



## Announcements

At the January 8, 2007 MLS Board meeting, Board President Elliot Spiegel appointed Ingrid Lamp Niinemae to replace resigned board member Sandra Taeuber.

Discounts are available for the 22nd Annual Computers in Libraries Conference & the Internet@Schools East 2007. For more info visit <http://www.infotoday.com/cil2007>.

The Rolling Prairie Library System will host a series of four online workshops about copyright and libraries on March 13 & 14, 2007, presented by Rebecca Butler from Northern Illinois University. Registration ends February 26. For more info visit <http://www.opal-online.org/progslis.htm>.

The Public Programs Office announces grants opportunities involving collection development, traveling exhibits, and American art or history resources. Deadlines begin January 31, 2007. For complete details, including applications, visit the Public Programs Office web site at <http://www.ala.org/publicprograms>.  
[Permalink]

## MLS Launches Electronic Newsletter

The Metropolitan Library System (MLS) announces the launch of its electronic newsletter *MLS E-announce*. A bi-monthly publication, *MLS E-announce* replaces the print newsletter, which ended publication October 2006 in preparation for the electronic version. *MLS E-announce* is a result of feedback from members who desired a more unified form of communication from MLS and is an outcome of MLS's Strategic Plan. The newsletter will provide announcements about upcoming MLS meetings and continuing education events, as well as member and professionally-related news and information. You can subscribe to *MLS E-announce* at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/subscribe.asp>. Questions or Comments? Email [consultants@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:consultants@mls.lib.il.us) [Permalink]  
[Read full article](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_01/newsletterlaunch.asp)  
[http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01\\_01/newsletterlaunch.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_01/newsletterlaunch.asp)

## Continuing Education Events

[Using the Best New Children's Books to Increase Learning and Motivate Reading](#), Peggy Sharp, Friday, February 2, 2007, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Tinley Park Public Library

[Hablo un poco espanol \(Spanish for Libraries\)](#), nine sessions, Norma Grassini-Komara, begins Tuesday, February 6, 2007, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00

## MLS Links

[Board of Directors](#)  
[Calendar of Events](#)  
[Jobs](#)  
[Membership](#)  
[Directory](#)  
[Staff Directory](#)

## MLS Services

[Consulting & CE](#)  
[Delivery](#)  
[LIMRiCC](#)  
[Resource Sharing](#)  
[SWAN](#)

[[RSS](#)] [[PDF](#)  
[Version](#)]

[Subscribe](#)  
[Unsubscribe](#)

## Editors

Jeannie Dilger-Hill,  
[dilgerj@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:dilgerj@mls.lib.il.us)

Gretel Stock-  
Kupperman,  
[stockg@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:stockg@mls.lib.il.us)

Christina Stoll,  
[stollc@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:stollc@mls.lib.il.us)

p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Advanced First Search](#), Heather Jagman, Thursday, February 8, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Encore Demo I](#) & [Encore Demo II](#), Dinah Sanders & Diane Lewin, Thursday, February 8, 2007, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Burr Ridge, (SWAN Members Only)

[[Permalink](#)]

[For more info and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar](#)

<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar>

## **Library Law: Law Can Be Used To Change Library Levy Process**

Written by Gerard Dempsey and Janet Petsche, partners with the law firm of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, Ltd., this month's Library Law article focuses on library levies. "As explained in previous articles, recent amendments to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law ("PTELL") changed the long-established procedures used to obtain voter approval of a tax increase for all library districts and local libraries located in non-home rule municipalities in "Tax Cap" counties by eliminating referenda to increase specific tax rates." [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article](#)

[http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01\\_01/librarylevy.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_01/librarylevy.asp)

## **SWAN: State-wide Certification Program for Technical Services Staff**

As part of a state mandate, SWAN Database Maintenance will be conducting training and certification classes for SWAN libraries' technical services staff. The first round of training and certification will focus on staff whose job is to search SWAN for a bib record matching the item in hand. Future training and certification classes will be held for copy catalogers and for catalogers. Class dates and registration information will be posted on the MLS CE Calendar shortly.

[[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article](#)

[http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01\\_01/certificationprogram.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_01/certificationprogram.asp)

## **MLS Service: Delivery**

Through Chicago traffic and unpredictable weather, the MLS Delivery drivers do whatever it takes to ensure the delivery of requested materials to MLS member libraries. Delivering over 2.5 million items a year, making 2,200 stops, and covering over 8,000 miles a month, this highly popular service has the numbers to prove its value to members. Climb on board, meet the drivers, and learn a bit about the MLS Delivery service. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article](#)

[http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01\\_01/delivery.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_01/delivery.asp)

## **Member Spotlight: Pritzker Military Library**

The Pritzker Military Library's mission is to preserve the history of and educate the public about the "Citizen Soldier as an essential element of the preservation of democracy." Since opening in 2003, the library's collection includes 500 war recruitment posters, nearly 6,000 photos from the Civil War to Vietnam, and special collections such as Winston Churchill artifacts. Free programming, from author lectures to panel discussions on current military topics, are also provided to the public, as well as broadcasted through an onsite production studio. Read more about this library, its historical works, and use of technology to bring its mission to the people. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article](#)

[http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01\\_01/pritzkerlibrary.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_01/pritzkerlibrary.asp)

### **Next Issue**

The next issue of *MLS E-nounce* will appear February 7, 2007.

[[Permalink](#)]



## MLS Launches Electronic Newsletter

by Christina Stoll, MLS

The Metropolitan Library System is pleased to announce the launch of its electronic newsletter *MLS E-announce*. The electronic newsletter replaces a previously printed version that ceased production as of October 2006 so staff could prepare for the electronic version. An outcome of MLS's 2006 Strategic Plan and members' desire for a more unified form of communication, *MLS E-announce* will be the main vehicle for communication from MLS Staff to the membership regarding upcoming events and issues that impact the entire system. By pushing a twice-monthly snapshot of information through an emailed newsletter, MLS hopes this will standardize and consolidate the information it shares with members. Drawing attention to information and resources available on the MLS web site will also be a key component of the electronic newsletter.

*MLS E-announce* will arrive directly to subscribers' email twice a month on Wednesdays. Each issue will include upcoming announcements pertaining to MLS and its library members. Future Continuing Education events, a lead article, the Library Law monthly topic, and a SWAN section will also be highlighted. Other MLS Services, an MLS staff member and an MLS member library will be spotlighted throughout the upcoming year.

The Library Law article will continue to be stored in pdf format on the MLS web site. Previous articles can be found on the right hand column of the newsletter archives page. <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/archives.asp>

Each issue of the newsletter will be archived and accessible on the MLS web site, in both html and pdf format for printing. <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/archives.asp>

### **Thanks to Our Supporters**

MLS would like to thank the North Suburban Library System (NSLS) for its staff assistance and for the software required to support the newsletter. Dawne Tortorella, an independent technology consultant, should also be given thanks for her contributions, toward the setup and training of MLS staff on the newsletter software. While the MLS newsletter uses similar software to NSLS's electronic newsletter *nsls.info*, readers should be aware that content will differ.

### **How to Subscribe to MLS E-announce**

Anyone can subscribe to the MLS newsletter by clicking on this link <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/subscribe.asp> and entering their email address and name. Subscribers will receive the next issue of *MLS E-announce* in their email. If you experience problems subscribing, email the MLS Consultants at [consultants@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:consultants@mls.lib.il.us) for assistance.

To unsubscribe, click on this link <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/unsubscribe.asp> and enter your email address. Your email address will be removed from the newsletter mailing list.

The [announce@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:announce@mls.lib.il.us) mailing list that supports the MLS electronic newsletter is a one-way mailing list that will only be used by MLS Staff to email the newsletter to subscribers. This mailing list will not have the ability to receive posts and anything sent to this mailing list will be automatically deleted. The best way to communicate information regarding the newsletter is to email the MLS Consultants at [consultants@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:consultants@mls.lib.il.us).

### **Troubleshooting Tricks**

If you've subscribed to the newsletter but don't appear to be receiving issues, you may want to check your email filtering software to make sure the newsletter hasn't been blocked. By adding the newsletter email address [announce@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:announce@mls.lib.il.us) to your safe list, this will ensure the newsletter isn't blocked in the future.

Still not receiving the newsletter? Contact the MLS Consultants at [consultants@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:consultants@mls.lib.il.us) for assistance.

For those individuals who would still like to be able to print a copy of the newsletter, a pdf version will always

be available with each archived issue on the MLS web site at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/archives.asp>

### ***Member Contributions***

MLS library members wishing to contribute content, write for a future issue, or who would like their library highlighted in the Membership Spotlight section should email the MLS Consultants at [consultants@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:consultants@mls.lib.il.us). All contributions will be considered by the *MLS E-nnounce* Editorial Board.

Some of the member contributions previously included in the print MLS newsletter will no longer be accepted in the electronic version. These include for sale items, classified ads and giveaways. Please use the MLS mailing lists [http://www.mls.lib.il.us/mailling\\_lists.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/mailling_lists.asp) to share this information with the appropriate group.

### ***Vision Becomes Reality***

The MLS Staff and Board are very excited about the electronic newsletter. They look forward to it becoming the main communication tool that members rely on for reminders about upcoming events, opportunities, and important issues within the organization and profession.

By bringing the newsletter and its web site into the 21st century, MLS's vision of being "a dynamic and responsive center of communication, collaboration, and education" for its member libraries becomes reality

Published **January 24, 2007** in vol. 1, iss. 1 [[View](#)]

© 2006 Metropolitan Library System  
Burr Ridge Office: 125 Tower Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
Chicago Office: 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604

[webmaster@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:webmaster@mls.lib.il.us)  
Phone: (866) 734-2004  
Fax: (630) 734-5050





## Library Law: Law Can Be Used to Change Library Levy Process

by Gerard E. Dempsey and Janet N. Petsche

As explained in previous articles, recent amendments to the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law ("PTELL")<sup>1</sup> changed the long-established procedures used to obtain voter approval of a tax increase for all library districts and local libraries located in "Tax Cap" counties by eliminating referenda to increase specific tax rates. These amendments also changed how these same libraries can levy taxes by allowing each of them to levy in their corporate funds up to the maximum rate ceiling allowed by law of 60 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed evaluation<sup>2</sup> ("EAV") without voter approval<sup>3</sup>.

To understand how this change can affect the tax levy process, it is helpful to begin by looking at the PTELL as it was in effect prior to the enactment of the amendments.

Before the effective date of the amendments, there were four (4) steps that had to be followed in extending taxes for library funds. *First*, the County Clerk calculated a tax rate for each fund of the library by using the levy amount requested by the library for the library fund in question. *Second*, if the calculated rate was higher than the statutorily-allowed rate (plus any increase in that fund authorized by public referendum), then the County Clerk *reduced* the calculated rate to the rate allowed by law. *Third*, all tax rates of the library (including special purpose funds) subject to the PTELL were summed to produce an "aggregate tax rate" for the library. And then, *fourth*, if the sum of these rates exceeded the PTELL "limiting rate" as established by the formula set out in the PTELL, the County Clerk proportionately reduced the rate for each of these library funds -- unless directed by the library to reduce the rates in some other fashion.

Consistent with its elimination of all referenda to increase specific tax rates for any particular library fund, the amendments also provide that:

"Notwithstanding the provisions, requirements, or limitations of any other law, any tax levied for the 2005 of the year and all subsequent levy years by any taxing district subject to this Law [the PTELL] may be extended at a rate exceeding the rate established for that tax by referendum or statute, provided that the rate does not exceed the statutory ceiling above which the tax is not authorized to be further increased either by referendum or in any other manner." <sup>4</sup>

To illustrate the operation of this language, let us take an example. Prior to these PTELL amendments, the maximum statutory rate (without referendum approval of an increase) at which a library district could levy for its general corporate fund was 0.15%. Similarly, the maximum rate at which a city or village library could levy (without referendum approval of an increase) for its general corporate fund was 0.15%. In neither case could that rate be increased beyond 0.60% even by a successful referendum.

Now, with the amendments, even if either library had never had approval to impose a rate higher than 0.15% or had a successful referendum in the past to increase its rate to say, 0.35%, that library for tax years after 2005 would be legally empowered to levy up to the maximum 0.60% rate. In other words, the amendments have eliminated the *second step* described above and the PTELL "limiting rate" will control the amount of the levy rate for each of the library funds subject to the PTELL.

Based on these amendments, some libraries that are subject to the PTELL plan to avoid tax rate objections by decreasing their special purpose levies and increasing their corporate fund levies. Here are the factors such libraries will take into consideration when they take such action:

1. The amendments appear to allow the library to make a corporate fund levy at a rate higher than the rate that the library was formerly allowed to levy.
2. In order to allow for a corporate fund levy increase and remain within PTELL's limiting rate, it may be necessary to decrease the library's special purpose fund levies in the amount of the increase in the corporate fund, leaving the overall amount of the library's taxes without any increase.

3. If the library's special purpose fund balance, when added to the amount levied for that special purpose, does not exceed more than twice the average of the past three years' expenses in that special purpose fund, or if the increased expenditures can be justified, a tax rate objection alleging "excess accumulations" in that special purpose fund will not be sustained.

4. At least once in each three tax years some amount will be levied in *each* special purpose fund in order to avoid any argument that after a 3-year hiatus the special purpose fund rate must be characterized as a "new rate" for purposes of the PTELL, thereby requiring a favorable referendum before restarting the special purpose fund levy.

5. If the revenues in any special purpose fund are significantly depleted, the library has legal authority to appropriate corporate funds to pay expenses in the special purpose funds that are insufficient (for library districts, at the time its Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is adopted, and for city or village libraries, when the library gives its statement to the city or village of the library's financial requirements for the ensuing fiscal year, for inclusion in the appropriation of the city or village, and of the amount of money which, in the judgment of the board of library trustees, it will be necessary for the city or village to levy for library purposes in the next annual tax levy ordinance). Please note that libraries cannot transfer money from the corporate fund to pay expenses in the special purpose funds, or *vice versa*.

6. If an appropriation has not been made to cover a special purpose fund expense from the corporate fund, even as a contingency, sufficient amounts will have to be levied in the special purpose fund to cover that expected (or unexpected expense), even if there is a possibility that there may be a tax rate objection filed in the future as a result.

In closing, as noted above, although the amendments appear to offer a significant tax advantage to PTELL-covered Libraries by allowing a rate to be extended in excess of any a referendum-approved or statutory rate (other than the maximum statutory ceiling rate above which the tax is not authorized), the PTELL continues to apply its "limiting rate" unless the voters have approved an increase in that rate or in the percentage used in the PTELL formula to establish that "limiting rate." In other words, in no case do the amendments permit the library's tax rates that are subject to the PTELL to be extended beyond the PTELL "limiting rate."

In addition, as with all newly-enacted legislation, these amendments are subject to challenge and to interpretation by the Courts.

#### **About the authors**

Gerard Dempsey and Janet Petsche are partners with the law firm of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, Ltd. which is an Illinois law firm with offices in the Civic Opera Building at 20 North Wacker Drive in Chicago and at 15010 S. Ravinia, Orland Park. The firm concentrates in the representation of local libraries, Library districts and Library systems, as well as other local governmental units.

1 Public Act 94-976, effective June 30, 2006

2 75 ILCS 16/35-5(a); 75 ILCS 16/35-10 and 75 ILCS 5/3-1.

3 P.A. 94-976 as codified at 35 ILCS 200/180190 (a)

4 35 ILCS 200/18-190 (a)

Published **January 24, 2007** in vol. 1, iss. 1 [[View](#)]

© 2006 Metropolitan Library System  
Burr Ridge Office: 125 Tower Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
Chicago Office: 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604

webmaster@mls.lib.il.us  
Phone: (866) 734-2004  
Fax: (630) 734-5050





## State-wide Certification Program for Technical Services Staff

by Tony Siciliano, MLS

The Illinois State Library has been working with representatives from the Local Library System Automation Projects (LLSAP), such as SWAN, to create a certification program for Technical Services staff throughout the state. The goal is to ensure a standard of knowledge and skill for the various types of data entry and cataloging work done in our libraries.

A certification program has already been created for staff whose job centers on finding matching bibliographic records in their databases for items in hand. Staff in this group have been referred to as “barcoders,” since the data entry tasks performed are either adding an item (barcode) to an existing bibliographic record, or creating a brief order record and adding an item (barcode) to it.

SWAN will begin the “barcoders” certification program this winter. The goal of this program is to encourage individual learning and skill development. Four identical full-day workshops will be given, and participants will learn about cataloging terminology, MARC tags, and choosing the correct bibliographic record that matches the item in hand. Quizzes will be given for each portion of the program, and the results will be given to each participant. No one else will see the results. Attendees who find they need improvement in certain areas will be encouraged to attend additional continuing education opportunities.

Testing programs are still being developed for two other levels of technical services staff: copy catalogers and catalogers. Copy catalogers typically edit existing MARC records in OCLC and export them to their local databases. Catalogers typically perform original cataloging using OCLC. Training and certification workshops for each of these skill levels will be offered for appropriate staff in SWAN libraries when those testing programs are complete.

SWAN library administrators are strongly urged to send appropriate staff to these workshops. The schedule of “barcode” certification classes will be announced shortly through the swancom mailing list and posted on the MLS CE Calendar <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar>. Questions, contact Tony Siciliano at [sicilianot@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:sicilianot@mls.lib.il.us).

Published **January 24, 2007** in vol.1, iss. 1 [[View](#)]

© 2006 Metropolitan Library System  
Burr Ridge Office: 125 Tower Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
Chicago Office: 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604

[webmaster@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:webmaster@mls.lib.il.us)  
Phone: (866) 734-2004  
Fax: (630) 734-5050





## **MLS Service: MLS Delivery**

**by Christina Stoll, MLS**

One of MLS's most popular services, MLS Delivery has the numbers to prove it. The 2,200 stops and over 8,000 miles of road covered every month add up to over 2.5 million books and audio visual materials delivered yearly to MLS member libraries.

Structured around four routes, MLS Delivery consists of daily, on-demand and indirect delivery stops. The type of delivery a library receives is based on that library's circulating volume, which is reviewed annually by MLS staff members. Daily delivery is currently provided to 102 MLS members, while 115 MLS libraries receive on-demand delivery. On-demand delivery provides next day delivery service to members when materials arrive at MLS, and provides next day pickup when requested by members using a form on the MLS web site. The request must be in by 4:00 p.m. to receive next day pickup.

Want to see if your library receives either daily or on-demand delivery? Check the list of libraries receiving delivery [http://www.mls.lib.il.us/delivery/DeliveryReport\\_DailyAlpha.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/delivery/DeliveryReport_DailyAlpha.asp).

Indirect delivery involves libraries where the van drivers do not have direct access to the physical location of the library. Libraries receiving indirect delivery partner with a daily delivery stop library, which receives the materials on their behalf. Through their own internal system, the drop-off library then delivers the items to the indirect library.

Check this list [http://www.mls.lib.il.us/delivery/DeliveryReport\\_Indirect.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/delivery/DeliveryReport_Indirect.asp) to see if your library gets indirect delivery and where your drop-off library is located.

The delivery of materials through the Illinois Library Delivery System (ILDS) also takes place within the MLS Delivery department. An ILDS van arrives daily with materials from other parts of the state, where they are sorted and included in the delivery to MLS libraries. Additional information about ILDS can be found on the Illinois State Library's web site [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats\\_new/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/home.html) under programs and then delivery.

### ***Service with Value***

On the road at 4:00 a.m., the MLS Delivery fleet and its drivers brave the elements and the roads to deliver materials to member libraries. Grounded only for the few holidays that MLS is closed, the delivery department understands the importance of this service and its value to members. In fact, the drivers continually look for ways to give members the most value from this service.

With the purchase of a new truck in 2006, the MLS Delivery trucks will slowly be replaced with vehicles that are lower in cost, get double the gas mileage and have a larger capacity to allow for the delivery of more materials. A second similar truck has already been purchased for 2007. To reduce book damage and the resulting costs, the original canvas bags used for delivery were also replaced in 2006 with blue and white plastic totes. In fact, for the entire year of 2006, less than \$1000 worth of damage to delivery items was accrued. Not only cost-conscious, the Delivery department staff are dedicated to providing customer service above and beyond the norm.

In October of 2006, a pipe burst at the MLS's Burr Ridge location, flooding the delivery room. By quickly relocating Delivery to another area of the building, the drivers were able to continue with their work, delivering all materials within the same day and with little damage.

### ***Delivering More Than Just Books***

Often the MLS drivers are the only connection some of the member libraries have with MLS, making the reliability, thoroughness and accuracy of this service even more important. The drivers' efforts do not go unnoticed by members.

Allison Heard, Director of the Dolton Public Library, has only great things to say about her delivery driver and the MLS Delivery Service. "If it wasn't for the delivery service, our patrons wouldn't have access to the materials we don't have the budget to purchase and carry ourselves. Tom Pettke, our delivery driver, does a great job!"

Library Director Andrea McCoy for the International Truck and Engine Corporation states, "the MLS Delivery service provides tremendous benefit to our organization; it brings us a wealth of materials that may otherwise be inaccessible, in addition to the convenience of not having each patron physically out there trying to locate needed material. This is invaluable, as it saves our patrons search and retrieval time and allows for more innovation and creativity."

MLS Delivery and Interlibrary Loan Service is so important to the Downers Grove South High School that the library has incorporated it into their freshman curriculum, where they explain the connection between school and public libraries and show students how to order their own books. "Our entire school community, the staff, students and administration, use the service", says Library Director Mindy Null.

Kim Pakowski, the school's interlibrary loan librarian, adds, "We're able to do more for our students with the added resources that we would never be able to buy ourselves. The service is invaluable."

### ***Behind the Wheels***

A department manager, four full-time drivers, an on-call driver, as well as two full-time mail clerks and a part-time clerk keep things running like clockwork in the MLS Delivery room. Together the drivers have over 50 years of service to MLS. The next time you see one of the white and multi-colored MLS Logo delivery trucks, please give these hard working guys a friendly wave.

For additional information or questions about the MLS Delivery service, please contact MLS staff member Randy Patka, [patkar@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:patkar@mls.lib.il.us).



MLS Delivery Staff (from left to right): Mike Schmit, Jerry Pospisek, Ed Tucker, Bruce Kremer, Tom Silingo, Mark Gomez, Tom Pettke

Published **January 24, 2007** in vol. 1, iss. 1 [[View](#)]

© 2006 Metropolitan Library System  
Burr Ridge Office: 125 Tower Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
Chicago Office: 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604

[webmaster@mls.lib.il.us](mailto:webmaster@mls.lib.il.us)  
Phone: (866) 734-2004  
Fax: (630) 734-5050





## **Member Spotlight: Pritzker Military Library**

**by Christina Stoll, MLS**

Founded by COL James N. Pritzker IL ARNG (Ret.), the Pritzker Military Library opened its doors in 2003 with a mission to preserve the history of and educate the public about "the Citizen Soldier as an essential element of the preservation of democracy."

The library continues its mission today through its impressive collection of books, posters, photos and artifacts from throughout American Military history and its free programming of military author lectures, interviews with Medal of Honor recipients and live broadcasted programming on current military topics. The library also provides traditional reference and interlibrary loan services to its members.

A not-for-profit organization, the library's funding comes from membership fees as well as several fundraising events throughout the year, including its Annual Gala. The library also accepts monetary donations as well as books and materials from personal collections.

### ***Library Staff and the Collection***

Located in downtown Chicago at the corner of Ontario Street and Fairbanks Court, the library can be found on the second floor. Twelve staff members acquire, catalog and maintain the collection in addition to answering reference questions, planning programming and contributing to the fundraising efforts of the library.

Inclusive to all branches of the military, the library's collection is comprised of books, photos, original glass photograph negatives, posters and several special collections from throughout American Military history. Twenty thousand volumes, including a rare books collection of 2000 works, 500 World War I & World War II recruitment posters, (the most popular being James Montgomery Flagg's famous Uncle Sam *I Want You for U.S. Army poster*), and nearly 6,000 photos from post-Civil War to post-World War I reside in the Pritzker Military Library.

A Winston Churchill compilation of coins, stamps, medals and books; the personal correspondences of WWI & WWII citizens and soldiers; and military medals from various war-time periods of American history and other countries from around the world are just a few of the library's special collections.

### ***Library Services***

Traditional library research services, including interlibrary loan and database access, are available to members of the library. While the library offers various fee-based membership levels, most of its web site, online catalog and programming are free to the general public. Learn more about how you can become a member or register for the library's free services at <http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/membership.jsp>.

Differing from its collection's focus on the past, the library itself is a modern-day high-tech environment that enables the present-day citizen to more thoroughly study and explore the records and history of the country's military past. Internet access is available at every study carrel, and the group meeting room is equipped for videoconferencing and multimedia presentations. The library even houses its own production studio for the recording of interviews and live broadcasting of library programs.

With the purchase of digitizing equipment, including an Academic Imaging AIAXact 30" x 40" copy stand and camera that has a regular lens for photographing large prints and posters as well as a macro-lens for photographing smaller objects, the library is working towards its newest project of creating an Online Digital Gallery of the library's collection. Having recently moved to a new cataloging platform, SirsiDynix's Unicorn, the library also added SirsiDynix's Hyperion Digital Object Management System. This will host the online gallery, which the library hopes to unveil later this summer.

### ***Programming & Events***

In addition to its collection and research services, the library offers over 50 free programs and events throughout the year. Its highlighted programs include:

- A monthly Front & Center military panel discussion with John Callaway, former Chicago journalist and host of Chicago Tonight on PBS. The next production of this series takes place February 1, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Additional information about the event can be found on the library's web site <http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events/2007-02-01-frontAndCenter.jsp>.
- Weekly lectures and other programming featuring military authors and historians speaking on a variety of topics.
- Medal of Honor Recipient interviews with Library Executive Producer for Programming Ed Tracy.

Each program is archived on the library's web site for future viewing as well as available as an audio podcast. In addition, every Sunday at 11:30 p.m. an hour-long edited version of that week's programming is aired on WYCC, <http://www.wycc.org/>.

The Pritzker Military Library Gallery also provides space for the display of various works by military painters and other artists. Currently running through March 1st is the Art of Arthur Ross exhibit, featuring eleven original works and a multi-media exhibit of over 100 other works by Chicago artist, Art Ross.

Check the events calendar of the library's web site for other future programming. <http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events/calendar.jsp>.

### ***Impressive Work Gets Recognized***

In the short time that its doors have been open, this library has already begun to receive recognition for its achievements. The library was featured in the February 2006 issue of *American Libraries*; Library Executive Producer for Programming Ed Tracy appeared in *Crain's Chicago Business* in July of 2006; and Senior Librarian Theresa Embrey was recently awarded the Library Leadership award from MLS and the TBS, Inc. Technical Services Award from the Illinois Library Association.

Now that you've been given a peek inside this accomplished library, with its impressive and unique collection, plan a visit today and join other historians, relatives researching the military history of their ancestors and present-day military personnel who come to the Pritzker Military Library.

For additional information about the Pritzker Military Library, please visit their web site at <http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/index.jsp> or contact Leighton Shell, Digital Collections Librarian at [lshell@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net](mailto:lshell@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net) or (312) 587-0234.



Pritzker Military Library's main room.



Pritzker Military Library's Production Studio and Digital Lab.

Published **January 24, 2007** in vol. 1, iss. 1 [[View](#)]



© 2006 Metropolitan Library System  
Burr Ridge Office: 125 Tower Dr., Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
Chicago Office: 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604

webmaster@mls.lib.il.us  
Phone: (866) 734-2004  
Fax: (630) 734-5050

