

Inform Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library's Reference Section

Jesse White • Secretary of State & State Librarian

From the Reference Desk

It's summertime and the reading is easy. Yes, summer is finally here and the Illinois State Library encourages book lovers to check out its vast collection. While much of the collection revolves around government information, which could be helpful in your work, the library also has a collection of books by Illinois authors, which can make for relaxing reading when you're away from work.

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/library/forms/email_ref.html

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!*

State Library building renamed

On June 6, 2003, the Illinois State Library was officially renamed and dedicated in honor of the late Pulitzer Prize winner and Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks. House Joint Resolution 011 was passed by the General Assembly this spring creating the Illinois State Library, Gwendolyn Brooks Building.



Brooks began creating rhyming verses at age 7, and was 13 when one of her poems was published in *American Childhood* magazine. Her first book of poetry, *A Street in Bronzeville*, was published in 1945, and in 1950 at age 32, she became the first African-American to win a Pulitzer Prize for her book-length poem, *Annie Allen*, chronicling African-American life in Chicago.

In 1969, Brooks was named Illinois Poet Laureate, replacing the late Illinois poet Carl Sandburg. Shortly before her death in December 2000 at age 83, the Library of Congress named her a "Living Legend." She spent the last 11 years of her life as a distinguished professor of literature at Chicago State University.

All told, Brooks wrote 22 books of poetry, and her works are included in countless anthologies. In 1990, she attended the grand opening of the Illinois State Library, and in 1996 was the featured author of the State Library's Illinois Authors Book Fair.

Brooks is one of 34 Illinois authors whose names are engraved on the fourth-floor frieze of the State Library. To obtain a list of materials written by and about Gwendolyn Brooks, including a brief biographical sketch, go to the State Library's page at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. A copy of the resolution renaming the library also is provided.

Now On Display

Each month the Reference Section creates a display on the second floor center bridge of the State Library, which focuses on a particular theme and includes items of interest from the library's collection.

The June display focuses on Gwendolyn Brooks, in honor of the late poet and the renaming of the State Library building. In July, the Reference display will center around the legislative bill-making process, which will be followed in August with by a display on the Illinois State Fair.

Serving Illinois state employees • Summer 2003

Question Point pilot project

The Illinois State Library's Reference Section is taking part in a statewide pilot project called "Question Point." The program allows people to log on through the State Library's home page at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/library/isl/isl.html and ask a "live" question through chats with a librarian. A librarian responds immediately to inquiries, asking for any further clarification and sending the answer directly back to the sender. Answers can include links to Web sites as well as other electronic information, including full-text articles.

The pilot project is a cooperative effort among the State Library and several other libraries, including the Illinois Educational Services Office, Chicago State University's library, the Suburban Library System and Illinois Waste Management. When you log onto the Question Point project, you may be chatting with any of the librarians in this group. The pilot project began May 6 and will run through the end of July.

Sorkins Online added to E-Resources

The State Library recently added Sorkins Online to its collection of electronic resources. The database profiles companies, executives and department managers from all industries and professions throughout Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, as well as parts of Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana.

Sorkins Online also covers smaller, local companies not readily found in national sources. Company profiles include multiple contact names, executives, managers, board, full description, company name, address, phone, fax, Web and e-mail addresses where applicable, sales, employee size, industry, years in business, company's bank, CPA and law firm. Searchers can sort results by ZIP Code, city, county, street address, area code, title, sales, employee size, industry, headquarters, branches, years in business and keyword.

Sorkins Online is updated daily. Editors input data and companies can edit their listings at the Sorkins Edit/Add Profile. Sorkins Online is accessible from the Business & Economics and Directory Information subject categories in the "Browse E-Resources at ISL by Subject Area" menu option on the State Library's Gateway to Electronic Resources. A link to the database also is provided in the alphabetical listing of electronic resources at the State Library.

New titles in the Reference Section

Find It Online: The Complete Guide to Online Research, by Alan M. Schlein; edited by Peter Weber and J.J. Newby. Tempe, AZ: Facts on Demand Press, 2003, 025.04 / SCHL 2003 — Provides Web sites, definitions, search tips and more divided into 14 chapters covering subjects such as news resources, governmental sources and a chapter on evaluating sites for "Accuracy, Credibility, and Authority."

Guide to Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy, edited by Natalia Mirovitskaya and William Ascher. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 338.9 / GGUID 2 — Contains more than 1,000 entries on the fundamental concepts of environmental issues and sustainable development, including air pollution, global climate change, agricultural decline, etc.

Guns in American Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Politics, Culture, and the Law, edited by Gregg Lee Carter. Santa Barbara, CA: Abc-Clio Inc. 2002, 363.3 / GUNS — A two-volume set that explores through more than 500 articles on issues surrounding guns and gun violence in America. Included are appendices covering key federal and state legislation, the right to keep and bear arms provisions and a listing of associated organizations.

Literacy in America: An Encyclopedia of History, Theory, and Practice, edited by Barbara J. Guzzetti. Santa Barbara, CA: Abc-Clio Inc. 2002, 302.2 / LITE7 — This two-volume set provides entries covering current methods and theories dealing with illiteracy in all its forms. It includes reports and publications, organizations and other resources, as well as assessments and aids used in combating illiteracy.

Illinois State Library Reference Section

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Springfield, IL 62756

217-782-7596 (phone) • 217-524-0041 (fax)

"Ask the State Library" Ready Reference:
[www.cyberdriveillinois.com/library/
forms/emaol_ref.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/library/forms/emaol_ref.html).

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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

