktop and laptop computers available for users in the library has nearly doubled during the past year. In addition, most of the campus-wide software is now available on the computers and media players within the library. A variety of staffing and service locations and methods are also being implemented and studied.

Recent Publications by Academic Librarians in Illinois: Fall 2006

Kathleen E. Joswick, Western Illinois University

***Editor's Note:** Published semiannually since 1995, IACRL Newsletter's popular "Recent Publications by Academic Librarians in Illinois" has recognized the scholarly contributions of countless authors and provided a venue for the statewide academic library community to keep abreast of the research activities of Illinois librarians. A successful bibliographic series that persists for more than a decade is undoubtedly a labor of love and a testimony to determined research, precision and care.*

The Publications Committee wishes to congratulate our colleague, Kathleen E. Joswick, on the announcement of her retirement from the reference unit of Western Illinois University's Malpass Library at the end of this semester. Kate originated and has been the driving force behind "Recent Publications" and has provided significant leadership to this committee for many years. Since its inception, "Recent Publications" has indexed more than 1,150 individual articles published in 210 distinct journals, and has documented the release of untold numbers of books, chapters and conference proceedings. As Kate moves on to new and exciting endeavors, we are also very pleased to announce that Rita Stalzer, reference librarian and bibliographer at Loyola University Chicago, has graciously agreed to continue compiling this unique bibliographic resource. --ihd (with reporting by Vince Tinerella)

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- Burk, Roberta. "Self-Service Interlibrary Loan: A Primer for Reference Staff." *Reference Librarian*, no. 93 (2006): 73-82.
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- . "Copyright Law and the Blind Student." *Knowledge Quest* 34, no. 5 (2006): 43.
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(see *Recent Publications*, page 8)

(Recent Publications — from page 7)

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The Center for Conservation and Preservation at Illinois State University

Victoria Heiduschke, Illinois State University

The Preservation Librarians at Milner Library have always felt strongly about sharing their knowledge and expertise with others. They have led training workshops throughout the state of Illinois and have acted as consultants to libraries that have unfortunately met with a disaster. To better share this knowledge with the libraries of Illinois, Milner Library's Preservation Department is excited to announce the opening of its new Center for Conservation and Preservation.

Made possible by the generosity of the Illinois State Library, using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the federal Library Services and Technology Act, the Center is a new resource for Illinois libraries to use to help preserve their collections. The Center's mission is two-fold: to provide conservation and repair treatment to Illinois libraries and to provide training on a variety of preservation and conservation topics. Our mission and our not-for-profit status allows us to provide a unique service to Illinois libraries. We have the training, staff and materials to allow us to provide high quality and affordable conservation and repair treatment that adhere to the American Institute for Conservation's Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice. The Center recently hired a professional conservator, Soline d'Haussy, to run the daily operations of the Center. She has experience in circulating and rare materials conservation, and previously worked at the University of Kansas and Indiana University.

Conservation and repair services we provide include

- Mending torn pages
- Filling holes in pages
- Reattaching loose pages
- Tightening book hinges
- Repairing or replacing book spines
- Replacing torn end sheets
- Reattaching book covers
- Making new book covers
- Binding unbound materials
- Making custom portfolios, boxes and other protective enclosures

We also provide a number of training opportunities for librarians and library staff in the state of Illinois. You can choose from one of the following workshops, or you can contact the Center to create a workshop specifically for your library.

- Mending Techniques for Academic and Research Libraries
- Mending Techniques for Public and Lending Libraries
- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery
- Preservation Basics
- Care and Handling Techniques

If you'd like to learn more about the Center for Conservation and Preservation, please visit our website at www.library.ilstu.edu/page/988.

You may also contact the Center's director, Victoria Heiduschke, directly at (309) 438-7463 or vheidus@ilstu.edu. We are extremely pleased to be able to offer these services to Illinois libraries and look forward to the opportunity to help your library preserve its collections!

(Musings — from page 1)

iversity presses costing too much for the intended audience, or not costing enough to cover production cost. We need to look at the gardens we tend within the information ecosystem that is undergoing climatic change predicated by the Internet. Included of course are many of the Web sites or spaces such as MySpace and Google Video competing for our attention. In the midst of these is our "intelligent design," a well-manicured garden among the wild growth, perhaps in the format of our OPAC. In order to succeed, we must take risks and start to think spatially. In the corner of one slide during his presentation, there is the image of the book *Learning to Think Spatially: GIS as a Support System in the K-12 Curriculum*. That title illustrates spatial thinking as the key to future development of access.

In one sense, this conference demonstrates that we are ready to step back and look at what we are doing with the help of technology instead of concentrating on the technology itself. Within the digital environment, we are thinking about how best to deliver services, how to create an environment to enhance the learning experience, and what obstacles are in the paths of our best intentions.

As Marcy Allen's presentation on geospatial information at this conference suggests, one direction for us to think about in terms of access is to create layers of mapping we can overlay our library collection, including gateways to external resources. Each layer would then be optimized for a particular user group to reach specific parts of our collection. Each layer would also be created separately by different librarians and library staff, but shared with the whole user community. A very simple

way of looking at this, perhaps, is by going to Google Maps. By selecting "Map" from the top of the map inset, one gets a road map of a location. By selecting "Satellite," one gets a color photograph of the area. If one selects "Hybrid," the road map is superimposed on the satellite image, showing shades of green for different kinds of vegetation, land features, and clearly marked roads. In this view, if we think of the library collection as the satellite image, then the road map may be a layer to guide navigation of our collection. Similarly, there may be a layer marking navigable public waterways. As a cyclist, I would also be interested in another layer of suggested bicycle routes in various areas.

Dane Ward's presentation gives us a different perspective on this. The connection is that in trying to make sense of what we see in the digital environment, we need to focus and create different contexts. Effectively, this is an attempt at sense making where we may need to shift our paradigms. Another layer in this mapping over the library collection may be to create a soundtrack that enhances a particular aspect to the existing vegetation to bring about a different understanding of the role of particular components. In offering library services in an integrated environment, perhaps this focus on the relationship will bring about a better student engagement to learning.

Other presentations I attended can also be viewed in this framework of layering. In creating an information commons at Northwestern University, they have improved the physical environment to facilitate this process of layering where patrons may collaborate to build their own mapping over the information landscape. However, as Larissa Moebs said in her

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(Librarian of the Year — from page 1)

the Intellectual Freedom Network, the Membership Committee, the Awards Committee, and has been involved in the ILA Mentoring Network. Earl also chaired the ILA Conference Committee. In addition, he served as chair of the Government Documents Forum and the Specialized Library Services Forum and was a member of their Executive Boards. He later became very involved in IACRL and served on the Executive Board and is currently the chair of the IACRL Continuing Education Committee. Earl has also done numerous presentations on government publications and librarianship for academic, public, special, and school librarians statewide.

A supporting letter written by one of Earl's colleagues states that "[h]e has been an exemplary role model and mentor to numerous librarians within Illinois and the nation who have been captivated by his energy and passion for government documents and have gone on to become government documents librarians themselves." Another writes, "Mr. Shumaker enjoys a national reputation for innovation and promoting the use of government documents..." A third letter of support notes that "Earl's unfailing good humor and insightful assessments of situations have made him a valuable asset on committees and task forces. His willingness to step up and do the work has benefited many of us, his colleagues and peers."

Earl received his B.A. from Portland State University in Oregon and an M.S.L.S. from Louisiana State University. He also did postgraduate work at Ohio University and Northern Illinois University. Earl's career in libraries began early when he worked in his high school library during the summers and was employed in depository libraries while attending college. After completing library school, he assumed the position of Government Documents Librarian at Western Kentucky University Libraries. He went on to become the Head of the Government Documents Department and geography subject specialist at Ohio University Libraries before joining the faculty at Northern Illinois University Libraries. Earl has also served as adjunct faculty in the NIU Geography Department and the Library Science and Information Studies Department, where he taught the first Government Publications course.

Earl will receive his award on October 5 at a formal presentation during the IACRL Annual Business Meeting at the ILA Conference in Chicago and will also be recognized at the ILA Awards Ceremony.

(On the Move — from page 6)

In July **Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe** (MLS & EdM) became the Head of the Undergraduate Library at the *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*. Lisa is also Coordinator for Information Literacy Services and Instruction. Other new appointments at UIUC are **Meg Burger**, Visiting Learning Commons Coordinator and **Emily Love**, Outreach Librarian for Multicultural Services, both at the Undergraduate Library. **Beth Wood** is the new Head of the Reference Library, and **Leah Dodd** is Visiting Digital Resources and Reference Librarian. The Education and Social Science Library has **Tracie Wilson**, CLIR fellow and folklore scholar, and **Nikki Wright** comes to the Engineering Library as Assistant Engineering and Technology Librarian.

(Musings — from page 10)

presentation on rural distance learning, in our desire to embrace the best offered by technology, sometimes we overlook the shortcoming where only yesterday's technology is available to a group of our users. Our decisions in moving farther into the digital environment must be tempered by a more careful study of the implications when our services are predicated on the availability of digital technology.

For those of you who attended the 1998 IACRL Conference, you may remember that the keynote speaker was Bonnie Nardi who talked about the then forthcoming book she co-authored with Vicki O'Day. That book, entitled *Information Ecologies: Using Technology with Heart* (MIT Press, 1999), formed a great introduction to this year's address. In that talk, Nardi spoke about the meaning of technology in our daily tasks. She said that successful adoption of technology occurs only when it becomes part of the ecology. The technology must be placed within a greater context of doing an activity such as looking for information sources or manipulating images while doing an art project. If taught by itself, the process is not retained. Jensen's remarks about his observations echo this conclusion, that without an appropriate context, his predictions have not succeeded. In this sense, we can view newer manifestations such as MySpace and the use of blogs as creating contexts in which technology succeeds.

So for the future of library services, should we start to concentrate more on user needs without dragging them into our frame of reference? In thinking spatially, we can concentrate on two images Jensen showed during his address. One is a hillside as one would see in the wilderness. The other is the manicured garden. Think of the untrimmed wilderness as the information landscape. Then think of the manicured garden as the library's version of information organization as seen through the OPAC. It becomes evident that navigation is easy between certain points but not others. What if we create the option of putting down a different layer of organization on the same information landscape? This layer will have a different set of paths to facilitate traveling between points inaccessible in the previous iteration of information organization. Is it possible with existing technology to manage different layers of organization, each optimized with a different set of paths for specific purposes? We can then use these layers to create personal contexts for our users.

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(see Recent Publications, page 13)

State Library Launches New Virtual Reference Initiative

Patrick McGuckin, Illinois State Library

The Illinois State Library, in partnership with Wisconsin librarians, has launched a new reference tool that represents a major step forward in providing Internet patrons with access to reliable information.

Ask?Away Illinois (www.askawayillinois.info) enables Internet users to chat live with or e-mail questions to librarians anytime, for free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. *Ask?Away Illinois* greatly complements the outstanding reference service students, faculty and others currently receive when they visit their academic libraries in person. Many Internet users wonder about the accuracy and reliability of information they find on the Internet. *Ask?Away Illinois* ensures that answers are being provided by highly trained professional librarians. This is an exciting new opportunity for patrons to use the expertise and resources available at their library from their home or work computers.

Librarians from more than 100 Illinois academic, public, school and special libraries and regional library systems are participating in *Ask?Away Illinois*. Twenty-seven academic libraries are members, including Eastern Illinois University, Bradley University and the University of Illinois at Springfield. Other academic libraries are encouraged to be part of this innovative new service.

Ask?Away Illinois is funded with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and is administered by the Illinois State Library and Wisconsin Library Services. *Ask?Away Illinois* also utilizes the services of the 24/7 Reference Consortium, a group of hundreds of librarians across the country and world who work together to provide reference services.

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New CARLI Effort: Statewide Serials Collection Task Force

Ann Riley, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

In response to interest shown at the June 16 meeting of CARLI directors to hear the results of a previous ILCSO-funded study on the overlap of current serials subscriptions in the state, the CARLI Board and Director Susan Singleton have appointed a new group, the Statewide Serials Collection Task Force (SSCTF). Its charge, as it appears on the CARLI web site, is to "investigate various collaborative options related to print and electronic serials collections across the state. Among other ideas, these options may include mechanisms for last subscription retention, last copy retention and electronic archiving." The new task force reports to the CARLI Collections Working Group, and its liaison from CARLI is Elizabeth Clarage. Any recommendations from the task force for new CARLI products or services will be forwarded to the also new CARLI Product and Services Vetting Committee, which now serves to funnel such ideas with some screening to the CARLI Board.

The new Statewide Serial Collections Task Force must submit a written report of the group's activities to the CARLI Board by June 2007. As mentioned above, ideas related to new or enhanced CARLI products, services and programs that require central funding, or for which CARLI financial subsidy is being sought, will be sent to the CARLI Products and Services Vetting Committee or the CARLI Program Planning Committee, as appropriate.

Members of the new task force are: Ann Riley, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Chair; Kathy Bloomberg, Illinois State Library; Chad Buckley, Illinois State University; Sarah George, Illinois Wesleyan University; Nestor Osorio, Northern Illinois University; Connie Poole, Southern Illinois University Medical School; Todd Spires, Bradley University; Jan Sung, Eastern Illinois University; Lynn Wiley, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and CARLI Staff Liaison Elizabeth Clarage. The first meeting is scheduled for September 20. A starting point will be the work done by the recipients of the ILCSO study grant, Tina E. Chrzastowski and Michael Norman, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as well as work done in Virginia and other states.

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