Transition from Cengage Gale to EBSCO on July 1, 2013

As a result of a bid process that was completed in late February, and a contract with EBSCO executed on April 24, 2013, virtually all resources currently being supplied by Cengage Gale will be replaced in iCONN with corresponding resources supplied by EBSCO effective July 1, 2013. Detailed information concerning these changes, the specific resources that EBSCO will be supplying and early trial access to the resources (limited to library staff with username and password for training purposes) is available at [http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/Forthcoming.aspx](http://www.cslib.org/iconnsitemap/staff/Forthcoming.aspx). Webinars to help libraries get up-to-speed on the resources are listed on page two. We thank all members of the iCONN Database Committee for the significant amount of time and expertise they contributed to the development of the bid requirements and subsequent evaluation of competing products.

For the first time, the vast majority of content in iCONN will be centrally indexed and searched using a discovery system (EBSCO Discovery Service) that will be designated iCONN OneSearch in iCONN. The familiar “Find Articles” search box at iCONN.org, which today launches searches into audience-specific versions of Cengage Gale’s PowerSearch, will launch searches into audience-specific versions of iCONN’s OneSearch on July 1. Audience-specific versions are differentiated primarily by content for public libraries, academic libraries, high schools, middle schools and elementary schools. Records for CT Digital Collections and downloadable audiobooks will be added to the central index on July 1. Those ProQuest Newspapers that can be will be included in the central index by July 1 and those that can’t be will be accessed via connector links (federated searching). A letter announcing these changes is being mailed to all public school libraries as we can’t reach all school libraries electronically.

**reQuest and CatExpress Participation Renewals**

**Reminder:** All current reQuest Participants memberships will automatically renew July 1 unless you tell us otherwise.

Invoices for public, academic, and special libraries will be mailed in July. School invoices will be mailed in September unless requested for July.

Libraries in the iCONN Catexpress Group will need to place their renewal orders before June 30. Please contact Gail Hurley (Gail.Hurley@ct.gov) with any questions.
NEW! iCONN/EBSCO Training Webinars

iCONN-specific EBSCO training webinars for academic, public and school libraries are now available on the following dates:

Using iCONN OneSearch for Public Libraries:
5/7, 5/16, 5/24

Using iCONN OneSearch for Academic Libraries:
5/8, 5/23

Using iCONN OneSearch for School Libraries:
5/29, 6/12

iCONN/EBSCO Resources for Public Libraries:
5/7, 5/16, 5/24

iCONN/EBSCO Resources for Academic Libraries:
5/8, 5/23

iCONN/EBSCO Resources for School Libraries:
5/29, 6/12

More training dates, including onsite sessions, will be added as needed.

To register, please go to:
http://is.gd/vrEl0e

Adding iCONN to your Mobile Device

In the October 2012 iCONN Times, we announced a campaign to put “iCONN On Every Desktop” to increase public awareness of iCONN, especially on public access computers. Soon, we will expand this “visibility” campaign to encompass tablet computers and smartphones running the iOS and Android operating systems. For this purpose, we modified the iCONN icon (shown here) and Auto-Graphics integrated it into the iCONN.org website so that it is rendered with a persistent link to iCONN.org when using the “Add to Home Screen” feature on iOS and Android devices. Essentially, it works like a shortcut link, but the icon looks indistinguishable from an app. The link “iCONN On Mobile Devices,” soon to appear on the bottom menu bar of the iCONN.org landing page, will provide the necessary step-by-step instructions.

For optimal viewing, we recommend devices with at least 7-inch displays. All EBSCO resources that will be available on July 1 are mobile-ready for devices with smaller displays. Because the mouseover text on iCONN’s classic menus is not visible on most mobile devices, when iCONN.org detects that it is being accessed by a mobile device, and only then, it will automatically point to a classic menu with tappable info buttons to provide the same information. This has been tested on the iPhone, iPad and iPad mini (using Safari), and the Nexus 7 tablet (using Chrome, Firefox, and Dolphin). It will not work with the Kindle Fire, which seems to lack “Add to Home Screen” functionality, and it has not been tested on Blackberry and Windows mobile devices.

Thanks to Auto-Graphics for implementing this at no expense to iCONN; to Eric Hansen, iCONN’s Electronic Resources Coordinator, for making the necessary changes to the iCONN icon; and to the iCONN Database Committee for helping us to test it. Special thanks must be given to Ms. Emily Serven, President of the New Canaan High School Tech Team. While our original plan was to develop an app (providing only a shortcut link) for the iPad, it was Ms. Serven’s idea that we could accomplish our “visibility” goal for a variety of mobile devices at once merely by exploiting the “Add to Home Screen” functionality on the mobile device, and she explained how it could also yield a distinctive icon by embedding the “smarts” in the iCONN.org website. We conveyed this strategy to Auto-Graphics and the rest is history.

Newspapers of Connecticut in iCONN

A pilot project to digitize historic Connecticut newspapers has been completed by the Connecticut State Library and Library Connection. Eighty-two titles representing a variety of towns, villages and topics from 1821-1929 were scanned from the Connecticut State Library’s microfilm.

The newspapers can be browsed by title, town, topic or keyword and are great primary sources for research projects.

The Newspapers of Connecticut collection is accessible through the Connecticut Digital Collections page and “Find Articles” search box in iCONN.org.