

THE ICONN TIMES

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NEW ICONN DATABASES!

The following three resources have been added to iCONN:

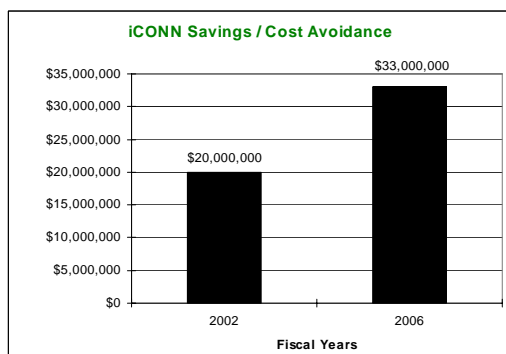
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\$\$\$ AND SENSE



Since its inception, iCONN's annual budget has been level-funded at approximately \$1,894,322. Over time, we have had to supplement this state funding with LSTA dollars (e.g. HeritageQuest and AP Photo). In FY 2002, based on the set of resources which iCONN was providing at that time, we estimated that if all public, school and academic libraries had to individually subscribe to the same databases on their own, the total annual cost would exceed **\$20 million**. In FY 2006, all databases available on a statewide basis were re-bid, resulting in \$145,000 in annual savings, which was applied towards the purchase of additional content. Based on the larger set of resources that iCONN was providing in FY 2006, with essentially the same budget as in FY 2002, the annual cost savings/avoidance estimate increased to over **\$33 million**.

iCONN now allows users to search up to 32 databases, simultaneously with one search. Since its inception, users have conducted **64 million searches in iCONN**. In FY 2006 alone, Connecticut residents and students searched iCONN over 33.5 million times, a **75% increase** over the previous year. This volume and percent increase reflects the impact of "federated searching" by including all hits generated by all databases that are searched simultaneously. In addition, reQuest was searched 2.1 million times, a 22 percent increase over last year. Over 200 libraries successfully lent more than 91,000 items through reQuest interlibrary loan, a 23% increase over the previous year. Holdings in

reQuest increased to 21.2 million items, a 3 percent increase over last year.

To increase the value of iCONN to all users, the State Library has requested a one million dollar increase in the iCONN budget for the next biennial budget: specifically, we have requested **\$2,894,322 for FY2008** and **\$2,955,103 for FY2009**. This increase would pay for new databases in the following content categories judged significant in a recent state-wide survey of public, school and academic librarians:

Career & Testing resources for Public Libraries

- Estimated Cost: \$75,000 – \$150,000
- Estimated savings to schools, libraries and colleges: \$750,000 - \$825,000

Science resources

- Estimated Cost: \$160,000 - \$250,000
- Estimated savings to schools, libraries and colleges: \$2.2 million

Historical Hartford Courant, 1923-1984

- Estimated cost: \$165,000
- Estimated savings to schools, libraries and colleges: \$564,000

Online Encyclopedias

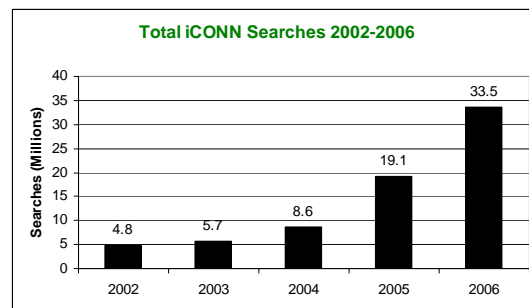
- Estimated cost: \$200,000 – \$250,000
- Estimated savings to schools, libraries and colleges: \$650,000 – \$1 million

Literature resources

- Estimated cost: \$250,000 – \$350,000
- Estimated savings to schools, libraries and colleges: \$1.4 million

Current Issues resources

- Estimated cost: \$250,000
- Estimated savings to schools, libraries and colleges: \$855,000



RE QUEST ADDITIONS 2006

As of December 31, 2006, 434 libraries of all types were included in reQuest, the state-wide library catalog. 15 libraries contributed records to reQuest for the first time in 2006. They were:

- Baran Institute of Technology
- Bristow Middle School
- Brookfield High School
- Center School – Ellington
- Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
- Connecticut Culinary Institute
- Forman School
- Granby Public Library – Cossitt Branch
- Janet Carlson Calvert Library – Franklin
- Kent Library Association
- Marvelwood School
- Middlesex Hospital – Patient Resource Library
- Middlesex Hospital – Tremaine Library
- Pomfret School
- United States Coast Guard Academy



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SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN RE QUEST: MEDICAL/HOSPITAL LIBRARIES

This is the first of a series of articles spotlighting the special collections in reQuest, the statewide library catalog.

The reQuest Main Catalog contains holdings from eight medical/hospital libraries including: Hospital for Special Care (Health Sciences Library), Middlesex Hospital (Tremaine Library), Middlesex Hospital (Patient Resource Library), Qualidigm Medical Library, UConn Health Center Library, VA Connecticut Healthcare System, Wheeler Clinic's Connecticut Clearinghouse Library and William W. Backus Hospital Medical/Nursing Library. The reQuest Magazine Catalog contains holdings from 15 hospital libraries.

Our featured library, the Patient Resource Library (PRL), Middlesex Hospital Cancer Center, is dedicated to meeting the information needs of people who want to learn more about cancer, treatment and survivorship. All library services are free of charge and available to the community. The on-site library collection at the Cancer Center has over 1,000 circulating items. These include books and multimedia materials about cancer and cancer-related topics such as nutrition, caregiving and helping children in families experiencing cancer. Library users also have free use of the hospital medical databases. The PRL website <http://www.midhosp.org/go/prl> offers links to the library catalog as well as to reliable cancer websites for consumers.

