iCONN “F airs” well at Durham

Librarians from the State Library and from three participating libraries staffed an iCONN exhibit in the Commercial Exhibits building at the Durham Fair for a total of 35 hours from Friday, September 24 through Sunday, September 26. The primary purpose of the exhibit — to promote public awareness of iCONN at an event with attendance of over 200,000 people — was amply validated by the sheer numbers of people who professed no knowledge of iCONN but who at the same time were very appreciative to learn about it and how to access it. Typical comments were:

That’s awesome — what a great idea!
The best deal of the Fair!

This exhibit was coordinated by iCONN staff members Bill Sullivan and Steve Cauuffman. We are very grateful to all those who contributed part of their weekend to help staff the exhibit:

• Sharon Brettschneider (Director, Division of Library Development)
• Patricia Daragan (U. S. Coast Guard Academy Library, New London)
• Jane Emerson (iCONN Electronic Resources Coordinator)
• Elizabeth Frechette (Naugatuck Valley Community College Library)
• Mary Louise Jensen (Division of Library Development)
• Alana Meloni (C. H. Booth Library, Newtown)

D ID Y OU K NOW?  

Did you know that the Health and Wellness Resource Center contains a “Health Organization Directory”? To search it, go to the Health and Wellness Resource Center and click the “Health Organizations” button that is on the green menu bar. Enter a keyword to limit your search to “agencies, organizations, schools,” “journals, newsletters, publishers, websites,” or “hospitals and health care facilities, programs and special care.”

You can also limit your search geographically. For example, click hospitals, select Connecticut from the pull-down menu and click “Search” for a list of hospitals and health care facilities, programs and special care organizations in.

T OP 10 R EASONS TO U SE IC O NN

The “Top 10 Reasons to Use iCONN” — now linked from www.iconn.org — are:

1. Access is FREE to all Connecticut residents!
2. To be a smarter consumer!
3. To help your children succeed at school and at college!
4. It’s there when you need it — 24 hours a day!
5. Access it from home over the Internet or from any public library, school or college!
6. To save money!
7. To save space - all of the information is on the Internet!
8. You’ve already paid for it - this is your tax dollars at work!
9. To have an up-to-date resource for lifelong learning!
10. You can’t afford not to!
STAFF CHANGES

We are very pleased to announce that Gail Hurley has returned to iCONN in her former (recently re-established) position as the full-time Statewide Library Catalog Coordinator. During the last two weeks of October, she will be working closely with the current part-time coordinator, Marisa Kalt, her other colleagues at iCONN, and Auto-Graphics to quickly get up to speed on current activities and to ensure a smooth transition.

Since October 2003, Marisa Kalt has worked hard to ensure the continuity of services critical to the program, ensuring timely problem resolution, and providing a knowledgeable point of contact and assistance for all participating libraries. We greatly appreciate all of Marisa’s work on your behalf!

Your patience during this period of transition is greatly appreciated.

The iCONN Times is a quarterly publication of the Connecticut Digital Library. Find it on the Web at www.iconn.org/staff/support.html.

Connecticut Digital Library
786 South Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 344-2475

UPDATING YOUR iCONN ACCOUNT

To update your school or library iCONN account information, send an e-mail to: jemer-son@cslib.org. Be sure to put "iCONN Registration Change" and the name of your school, college or library in the subject field. Include:

- Your name and title.
- Your phone number and e-mail address.
- The name of your school, college, or library.
- A statement indicating what should be changed.

For example:

- Change our IP address from 205.139.9.194 to 216.164.78.150
- Add IP address 205.139.9.194 to our range of IP addresses.
- Replace our existing IP address range with 205.139.9.194.
- Change our phone number from (203) 298-5319 to (860) 298-5319. Change our school contact from John Doe to Jane Smith.

LIBRARY STANDARDS AND TEXTBOOK COSTS

The Board of Governors for Higher Education believes that Connecticut’s quality standards for post-secondary education must continue to reflect the highest educational expectations while serving the best interests of our students and their families, our colleges and universities, and our society more generally. The Board of Governors has therefore charged the Department of Higher Education to undertake a review of Connecticut’s quality standards, which are used as the foundation for licensing and accrediting institutions and degree programs in our state.

During the 2003-2004 academic year, the Department focused on the Board’s standard on general education. The Department convened a statewide taskforce on general education, developed a set of principles as the foundation for undergraduate education in Connecticut, and made recommendations for new and measurable learning standards. This year, the Department will be reviewing the standard for Faculty and the standard for Library and Learning Resources. We are in the process of convening statewide taskforces for these important efforts.

Academic librarians who have offered to serve on the Taskforce on Library and Learning Resources include Patricia Daragan, U.S. Coast Guard Academy; Loree Bourgoin, Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts; Clare Adamo, Holy Apostles College and Seminary; Linda Geffner, St. Joseph College; Karen Smiga, University of Bridgeport; Hanko Dobi, University of New Haven; Randi Pritting, University of Hartford; Tracy Ralston, Teikyo Post University; Dennis Benamati, Sacred Heart University; Patricia Banach, Eastern Connecticut State University; Susan Cirillo, Southern Connecticut State University; Deborah Sunday, University of Connecticut; Carl Antonucci, Capital Community College; Judy Markiewicz, Tunxis Community College; Barbaranne Warner, Naugatuck Valley Community College; and Doris Cassidy, Charter Oak State College.

The Department is also creating a new statewide Taskforce on the Price of Textbooks in Connecticut. The Taskforce on Textbooks is a response to a Legislative mandate, raised because of growing concerns among Connecticut college and university students and their families about the rising costs of course textbooks. This concern, of course, is not only a pressing matter in Connecticut but a national issue as well. Connecticut is among several other states this year examining textbook prices (reports nationally are that college textbook prices have risen nearly 40% in the past five years) and considering steps that might be taken to ensure that our college and university students can get all of their course resources at the most reasonable prices. Members of the Taskforce on Textbooks will include academic librarians who will help develop perspectives on steps our college and university libraries might take to provide readily-available course materials to students.

The Department of Higher Education is truly grateful for this valuable assistance. Please let me know if you may be interested in being of service as well, on either taskforce. I am at jzdanys@ctdhe.org.

By Jonas Zdanys, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Chief Academic Officer, Department of Higher Education