

## XII. SYSTEM AND ILLINET MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

### Systems and ILLINET — Description

Public libraries, along with academic, school, and special libraries, comprise the 18 library systems in Illinois. These 18 systems, 4 Research and Reference Centers, and 3 Special Resource Centers make up ILLINET. Any library which is a member of a system is automatically a member of ILLINET. There are currently over 2,200 ILLINET members.

The purpose of this network is to share resources, both human and material, in order to provide residents of the state with information that is wanted but not available at the local level. Library systems are a vital mechanism providing access channels connecting people and resources. Illinois library systems develop and coordinate the strengths of individual libraries to do collectively that which they cannot do individually. Systems are funded by the state of Illinois but are governed by local public libraries through library trustee election or selection. The system is a cooperative which can be maintained only by the commitment of each library to resource sharing. The public library is critical to the process.

### Governance

Board members and staff should participate in system advisory councils and committees and in the governance of the system whenever possible.

Anyone who agrees to be a system board member must keep in mind the additional commitment of time and energy. Trustees who accept the responsibility as system board members must be willing to represent their expanded constituency, which covers the entire system area's population. They should extend their wealth of knowledge as a trustee to their expanded role on a system board and accept the additional leadership responsibilities.

1. Local libraries should annually review the system bylaws to determine the opportunities available to them for having representation on the system board.

### Resource Sharing

All Illinois public libraries, as members of ILLINET, agree to make their resources available to persons needing access to them through interlibrary loan, reciprocal borrowing, and other local arrangements. This is done in recognition of the reciprocal broadening of resources that is available to the library's own patrons.

2. Every public library should agree to both intra-system and inter-system reciprocal borrowing.

### Untaxed Areas

Every public library shares with the system the responsibility for promoting statewide tax-supported public library service.

3. Libraries should annually investigate the possibilities for expanding their boundaries to include untaxed areas adjacent to them.

### Use of System Services

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Libraries should annually review the system's long-range plan and provide input at the appropriate time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Libraries should explore cooperative arrangements with other libraries in the system.

### Footnotes

1. Vernon E. Palmour, Marcia Bellassai, and Nancy V. DeWath. *A Planning Process for Public Libraries*, Chicago, ALA, 1980.
2. Meredith Bloss, "Research and Standards for Library Service," *Library Research* 2:285-308 (Winter 1980-81).
3. Public Library Association, Goals, Guidelines, and Standards Committee. *The Public Library Mission Statement and Its Imperatives for Service*. Chicago, ALA, 1979.
4. *Analyses of the 1980-81 Illinois Public Library Statistics*, Springfield, Illinois State Library, 1981.
5. Douglas Zweizig, and Eleanor Jo Rodger, *Output Measures for Public Libraries: A Manual of Standardized Procedures*. Chicago, ALA, 1982.
6. *Foundations of Quality: Guidelines for Public Library Service to Children* by the Illinois Library Association, Children's Librarians' Section, Chicago, ILA, 1981.
7. *The Public Library Mission Statement and Its Imperatives for Service*. Chicago, ALA, 1979.
8. Ellen Altman, Ernest R. DeProspro, Philip M. Clark, and Ellen Connor Clark. *A Data Gathering and Instruction Manual for Performance Measures in Public Libraries*. Chicago, Celadon Press, 1976.