

THE ICONN TIMES

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\$\$\$ RESTORED!

Funding for reQuest, which includes services vital to how users access iCONN, was just restored. This means that there will be no further curtailment in reQuest or iCONN services through June 30, 2010.

In addition, the Governor's proposed budget for the next fiscal year (FY 2011) includes full funding for reQuest and iCONN.



REQUEST AT 20

reQuest will mark two decades of continuous service in April 2010.

In 1988 the Capitol Region Library Council was awarded money from CONNLINET for the production of a CD to be used as an alternative to their CircCess library catalog. The CT State Library was also looking into a CD library catalog, so the project merged to become the basis of a statewide library catalog.



In March of 1989 a set of two DOS-based discs with the holdings of 60 libraries were made available. These discs were available to use only at dedicated workstations in libraries. On April 9, 1990, libraries were officially invited to participate on a statewide basis. By November of 1990 over 160 libraries were participating. This has since evolved into what we know today as the reQuest statewide library catalog that is available online from any computer/device with Internet access and that now includes contributions of more than 22 million holdings and more than 5 million titles from 441 libraries throughout Connecticut.

In the mid to late 1990s, when the catalog moved from a CD to an online service, reQuest offered an annual membership which allowed libraries to use staff functions such as Interlibrary Loan, Cataloging and Administration. Today, close to 300 libraries are reQuest members/participants. Through this option, many libraries have used reQuest as their library's online catalog if they were without one. Libraries have also used reQuest as a backup catalog to their own in-house catalogs. Please consider contributing your library's holdings to reQuest in 2010 to mark this special anniversary.

reQuest Filled ILL Lending request in FY90:	0
reQuest Filled ILL Lending requests in FY09:	122,227
reQuest Cumulative Filled ILL requests 2000-present:	790,272

GALE ENHANCEMENTS

Gale enhanced the initial display of search results in PowerSearch by:

- ◆ appending text snippets to each citation returned so that users can more accurately judge which article(s) to select for viewing (similar to Google); and
- ◆ changing the color of citations already selected for full text viewing so that users don't have to remember which articles were already viewed (similar to Google).

REQUEST ADDITIONS 2009

As of December 31, 2009, 441 libraries were included in the reQuest main catalog. Three libraries contributed records to reQuest for the first time in 2009:

- The Frank L. McGuire Maritime Library
- Litchfield Historical Society Library
- State Education Resource Center (SERC) Library

For questions about contributing holdings to reQuest or submitting updated holdings, please contact Gail Hurley, ghurley@cslib.org, 860-704-2222 or toll free at 888-256-1222, or visit the contributing records page at: <http://iconn.auto-graphics.com/staff/ContributingHoldings.aspx>.

iCONN TRAINING

April 6, 2010
10:00—11:30 am

FREE iCONN Webinar on *Resources for K-12 and Childrens Librarians*, including:

- ◆ Discovering Collection
- ◆ Kids InfoBits
- ◆ Junior Edition
- ◆ Student Edition

Register at:
<http://evanced.info/cslib/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>

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A FEW WORDS ABOUT GALE STATISTICS

iCONN has been using Gale's PowerSearch interface since July 2009. When a user enters search terms into PowerSearch, the system sends the search terms to a number of Gale databases, effectively searching nearly all content provided by Gale. This is good for users because it ensures that only one result list is returned, but it also inflates our search statistics substantially. The search statistics are correct because the system does indeed search a number of databases behind the scenes. This inflation factor in search statistics presents a problem when comparing Gale search stats from year to year. The best approaches for dealing with this problem are listed below in order of preference:

1. Retrievals are counted whenever a user clicks on one of the hits. Retrieval statistics are not inflated by the PowerSearch interface and their numbers have been consistent since we began using Gale.
2. Continue reporting search statistics just as you get them from Gale - noting the fact that, since July 2009, search stats show an increase due to use of the PowerSearch interface.

iCONN reports Retrievals on a statewide basis. We refer to them as "Page Views" in our reports. Apart from the inflation factor noted above, we feel that Page Views or Retrievals are a more accurate indicator of usage because they record a user clicking on and viewing one of the hits.

INTERSTATE ILL PILOT PROJECT

Nine reQuest libraries in CT are participating in a multi-state ILL pilot project. Other participating states are New Jersey, Kansas, and Wisconsin, along with the Alberta (CA) Government Library. The pilot began on October 5 and will run for six months. Early results are positive and, pending successful completion, the project will be rolled out systemwide as an optional feature of reQuest ILL.

GALE CUSTOM NEWSPAPER COLLECTION COMING

iCONN and Gale are collaborating to produce a searchable collection of all newspaper content available from Gale to iCONN users.

The resulting collection will include multiple resources from online newspapers and newswire services and will be searchable from the iCONN newspaper classic menus (accessed by clicking the link called "Newspapers" on iCONN's start pages).

DOWNLOADABLE WIDGETS ARE HERE

iCONN released its downloadable search widgets for public and academic libraries on December 1. Any public or academic library user can now click on a link called *iCONN Widgets* from the landing page to access HTML to embed the iCONN Find Articles and Find Books widgets in the Web page of their choice. The public library Find Articles widget searches Gale PowerSearch, and the academic Find Articles widget searches resources federated under the AGent interface. Both Find Books widgets search reQuest, the statewide catalog. The Find Books widgets lack the format tabs of the landing page widgets (Combined Search, Books, Movies, Audiobooks, Music, Magazines/Journals) because to include them would require advanced setup knowledge from users. The format limiters are still present in a drop-down list within the widget container box.

Widgets customized for elementary, middle and high school levels are also available from the *iCONN Widgets* link on school landing pages. The HTML furnished for Find Articles is dynamically generated and incorporates settings specific to elementary, middle or high school grade level and should not be altered. The Find Books widget is the same for all grade levels.

