The more than 220,000 visitors who make their way to the Durham Fair each year will now have an opportunity to learn about iCONN at an iCONN exhibit booth (10’ x 10’) that will be staffed throughout the weekend of September 24-26, 2004. The Durham Fair is both Connecticut’s largest fair and also the largest fair in the country run by an all-volunteer staff. A special printing of 10,000 iCONN business cards (see illustration) is being prepared for this event and for similar events in the future. This effort is part of a broader effort to increase public awareness of iCONN so that Connecticut’s residents can reap the full benefits of this valuable resource. Awareness is the key, and we need to put that key into the hands of Connecticut’s residents.

iCONN is level-funded for FY2005, assuring access to all current resources, while federal funds are leveraged to continue two new databases (Associate Press Photos and HeritageQuest), and database usage showed an 18% increase comparing the first ten months of FY 2002 and FY2003, and a 52% increase comparing the first ten months of FY2003 and FY2004.

On May 24, 2004, the State Library Board passed a resolution to recognize the following librarians who served as volunteers with distinction on the Proposal Review Team:

- Kim Farrington, Head of Interlibrary Loan, Elihu Burritt Library, Central Connecticut State University
- Marisa Kalt, formerly Head of Technical Services, Hamden Public Library and currently reQuest Statewide Library Catalog Coordinator
- Carol Kubala, Assistant Director, Saxton B. Little Free Library (Columbia)

Each member of the Team contributed approximately twenty persondays of time over an 11-month period on a complex RFP (Request For Proposal) containing over 1,300 business requirements (located at http://www.iconn.org/staff/request.html).

The Team was chaired by William Sullivan, iCONN Administrator, and also included reQuest Interlibrary Loan Coordinator, Stephen Cauffman. Gail Hurley assisted in developing the statement of requirements during her tenure as the reQuest Statewide Library Catalog coordinator. Also serving as technical resources to the Team were Jane Emerson, iCONN Electronic Resources Coordinator, and John Rutherford, Systems Librarian, Elihu Burritt Library, Central Connecticut State University.
FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO ICONN

APPEARANCE AND FUNCTIONALITY

The current “Welcome to iCONN and “Welcome to reQuest” pages will be replaced by a single path that gains entry to all resources. If you are entering iCONN from the library, you will go directly to a resource screen. If you are entering iCONN from outside the library (e.g., from home), you will see a “Welcome to iCONN” login screen.

Libraries that provide a customized version of reQuest – that enables their patrons to submit requests for materials online and/or to limit their searches to the holdings of specific libraries – will be able to preserve those customizations in the new environment (the unique links used to access the current customized version of reQuest will automatically redirect in the new environment).

There will be two ways to access the new version of iCONN:

* http://www.iconn.org will provide access to all the databases plus a generic (non-customized) version of reQuest
* Your library’s unique reQuest URL [see the current A-Z list at http://www.iconn.org/request/ ] will provide access to all the databases plus your library’s customized version of reQuest (if your library has one)

You will be able to select and search any of the databases and library catalogs designated by a checkbox simultaneously from the resource menu screen using the following search instructions:

* Click on the box next to any database you want to search, or click on the box next to the subject category to select all databases in a category. Select as many databases as you want. To unselect a selection, click on the box again. Click on the database name (if it is highlighted in blue) to learn more about what that database contains as well as to access the direct link to that database. Click on the category name (if it is a link) to learn more about what this category encompasses.
* A globe icon is a link to a Web resource. Click on the icon to go directly to that resource, or click on the resource name (if it is highlighted) to see a description of that resource.
* The search screen at the top is automatically set to search by keyword. You can switch to either browse searching or advanced searching by selecting those options on the menu bar at the top of the screen.

The Find A Book and Find A Library directories will be combined into a single searchable directory.