

THE ICONN TIMES

ICONN AT CLA

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DATABASE NEWS!

Lexis-Nexis Academic will be replaced by **Thomson Reuter's Campus Research: News and Law** effective July 1, 2008. This was done to avoid yet another significant cost increase. We hope to have Campus Research accessible by June 1 in order to effect a smooth transition.

E-Reference Books is now automatically included in the federated search results. Prior to this, it could only be searched using a direct link.

AP Photo will be migrating to **AP Images** that will feature a much-improved user interface.

WorldCat.org was removed from the default list of databases that are automatically searched during federated searching.



“Live Web Usability Lab”

At the 117th annual CLA Conference, UCONN's **Stephanie Willen Brown**, ECSU's **Carol Abatelli** and iCONN's **Stephen Cauffman** presented “Live Web Usability Lab.” The panel used iCONN to demonstrate the power of this method of evaluation. A library school graduate who had not previously used iCONN was put through a series of steps that included logging in to iCONN, searching for a book, and searching for an article and journal title. The exercise proved invaluable in identifying areas where the usability of iCONN could be improved for both the general public and library staff.



iCONN Outreach Consultant, Mary Hogan, speaks with fellow librarians in the exhibition hall at the annual CLA Conference.

New Promotional Materials

Going, going, gone... New, brightly colored kids-oriented **Kids InfoBits** bookmarks (see below) were available to libraries at the CLA conference. The supply was quickly depleted, but Gale has promised to send more to satisfy the demand.

A new flyer, put together by iCONN Outreach Consultant **Mary Hogan**, outlines “**Simple Ways Libraries Can Help Promote the Use of iCONN**” (see reverse side for examples). While speaking with librarians at CLA, most loved the idea of putting the downloadable iCONN search box on their library home page screens. This is a quick and easy way for patrons to begin searching iCONN, and it adds visibility for iCONN along with other services on library home pages.

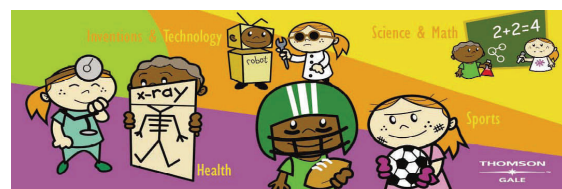
Union List of Serials Update

OCLC is now able to provide data to libraries to import into spreadsheets that shows their union list holdings. For information and instructions on how to do this, please go to: <http://www.iconn.org/staff/culs.aspx>.

STAFF NEWS!

Eric Hansen joins iCONN as Electronic Resources Coordinator on May 12. He brings extensive experience in statewide services from the Kansas State Library to this position. Welcome aboard Eric!

Mary Hogan, our Outreach Consultant through a contract with The Donohue Group, has been talking up ways to promote iCONN with public and school libraries. To schedule a visit, please contact her at: outreach@cslib.org.



REQUEST RENEWALS FY2009

reQuest renewal forms were sent to current participants in late April. Those libraries not currently participating in reQuest may join beginning July 1st by submitting the reQuest Participation Form and reQuest Participation Agreement Form found at: <http://www.iconn.org/staff/JoiningReQuest.aspx>.

The reQuest fiscal year runs from July 1—June 30. The charge is \$300 per library.

There are over 400 libraries in CT that contribute holdings to reQuest, and there are close to 300 libraries who are participating in reQuest to use the Cataloging, Interlibrary Loan, and/or customizing features.

For questions about billing, contributing holdings to reQuest or cataloging options in reQuest, please contact Gail Hurley, ghurley@cslib.org, 860-704-2222 or toll free at 888-256-1222.

For questions about interlibrary loan, please contact Steve Cauffman, scauffman@cslib.org, 860-704-2223 or toll free at 888-256-1222.

For general questions about reQuest, please call the main number, 860-704-2220 or toll free 888-25465-1222.

The iCONN Times is a quarterly publication of iCONN—Connecticut's Research Engine.

Find it on the Web at: www.iconn.org/siteindex.aspx under "Promotional Materials"

iCONN
786 South Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 704-2220 or toll free
(888) 256-1222

SIMPLE WAYS LIBRARIES CAN HELP PROMOTE THE USE OF iCONN—HOW MANY HAVE YOU TRIED?

- √ Place iCONN tent cards in/around all public computers, reference desk and circulation desk.
- √ Hang iCONN posters in visible locations throughout the library.
- √ Place iCONN bookmarks in readily accessible locations.
- √ Include iCONN information in patron registration packets.
- √ Place iCONN logo and link on Web site home page.
- √ Place iCONN search box directly on Web site home page.
- √ Include iCONN information in library or townwide newsletter or newspaper. Focus on a particular area each month such as genealogy, business information, etc.
- √ Create an online survey asking for feedback about your library's Website, including use of online databases. Benefit may be to encourage people to start asking question about iCONN and other library resources.
- √ Include iCONN segment in Internet training classes.
- √ Offer individualized iCONN training on an appointment basis.
- √ Include overview of iCONN and search statistics in your annual report.
- √ Highlight a success story such as how iCONN helped with a research project.
- √ Subscribe to the iCONN list to get the latest updates on iCONN.
- √ Encourage all staff to participate in ongoing iCONN training opportunities.
- √ Put together a new teacher packet with information about the library and iCONN and distribute at the beginning of the school year.
- √ Connect with teachers to educate them about iCONN and the difference between using sources from the Internet versus reliable information from iCONN.
- √ Include iCONN information in school newsletters going to parents at the beginning of the school year.

RFIS FOR iCONN RELEASED!

Two RFIs were released to numerous vendors concerning (1) iCONN's federated search system with authentication, and (2) the statewide library catalog (reQuest). The purpose is to acquire information about market/product capabilities that will be useful for the development of formal RFPs, which we plan to issue through our state procurement office in the Fall of 2008.

The RFIs, including "vision" statements, can be found at: <http://www.iconn.org/staff/RFPsBids.aspx>, under the subheading RFIs.