

## I. STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

### **The Library Network and the Role of the Local Public Library**

Public library service is provided to the people of Illinois through local tax-supported public libraries, multitype library systems, and the statewide library network, ILLINET.

It is the public library's responsibility to work in constructive ways with other types of libraries and information sources in order to assure its patrons the best possible access to information. The public library should also be ever-mindful of the unique needs and resources of the individuals, organizations, and agencies within its community.

The local public library has a responsibility to select roles as outlined in PLA's Planning and Role Setting in Public Libraries. The shared common goal that is central to the mission of all public libraries is the provision of information in its broadest sense. (See Introduction.) How a local library carries this out will be reflected in the library roles chosen by that local library.

### **Local Public Library Support**

The Library Board has the responsibility to provide sufficient financial support to fulfill the library's chosen roles and to meet or exceed the standards outlined in this document.

Public libraries are supported largely by local property taxes which should be levied at a rate sufficient to provide this support and meet these standards. The Board has the responsibility to conduct referenda for increasing the tax rate when the existing levy proves inadequate and to request additional taxes as permitted by law for special purposes.\* If these taxes are not sufficient to provide adequate library service, alternative methods should be considered. These could include combining two or more districts, conversion to a library district and expanding, or contracting for library service with another library.

\*Municipal or county libraries in home rule communities should seek advice from system consultants or other sources for the possible impact of home rule on Illinois Statutes relating to library governance.