

THE iCONN TIMES



Gale's *Biography Resource Center & Biography and Genealogy Master Index* Coming to iCONN August 1st!

New Resources from Gale:

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- *Biography and Genealogy Master Index*

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Gale's *Biography Resource Center* (BRC) replaces *Wilson Biographies Illustrated Plus* beginning August 1st for public and school libraries. The Database Committee highly recommended this change, concluding that Gale's product provides very good content with a more user-friendly interface at significantly less cost. It contains more than 432,000 biographies on more than 340,000 people from around the world and throughout history. The BRC also includes *Contemporary Authors*.

Gale is including free access to Gale's *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* (BGMI) for as long as iCONN renews the BRC subscription. Searching BGMI enables users to quickly determine which (of more than 1,700) publications you need to consult for



Biography Research Center search screen



Biography and Genealogy Master Index search screen

accurate and accessible biographical information. The total number of biographical sketches indexed now exceeds 15 million.

Public and school libraries who currently subscribe to Gale's BRC, BGMI, or *Contemporary Authors* will get a pro-rated credit from Gale. Gale's credit policy is that, as of contract date, they automatically cancel any outstanding subscriptions to the database selected by iCONN and issue a pro-rated credit to the institution. Call your Gale rep about this credit.

Where's iCONN? (part 2)

Does your library display physical signage for iCONN? Can your patrons find it easily? Is the signage current, reflecting the latest logo and color scheme?

A set of three 11 x 17 posters and five tent cards were distributed to all public libraries and their branches. Two customized 11 x 17 posters, several tent cards and branded pencils will be distributed to all public and private school libraries in late August. Bookmarks (100 per package) for distribution to patrons have been made available to all libraries upon request.

Promotional materials can be viewed at: <http://www.iconn.org/PromotionalMaterials.aspx>

OUTREACH

The ILL 'Request number' counter hit and surpassed the **one million** mark! Request number 1,000,000 was initiated on May 7 by a patron from Wheeler Library in North Stonington. The lending library that filled the request is the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library.

Congratulations to staff at both libraries!

KUDOS

What a discovery iCONN is. While researchers and writers can well appreciate its benefits, and students can find a wide variety of sources for school work, the rest of us can enjoy the fun of simply meandering through all it has to offer. Let's spread the word, fellow iCONN fans. This is a site too good to keep to ourselves.

— Joanne Nesti, former NBC 30 News Anchorwoman

I am so pleased with the way the iCONN system works, enabling access to information that otherwise would not be so readily available to everyone, that I feel it should be shouted from the rooftops. Thanks again.

— Shirley McEwen, patron, Huntington Branch, Shelton Public Library



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

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ICONN BUDGET FY 2008 & FY 2009

iCONN's budget appropriation for FY 2008 and FY 2009 allows us to continue to offer access to the *Historical Hartford Courant*, as well as to absorb some rate increases in current database fees, but will not allow us to add any new databases.

Our current wish list for new databases remains:

Current Issues resources

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

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

Historical Hartford Courant, 1924-1984

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

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

Adding these resources will substantially increase the value of iCONN to all users.

Accordingly, we will again be requesting an additional \$1 million dollars for the FY 2009 budget.

Planned Enhancements

Downloadable Federated Search Box

Soon, public and school libraries will be able to download the iCONN federated search box (in two different sizes and color schemes) so that it can be placed on their web sites. When a user enters a search, authentication is invoked, causing the familiar barcode login screen to appear if the user is outside the library.

Enhanced Search Results Screen

The current search results screen lists every database searched and the hit count for each database. A new search results screen will

provide the actual search results directly on the initial search results screen.

Children's Interface

We plan to introduce a children's interface to iCONN in early 2008. It will provide a highly graphical search interface to all children's resources in iCONN as well as the ability to predefine which resources are accessible through this interface (e.g., limiting access to just Kids InfoBits and reQuest). Further, when searching reQuest using this interface, search results will be limited to materials for children.

iCONN FY 2007 Stats

Starting in FY 2007, we are changing our baseline statistic for iCONN databases from *Searches* to *Page Views* in order to more accurately report usage without the inflating effect of federated searching. *Page Views* represent how many times users click into their search results to view actual articles, abstracts or citations. It measures more in-depth usage of iCONN's resources compared with counting how many times a database is searched.

In FY2007, there were a total of 7,823,426 page views. The audience breakdown is:

Public: 2,761,707 (35%)
School: 1,874,175 (24%)
Academic: 3,187,544 (41%)

reQuest was searched over 2.9 million times, a 41% increase over last year.

Over 200 libraries successfully lent more than 102,000 items through reQuest, a 12% increase over the previous year.

Holdings in reQuest increased to 21.5 million items, a 1% increase over last year.

The value of all iCONN databases to local communities now exceeds \$35 million per year as compared with an annual cost to provide iCONN of \$2 million.