

THE ICONN TIMES

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ICONN IS 5 YEARS OLD!

On April 9, 2001, Governor M. Jodi Rell (Lieutenant Governor at that time) and State Librarian Kendall Wiggin held a press conference to formally announce iCONN.

iCONN planning actually began long before the public announcement. The Connecticut General Assembly provided funding for the purchase of licensed information databases in 2000. Staff at the Connecticut State Library in conjunction with the Department of Higher Education worked to create and implement iCONN. The iCONN kick-off conference for librarians and media specialists was held on March 26, 2001.



ICONN BID RESULTS!

The Connecticut State Library has completed a bid process in which vendors were invited to submit bids for iCONN: the Connecticut Digital Library in any or all of three categories: General Periodicals, Health Information, and Business Information. The bid for all three categories was awarded to Thomson Gale. As a result, iCONN will continue to offer all the Thomson Gale InfoTrac databases that we currently offer, as well as the health and business resource centers. The Thomson Gale proposal also added the following five multi-volume e-books:

- Encyclopedia of Population, 2V, 2003 (Macmillan)

- Encyclopedia of Espionage, Intelligence and Security, 3V, 2003 (Gale)
- Renaissance: An Encyclopedia for Students, 4V, 2004 (Scribner)
- U*X*L Encyclopedia of Landforms and Other Geologic Features, 3V, 2003
- U*X*L Fashion, Costume, and Culture: Clothing, Headwear, Body Decorations and Footwear through the Ages, 5V, 2003

The contract signed with Gale is a three-year contract (July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2009) with options for three one-year renewals.

GALE "POWERSEARCH FRIDAYS"

Thomson Gale is providing a new series of free, online seminars called "PowerSearch Fridays ." Every Friday, Thomson Gale will be demonstrating their new platform -- PowerSearch. This new platform allows for cross-searching of Gale databases -- more than 17,000 InfoTrac periodicals and hundreds of Thomson Gale and partner eBooks.

If you've never attended a webinar before, here's how it works:

1) Register at:

http://www.gale.com/enewsletters/product_update/PowerSearch.htm.

2) You will receive a confirmation email before the meeting time with another link that you click at the time of the meeting.

3) Call into the teleconference (details provided in the confirmation email).

4) Sit back, watch the screen, listen and ask questions.

In the seminars, you will get a glimpse of the new technology, the unique content that Thomson Gale offers, and you will also be

introduced to a new service called Access-MyLibrary . With this service, Thomson Gale will show you how you can bring users of popular search engines like Google and Yahoo back to your library! Libraries across the world are migrating to PowerSearch. Please register for one of the April seminars. Sessions last approximately one hour.

These webinars are a great opportunity for libraries who haven't transitioned to Gale's PowerSearch interface to see what it's all about.

The mandatory cutover date to PowerSearch for InfoTrac databases is August 1st.

Take advantage of these webinars and prepare for this changeover so you're ready when it happens!

For details, contact:

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STAFF CHANGES

Sharon Clapp, iCONN Outreach Coordinator, accepted the position of Web Resources Librarian at the Connecticut State Library, starting March 17, 2006. Staffing options for the Outreach Coordinator position are being reviewed.

iCONN NEWS

We are introducing two new sites where you can get information about iCONN:

iCONN News at <http://iconnoutreach.blogspot.com> is an information source aimed at keeping all iCONN users, both library patrons and staff members up-to-date on iCONN news and happenings.

iCONN and reQuest News for Library Staff at <http://iconnblog.blogspot.com> is an information source intended to keep library staff members up-to-date news on iCONN news, tips, and training opportunities.



The iCONN Times is a quarterly publication of the Connecticut Digital Library.

Find it on the Web at: <http://www.iconn.org/staff/> under "Support Materials"

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DISCOVERING COLLECTION'S TIMELINE



Did you know that 100 years ago, freeze drying was invented, C. W. Post perfected Post Toasties Corn Flakes, the term "Tinker to Evers to Chance" was coined and the U. S. population reached 85 million? Using the Timeline in the Discovering Collection makes finding information tidbits like these easy.

You will find the Timeline link on the Tools menu on the main search page of the Discovering Collection. There are several different ways to search the Timeline:

- **Chronology Bar:** You may scroll along the search bar and choose a specific time period by clicking on the time period box. This is a fun way to browse the Timeline. (Notice that some of the

images change as you scroll over them.)

- **Enter a specific year or range of years:** You may key in a date in which the event begins or ends in the boxes provided or key in a range of dates.
- **Search Timeline Event Text:** You may enter a specific event into the text box and click on the "Search" button.

You may combine searches by entering a specific year and an event, for example, 1860 to 1865 and the terms civil war to get a timeline of major events that took place during the Civil War.



FREE WEB-BASED TRAINING FOR HARTFORD COURANT HISTORICAL!

Kate Jashari from ProQuest will conduct two free, half-day, Web-based training sessions for the new Historical Hartford Courant Newspaper Database. Registration is online and simple. Participants will need a PC with Internet access to view the session, and a telephone to dial in and participate in the workshop. The training is open to all Connecticut library staff. (You need attend only 1 session).

The Historical Hartford Courant offers full page and article images with searchable full text back to the first issue. It provides access to every available issue published between 1764 and 1922. A quick reference guide is available at <http://training.proquest.com/trc/training/en/hnp.pdf>

The training will cover:

- * Basic and advanced searching techniques
- * Frontpage printing
- * Article level printing customization

Session 1
Tuesday, May 2, 2006
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Fee: Free, Limit: 14

Session 2
Wednesday, May 3, 2006
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Fee: Free, Limit: 14

REGISTRATION: Access the ProQuest Web Page at:

<http://inter.viewcentral.com/reg/proquest/ICCONN> and follow the on-screen instructions. You will receive an email confirming your registration for the workshop. You will also receive email reminders with instructions on how to log-in and call into the session. Session size is limited to allow ample opportunity for questions and discussion with the trainer as well as with workshop participants.

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Jashari at: kate.jashari@il.proquest.com