

# Inform Quarterly

*A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library's Reference Section*

Jesse White • Secretary of State & State Librarian

## From the Reference Desk

Now that the holidays are over and we are starting a new year, the State Library's Reference Section staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you the very best in 2003. We hope that we have served you well over the past year and will be able to serve your informational needs even better this year. Any feedback you wish to share with us is always welcome.

I encourage you to tell your coworkers about the State Library's INFORM service. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you.

To make requests for 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](http://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!*

## Maps, maps and more maps

The Illinois State Library's map collection is the second-largest state library-owned map collection and the fifth-largest governmental map collection in the United States.

### Federal maps

As the regional federal depository, the State Library receives all federal maps distributed by the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). These include CIA maps, U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps from all 50 states (which show physical features of a given area), nautical maps for waterways of the world and aeronautical maps showing flight patterns to and from airports throughout the world.

Other federal agency maps not received through the GPO include the Illinois FEMA flood insurance rate maps, which reveal flood-prone areas important to purchasing flood insurance. Illinois wetland maps from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are available as well.

The library also houses the 2000 Census tract and block maps, useful for determining the geography corresponding to population counts. Engineers and archeologists use the field plat maps for soil surveys. The library also has original government plat maps and field notes showing Illinois in its "pre-settlement" form.

### State maps

The library also is a depository for maps from state agencies, including Department of Transportation city and county maps dating back to 1937. These maps show roads, cemeteries, airports, streams and buildings.

Taxing district maps from the Department of Revenue show, but are not limited to, fire protection districts, school districts and mosquito abatement areas. The latest congressional and legislative district maps from the State Board of Elections also are part of the collection.

### Special map collections

Other prominent items in the map collection are the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from the 1880s to the 1950s. The collection includes block-by-block city mapping used for determining what a building was made of and how it was constructed or where an old gas plant was. Also included are plat/land ownership maps from the 19th century to the present. A large collection of aerial photos showing the state of Illinois in more than 8,000 frames from 2,000 feet in the air also is available.

The Map Collection is housed on the second floor of the State Library. For more information, please call 217-782-5823.

*Serving Illinois state employees • Winter 2003*

## Newspaper collections at the Illinois State Library

The Illinois State Library currently subscribes to 21 newspapers in print format. The collection encompasses many of the major newspapers of Illinois as well as the *Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Washington Post*. The library retains a paper copy of all newspapers for two months plus the current month.

The newspaper microfilm collection consists of 14 newspapers, including the entire run of *The State Journal-Register*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

If you need information on global news, the library's nine electronic newspaper databases will deliver indexing, abstracting and, in many cases, full-text articles.

The newspaper collection is housed on the second floor of the State Library.

## More Libraries, More Access

Twelve more libraries will be joining the Voyager Catalogue (also known as ILLINET Online), the State Library's catalogue of library resources held by more than 50 libraries statewide.

**What does this mean for you?** You will be able to access the holdings of 12 more libraries in addition to the 44 libraries already participating. With the addition of the new libraries, you now have access to more than 30 million items. Most of these items can be checked out through the Voyager Catalogue at <http://library.ilcso.illinois.edu/isl>. For more information, please call 217-782-7596.

## Electronic Resources

Following are a few of the electronic resources that can be found in the Reference Section of the State Library:

### Funk & Wagnall's New Encyclopedia

Users of the World Almanac's database in FirstSearch will now be able to search the Funk & Wagnall's New Encyclopedia, formerly called the World Almanac Knowledge Source. The encyclopedia contains several thousand articles on a wide array of topics, including science and medicine, country profiles, current social issues and biographies of important historical figures, as well as current facts and statistics.

As before, FirstSearch users will be able to limit their searches in the advanced and expert search screens in the World Almanac database to content in the Funk & Wagnall's New Encyclopedia.

### World Almanacs

Other titles available in the World Almanac database include:

- The World Almanac and Book of Facts
- The World Almanac of the U.S.A.
- The World Almanac of U.S. Politics.

*The Reference Section staff encourages you to come in and check out these electronic resources.*

## Illinois State Library Reference Section

300 S. Second St. • 2nd floor  
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**

