

Inform Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Illinois State Library's Reference Section

Jesse White • Secretary of State & State Librarian

From the Reference Desk

The Illinois State Library has the sixth-largest collection of materials in Illinois; is the Regional Federal Depository and the Illinois State Depository; has the second-largest state-owned map collection in the United States; is one of two U.S. patent depositories in the state; and has a sizable collection of materials of interest for Illinois government. With all these materials, it is easy to overlook some of the lesser-known resources of the library's collection.

A few of these resources are discussed in this issue of Inform Quarterly. Patrons are encouraged to explore the vast resources in the Illinois Documents Collection for work-related needs or to learn more about the history of this great state.

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!

InfoEyes provides reference service for the visually and physically disabled

One of the projects the reference section of the State Library has been working with for several months is InfoEyes. The project started as a pilot program using the OCLC Question Point reference service in an effort to reach out to the special needs of the visually and physically disabled with regard to reference service. The project began as a brainchild of the Talking Book and Braille centers in Illinois and became a cooperative venture with several other states across the nation.

Using the OCLC Question Point software, InfoEyes allows a patron to send an e-mail reference question to a librarian at any time of day or to chat with a librarian using another software — I-vocalize — at specific times during the week. I-vocalize has the added advantage of allowing the librarian to bring up Web pages that will appear on the user's computer screen. Because it is compatible with many of the screen reading technologies, such as JAWS, the patron is able to have what is on the screen read to them.

The pilot stage ended in September, but the program is in the process of being retained permanently. To learn more about InfoEyes, please visit www.infoeyes.org.

Copy fee policy expanded

Effective Jan. 1, 2005, the Illinois State Library will extend its policy on charging for copies for the general public and state employees, which are not work-related, to include computers. This follows a general policy the library currently has on the use of photocopy machines and microfilm reader/printers but until now has excluded printing from public access computers. A \$.25 per-page fee will be assessed for information printed from computers, the same fee currently charged for other copy machines.

Serving Illinois state employees • Winter 2005

Resources in the Illinois Documents Collection

Administrative Reports of the Directors and Adjutant General's Report — I 353.9 C-

Covers 13 years of annual reports, from 1918-1930. When Gov. Frank Lowden first reorganized Illinois government in 1917, he combined over 130 commissions into the nine original Illinois executive departments: Finance; Labor, Mines & Minerals; Agriculture; Public Welfare; Public Health; Trade & Commerce; Registration & Education; and Public Works & Buildings. The Office of the Adjutant General was the 10th department, which was already in existence.

An example of what one can find in these reports is the 1920 volume, under the Department of Public Health, Division of Communicable Diseases, which includes comparative tables for mortalities in the City of Chicago during the great influenza epidemic of 1918, compared to a second epidemic in 1920. Another example is a report from the Department of Agriculture, Division of Apiary Inspection, which shows there were 417 Apiaries in Illinois and 9,148 colonies of bees in 1921.

Illinois Reports (with varying subtitles) — Reports Made to the Illinois General Assembly of the State of Illinois — I 353.9773 R425 RG

Covers a period of 59 years, from 1839-1897. The series is not to be confused with another series with the same title, *Illinois Reports*, which are the decisions of the Illinois Supreme Court.

This series is perhaps one of the best sources on 19th-century Illinois. As Illinois evolved from a pioneer frontier state to an industrial leader at the turn of the century, the reports reflect the concerns and activities of Illinois as it sought to define itself. Examples of what can be found in this series include Dorothea Dix's famous address to the General Assembly in 1847 about the conditions in mental institutions in the state, and Gov. Thomas Ford's reports to the General Assembly about the state of conditions in Nauvoo with regard to the Mormons.

Now On Display

Each month on the State Library's second-floor central bridge overlooking the atrium, the Reference staff showcases an area of interest with an exhibit.

- **January** — The display explores the process of conducting a legislative history for Illinois legislative bills and public acts. Patrons are guided through the different sources and steps needed when looking for the debates and procedures of making a bill become law.
- **February** — The Reference Section will create a display on African-American history, in conjunction with the State Library's Diversity Section, in celebration of Black History Month.
- **March** — Prominent women in Illinois history will be the focus of the display in recognition of national Women's History Month.

Jones joins Reference Section

Robert Jones joined the Reference Section staff in October. He came from the Talking Book & Braille Service section of the State Library. In addition to working primarily with INFORM, Robert works in the general reference areas and will continue to work with the Project Next Generation program, Secretary of State Jesse White's innovative technology program for teens in Illinois libraries.

Illinois State Library Reference Section

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"Ask the State Library" Ready Reference:
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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

