

Inform Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library's Reference Section

Jesse White • Secretary of State & State Librarian

From the Reference Desk

The INFORM Service surveys sent out in May are in, and the information is proving very helpful. A few suggestions have already been put into practice. Several of the surveys requested a wider selection of periodicals. The Reference staff is currently working on updating and expanding the periodicals selection to include more choices with broader coverage of subject fields. A number of people also asked for an opportunity to review the periodicals listing on a regular basis and make any changes. INFORM subscribers now can make changes annually when the new publications listing is finalized.

There were some requests that could not be accommodated at this time, including providing all requested articles via e-mail. Reference staff has been looking into various ways this service could be provided; however, the staff has not yet found a viable means that would remain consistent and timely and achieve its primary goal of providing the best overall service possible to its patrons.

Although the survey is complete, the dialog will not end there. If you have any suggestions on how the INFORM service can be improved, please contact us.

To request materials or find answers to your questions, please contact:

Reference phone • 217-782-7596

Reference fax • 217-524-0041

Map Collection • 217-782-5823

Patent & Trademark Division • 217-782-5659

"Ask the State Library"
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Access the State Library database at
<http://library.ilcso.illinois.edu/isl>

Illinois State Library hours:
Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Remote access available for State Library databases

The State Library offers remote access to a number of databases for state employees and elected officials. A few are very helpful in locating full-text articles through a large number of periodicals. To access these items remotely, simply go to the Reference Gateway page at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, Library, What We Have, then Gateway). Enter your last name and Illinois State Library card number and you can access most of the subscription databases available at the State Library, including databases with full text to numerous articles, statistical information, dictionaries and much more. A recent addition allows you to search through multiple databases all with one search.

To receive a new library card or to renew your old one, contact the Circulation desk at 217-782-7573 or icirculation@ilsos.net. An application for a State Library card also may be downloaded at the State Library Web page.

Three new ISL databases

- **CCH Federal Tax Guide** — Provides all the information on federal income, estate and gift, payroll and selected excise taxes found in the loose-leaf paper editions. Also includes court decisions and IRS rulings, plus explanations of tax law and the IRC and tax regulations.
- **PsychArticles** — Full-text articles from journals published by the American Psychological Association, the APA Educational Publishing Foundation, the Canadian Psychological Association and Hogrefe Publishing Group. The database includes 58 publications covering more than 120,000 articles. (Due to licensing agreements, PsychArticles is not available for remote access.)
- **Current Issues: Reference Shelf Plus (H.W. Wilson Company)** — Full-text articles from key publications in the areas of social science, health, politics, science and other global issues. The database provides an international reach with balanced coverage of controversial issues.

State Library tours

State Library reference librarian Sandra Fritz offers custom library tours for state employees. A tour, which can last as long as one hour or as little as 15 minutes, includes the Reference Section and Map Department, the Patent and Trademark office and the library stacks. To schedule a tour, contact Sandra Fritz at sfritz@ilsos.net or call 217-524-1795.

Serving Illinois state employees • Fall 2006



Bestseller/current interest titles

- **CIA and Congress: The Untold Story from Truman to Kennedy**, by David Barrett. 327.12 BARR2
- **The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History**, by John M. Barry. 614.518 BARR
- **Crime Beat: A Decade of Covering Cops and Killers**, by Michael Connelly. 363.25 CONN
- **Resumes That Knock 'Em Dead by Martin Yate**. 650.14 YATE2
- **1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus**, by Charles Mann. 970.01 MANN
- **Alexander Hamilton**, by Ron Chernow. 973.4 CHER
- **The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words**, by Ronald White. 973.7 WHIT2
- **Jim Cramer's Real Money: Sane Investing in an Insane World**, by Jim Cramer. 332.6 CRAM
- **The Number: a Completely Different Way to Think about the Rest of Your Life**, by Lee Eisenberg. 332.024 EISE
- **Weird Illinois: Your Local Travel Guide to Illinois' Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets**, by Troy Taylor. 133.12977

On the Web

<http://pueblo.gsa.gov> — The Federal Citizen Information Center provides information from the federal government, including consumer reports and information on personal finance, health, food, business and other topics. Before paying a fee for publications, however, check with the State Library's online catalogue at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, Library, Search Library Catalogs, then I-Share). The State Library is a Federal Documents Depository and information or publications may be available free from the library.

www.forms.gov — A catalog of more than 5,400 forms from a number of federal agencies. Viewers can search by form number, form name, agency or keyword. While every federal form cannot be found in this catalog, it is a good starting place.

Reference resources

Polling America: An Encyclopedia of Public Opinion, edited by Samuel J. Best and Benjamin Radcliff, Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 2005. **Ref. 303.3/POLL** — A two-volume set covering a variety of subjects from abortion to welfare. Subjects are listed in alphabetical order, and all entries are extensively cross-referenced, with the titles of relevant essays indicated in bold.

State Handbook of Economic, Demographic & Fiscal Indicators 2006, by David Baer, Washington, D.C.: AARP, 2006. **Ref. 304.6/BAER 6th ed. 2006** — Published biannually, this handbook provides up-to-date information about state economic, demographic and fiscal conditions with state and national 10-year comparisons. Topics include population, poverty rates, per capita state personal income, state and local revenues, expenditures, tax rates and property tax relief programs.

Understanding American Business Jargon: A Dictionary, by W. Davis Folsom, Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2005. **Ref. 650/FOLS 2005** — Includes definitions of more than 2,500 words and phrases.

Now On Display

ISL atrium second-floor central bridge

October — National Book Month display, featuring favorite books of reference staff from the State Library's collection.

November — National Alzheimer's Disease Month display.

December — Holiday display showcasing ways we celebrate the holidays, how they came about and how you can keep safe during the holidays, which highlights National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

Illinois State Library Reference Section

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Library card expired?

If you are an Illinois state employee and your State Library card has been lost or has expired, call the Circulation Desk and the staff can assist you over the phone.

217-782-7573

