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MLS Executive Director Announce Retirement

As reported last week, **Executive Director Alice Calabrese-Berry has announced her retirement** effective October 31st, 2010. Member participation is requested for a newly-formed committee to discuss the future structure of the organization. Please see the memo from Milfred Moore, MLS Board President, at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/consulting/pdf/aliceretirement.pdf> for more information.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

Announcements

The **MLS Legislative Breakfast** will be held on President's Day, February 15, 2010 at the meeting room at the Burr Ridge Office. We would like to share library stories about our legislators with them. If you have story about your legislator and your library please send them to Kathy Roegge at roeggek@mls.lib.il.us Register online at <http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=9241> by Feb. 10, 2010.

Are you a new or seasoned librarian in the profession looking for a Mentoring or Mentee opportunity, but don't have time to commit to an ongoing program? **MLS's Flash Mentoring: Connecting New Library Staff and Seasoned Professionals with only a 2 Hour Commitment** <http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=6863> (must be logged into L2 to view) returns to MLS Burr Ridge office on Friday, February 26, 2010. The event will pair up to 14 mentees and mentors from MLS libraries. The deadline to apply is February 5, 2010. Questions can be sent to the MLS Consultants at consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

Registration is open for the MLS YS SIG sponsored workshop

MLS Links

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Getting Teens to Libraries. Attend this state-wide video conference from the comfort of your library system and take away ideas from a panel of Teen librarians on how they successfully get teens involved at their libraries. To register go to <http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=9248>

The **Institute for School & Public Librarians: Linking, Learning & Libraries** will be held June 13 - 18, 2010 on the campus of Bradley University in Peoria, IL. The announcement and application are at <http://bradley.edu/continue/librarians/index.html> Those interested in attending should complete the application prior to March 12, 2010. Additional information may be obtained from Ron Winner and Karen Egan at 1-800-665-5576, ext.1

A group discount is being offered to ILLINET member libraries for the **Computers in Libraries 2010**, held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia from April 12-14, 2010. Registrations must be received at the Illinois State Library no later than Wednesday, March 10, 2010 in order to receive the discount. For more information regarding conference topics, preliminary program and hotel information go to <http://www.infotoday.com/cil2010/>

On February 9–10, WebJunction is hosting a free two-day online conference, and you are invited to attend. The theme for this inaugural event is **Technology Essentials**, with a focus on practical and timely strategies for leveraging technology to help you in a wide range of library services and operations including staff training, marketing, outreach and funding, services and programming, technology planning, virtual libraries and your library's web presence. Read the most recent "What's New @ WJIL" at <http://webjunctionworks.org/il/blog/index.php/2010/01/13/whats-new-wjil-technology-essentials-2010/> for more details about the conference sessions and how you can register.

[[Permalink](#)]

MLS Board highlights

Highlights from the MLS Board Meeting held on January 11 include:

- › Voted to approve reinstatement of Chicago Heights School District #170 to full membership status
- › Voted to approve reinstatement of MacCormac College to full membership status.
- › Voted to accept the terms of the line of credit from Hinsdale Bank and Trust.

Complete board information can be found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board>.

[[Permalink](#)]

Library Advocacy: Telling our Stories

Webster's Online Dictionary defines advocacy as "the action of advocating, pleading for, or supporting a cause or proposal". According to the American Library Association www.ala.org, advocacy is "the process of turning passive support into educated action by stakeholders." In the present economic and political climate being an active and assertive library advocate is crucial to the survival and future development of library service in Illinois. On February 10, ILA is encouraging Illinois libraries to participate in "A Snapshot day in the life of a library."

[[Permalink](#)]

Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2010/04_02/libraryadvocacy.asp

Continuing Education Events

Due to budgetary concerns MLS will no longer print a paper copy of the six month CE calendar. Beginning with the April - September 2010 calendar you will receive a pdf copy to download.

[Fundamentals of Event and Meeting Planning](#) Nancy Moran, February 9, 2010, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Web Site Design BASICS: Part 1](#) Kate Marek, February 11, 2010, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[I-SAIL/Announcing! Standards for the 21st Century Learner](#), Angie Green, Becky Robinson and Christy Semande, February 11, 2010, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Team Building and Group Dynamics](#) Kathleen Weibel, February 12, 2010, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 P.M., MLS Burr Ridge

[Copyright for Special Libraries](#), Adam Bennington and Nancy Maloney, February 16, 2010, 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., MLS Chicago

[[Permalink](#)]

Grants and Awards

Innovations in Reading Prize, 2010 Each year, the National Book Foundation awards a number of prizes of up to \$2,500 each to individuals and institutions--or partnerships between the two--that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading. For more information and to apply go to http://www.nationalbook.org/innovations_in_reading.html The deadline is February 17, 2010.

[[Permalink](#)]

Library Law: First Amendment Rights - Part 1

When it comes to the First Amendment, libraries have a special place. Public libraries are described as "the quintessential locus of the receipt of information" and, therefore, the right to of access to a public library is constitutionally protected by the First

Amendment right to receive information. Libraries deal with many First Amendment issues due to the services they provide. For that reason, we present the general rules in approaching a First Amendment issue in Part 1 of this series of articles on the First Amendment in libraries. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2010/04_02/firstamendment.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2010/04_02/firstamendment.asp)

Next issue

The next issue of *MLS E-nnounce* will appear February 3 , 2010. [[Permalink](#)]

Library Advocacy - Telling our Stories

by Kathy Roegge, MLS

Webster's Online Dictionary defines advocacy as "the action of advocating, pleading for, or supporting a cause or proposal". According to the American Library Association (www.ala.org), advocacy is "the process of turning passive support into educated action by stakeholders." In the present economic and political climate being an active and assertive library advocate is crucial to the survival and future development of library service in Illinois.

In October the **Save Illinois Libraries!** Campaign (<http://www.saveillinoislibraries.com>) was launched during the 2010 Illinois Library Association conference. The campaign was created in response to a 50% cut of general revenue grants awarded through the General Revenue Fund. Included in those grants were funds for the per capita grants that help public libraries and schools. The General Revenue grants also entirely fund the Illinois Library Systems. As a result of the cut grants to public libraries were cut 16%, schools 3% and System funding was cut 16.5%. Librarians, trustees and other library supporters were encouraged to send a letter using **CapWiz** (<http://capwiz.com/ala/il/state/main/?state=IL>).

This Wednesday, January 20, **Save Illinois Libraries!** is asking people to take part in the next stage of the campaign. They are asking people to come back to the site and send a note to Governor Quinn and Comptroller Hynes letting them know library systems need their funding. The website also includes a place where people can "tell their story" about the value of library services and links to other sites including the Save Illinois Libraries Facebook page.



On February 10, 2010 the Illinois Library Association (ILA) <http://www.ila.org/index.shtml> is encouraging libraries all throughout Illinois to gather statistics, photographs and stories to show legislators the value libraries provide to their community. They are calling it "**Snapshot of a Day in the Life of Your Library**". Following the example of libraries in New Jersey, Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Maine, Illinois is asking libraries to document a "day in the life" of their library. The data will be aggregated and will provide powerful statistics and heartfelt stories that demonstrate the positive impact libraries have on their communities.

ILA is encouraging participants to use the results of "Snapshot Day" to advocate with elected officials, mayors and council members, members of the Illinois General Assembly, members of the school administration or school board, the deans at their respective academic institutions, or your department head or boss at your company. The results should be published in your local newspapers and newsletters, and shared with your "Friends of the Library" members and other stakeholders.

Some of your best advocates are Friends of the Library, Trustees, volunteers and patrons who use the library. By including them in your "Snapshot Day" you can make a stronger, more personal case for why libraries are needed in their communities and why library systems are an important part of that service. Information about February 10 should also be included on your website with links to other sites such as **Save Illinois Libraries!** or **CapWiz**.

The Illinois Library Association's Advocacy Committee is currently preparing the questionnaire which will be posted on SurveyMonkey, determining other procedural matters, and preparing copy for posting on our various Web sites. In the upcoming weeks, more details will be announced. In the interim, for more information, please contact the ILA Advocacy Committee chair Kathleen McSwain at kmcswain@chicagoridge.lib.il.us.

But what can you do right now? ILA makes the following recommendations:

- Circle Wednesday, February 10th on your calendar for "Snapshot Day;"

- Alert staff that you will be collecting daily statistics and asking patrons to share their stories about the library on that day;
- Arrange for cameras to be available for taking photos around the library; and
- Watch for the Snapshot Day forms which will be distributed shortly.

For more ideas about library snapshot day check out the new ALA Web site on this topic <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/librarysnapshotday/index.cfm>.

Other sources for tips or ideas can be found at the following sites.

- ALA Library Advocacy and Legislation page (<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/index.cfm>) with links to different sources for legislative and advocacy information. Included is a link to information about the National Library Advocacy Day to be held in Washington D.C. on June 29, during the ALA Conference. Links to the "Advocacy University" (<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/advocacyuniversity/index.cfm>) and the "Quotable Facts about American Libraries, 2010" brochure (<http://pla.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ola/quotablefacts/quotablefacts.cfm>) can be found here.
- The Library Advocates Handbook (<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ola/libraryadvocateshandbook.pdf>) provided by the ALA Office for Library Advocacy (<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ola>)
- Another source for ideas is the brochure "Library Advocacy: Influencing Decision Making" <http://www.ila.org/pdf/advocacy.pdf> created by the ILA and ALA. It was designed to help library advocates be effective in today's complex political environment.
- The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Campaign for the World's Libraries (@your Library) <http://www.ifla.org/en/at-your-library> uses facts to show the value of libraries and librarians. It showcases the roles played by public, school, academic and special libraries worldwide.

Imagine what Illinois communities would be like without strong library service. Or what that library service would be without systems to provide delivery, encourage resource sharing, arrange CE and create joint ventures. With libraries busier than ever, a strong advocacy program is needed to insure patrons continue to receive quality service. Using stories and other tools available, libraries and their stakeholders can make a better case for why funding for Illinois libraries and systems need to be restored.

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Library Law: First Amendment Issues - Part 1

by Kathleen T. Henn and Gregory T. Smith

When it comes to the First Amendment, libraries have a special place. Public libraries are described as "the quintessential locus of the receipt of information" and, therefore, the right to of access to a public library is constitutionally protected by the First Amendment right to receive information. *Kreimer v. Bureau of Police*, 958 F.2d 1242, 1255 (3rd Cir. 1992). Libraries deal with many First Amendment issues due to the services they provide. For example, libraries need to determine how their meeting rooms may be used, how and whether to filter information available on the Internet, how to deal with specific patron behavior and other issues that must be considered in conjunction with the First Amendment. Courts also frequently rule with respect to First Amendment issues. For that reason, we present the general rules in approaching a First Amendment issue in Part 1 of this series of articles on the First Amendment in libraries. For most First Amendment analysis, a fact-specific approach and review and review of the most recent case law is necessary to determine what is permissible. We will address use of meeting rooms, filtering, material selection, patron behavior and related issues in future parts.

Forum Analysis

In order to analyze what restrictions apply and what type of regulations are permissible when the First Amendment applies, we engage in what is referred to as "forum analysis." We use a forum analysis to determine the limits on a governmental entity's ability to regulate speech in a particular forum. Public property can be a traditional public forum, limited public forum (sometimes referred to as a designated public forum), or a nonpublic forum. *Rabbi Abraham Grossbaum and Lubavitch of Indiana, Inc. v. Indianapolis -Marion County Building Authority*, 100 F.3d 1287 (7th Cir. 1996). Traditional public fora are properties like streets and parks that have always been used for the purpose of communication and the discussion of public questions. Designated or limited fora are public properties deliberately opened by the public body to the public for expression. Non-public fora are all other public properties that are not opened for public expression. *Id.*

Traditional Public Forum

A traditional public forum is a place which "by long tradition or by government fiat has been devoted to assembly and debate. *Perry Educ. Assn. v. Perry Local Educators' Assn.*, 460 U.S. 37, 45 (1983). City or village right-of-ways, public sidewalks and parks are examples of traditional public fora. Public speech in a traditional forum can be regulated only by reasonable, content-neutral, time, place and manner restrictions, or by narrowly drawn regulations that advance a compelling interest of the governmental body.

Limited Public Forum

A limited public forum is created when a library opens spaces such as meeting rooms or display spaces for public use, but reserves their use or the groups that use them for the discussion of certain topics. *Rosenberg v. Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia*, 515 U.S. 819, 829 (1995). A designated forum may be limited as to speakers or as to subject matter, if the distinctions drawn are reasonable in light of the purpose served by the forum and are viewpoint neutral. *Bronx Household of Faith v. Community School District No. 10*, 127 F.3d 207 (2nd Cir. 1997). Reasonable time, place and manner restrictions may also be imposed to limit expressive activity. *Perry Education Assn.* 460 U.S. at 46.

Non-Public Forum

Public libraries are typically classified as non-public fora unless the board of library trustees has taken action to actively open parts of the library for public speech purposes. A non-public forum exists in public facilities or spaces that are not intended for free expression and their use is reserved for a particular class of speakers who must obtain permission to use them. *Gay Guardian Newspaper v. Ohoopsee Regional Library*, 235 F. Supp.2d 1362 (S.D. Ga. 2002). In a non-public forum, i.e. where the public property is not by tradition or designation a forum for public communication, the library can regulate speech so long as such regulation is viewpoint neutral and reasonably related to a legitimate governmental interest. *Perry Educ. Assn.*, 460 U.S. 37.

Examples

Different spaces within a single library could be considered all three types of fora depending on the area of the library involved and the activity taking place therein. For example, a sidewalk outside of a library is most likely to be considered a traditional public forum. A display case, where a library has written a policy limiting what can be displayed, would be considered a limited public forum. Furthermore, a reading or study room of a library may be considered a non-public forum, because the permitted uses of the study or reading room is limited by policy and practice although the room is located inside an otherwise public facility.

The next part of this series on First Amendment issues will discuss meeting room policies.

Kathleen Henn is a partner and Gregory Smith is an associate attorney 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.

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