

# THE ICONN TIMES

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### Cost Benefit: What iCONN Saves Libraries and Municipalities

A newly updated cost benefit analysis shows that what it costs the state to provide iCONN is an order of magnitude less than what it would cost all individual libraries to replicate the service. The cost savings/avoidance exceeds **\$75 million** over two years. See [http://www.iconn.org/cost\\_benefit.pdf](http://www.iconn.org/cost_benefit.pdf)



## ICONN BUDGET

The FY 2009-2010 budget for the State of Connecticut has not been finalized. The Governor's recent budget proposals eliminate funding for iCONN and reQuest. The Appropriations Committee's latest proposal keeps iCONN and reQuest funding at the adjusted FY 2009 level. In the absence of an official budget, we have been operating on monthly allot-

ments which have allowed us to pay only a portion of our bills, but all vendors have so far been very patient and understanding. If the final budget does involve cuts, we will work through the iCONN Database Committee, the Digital Library Advisory Board and the Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors to set priorities for databases.

## COMING IN AUGUST...NEW SEARCH PAGE

Currently, when you are logged into iconn.org, you arrive at a landing page with a single (federated) search box that is preset to search specific resources. A year ago, we had to limit the number of resources searched for usability reasons because the search results page was becoming too unwieldy and confusing to many users, given the number of resources. Based on the online survey we have been conducting over the last few months, however, it is clear that some users are still confused over the organization of the site, the search results page, and the relevancy of search results. To address these issues, we plan to replace the current page with what you see below (budget dependent):

**Find Articles** will launch searches against Gale's PowerSearch (see article on next page) and return search results using Gale's PowerSearch 2 search engine.

**Find Books, DVDs and more in CT Libraries** will launch a search against only the statewide library catalog using Auto-Graphics' search engine.

The screenshot shows the iCONN search engine interface. At the top, it says "connecticut's re search engine" with the iCONN logo. Below this, there are two main search sections:

- Find Articles:** A search box with a "Search articles" button and a link to "Advanced search". There is a checkbox for "Limit results to full-text articles" and a "Help" link.
- Find Books, DVDs and more in CT Libraries:** A search box with a dropdown menu set to "All Headings" and a "Search Everything" button. Below the search box are links for "Advanced search", "Browse search", "View My Lists", "Request Tracking", and "Help".

At the bottom of the interface, there are links for "How Can We Improve iCONN?" and "Report A Problem". A footer contains links for "Cost Benefit", "iCONN Widgets", "Recent / Coming Changes", "Take Our Survey", "Change My Library", and "Privacy Policy". A small disclaimer at the very bottom states: "Browsers supported: Internet Explorer 5.5 (or higher), Netscape 6.2 (or higher), Firefox 1.0.7 (or higher), Safari 3.0 and OS 10.4 (or higher). A service of the Connecticut State Library and iCONN - Connecticut's re-search engine in partnership with the Department of Higher Education. Authorized and funded by the Connecticut State Legislature."

## REQUEST HITS 5 MILLION TITLES!

We are pleased to announce that as of July 2009, reQuest now has **5 million** titles and **22 million** holdings from 440 libraries.

Thank you to all the libraries who have contributed holdings to Connecticut's statewide catalog over these 20 years. (Yes...**20 years!**)

If you have not contributed yet and would like to, please contact Gail Hurley, State-wide Library Catalog Coordinator, at [ghurley@cslib.org](mailto:ghurley@cslib.org) or 860-704-2222.

Remember...It's **FREE** to contribute!

## 50 NEW E-BOOKS

As of July 2009, 50 new E-Books have been added to reQuest from Gale's Virtual Reference Library.

To see the available titles, please go to: <http://rqst-agent.auto-graphics.com/LoginModule/Goto.aspx?cuid=rqst&dataid=475>

*Note to those libraries using the reQuest Cataloging module: you may download the MARC records for these e-books along with any other record in reQuest, to use in your local library automation system.*

*The iCONN Times* is a quarterly publication of iCONN—Connecticut's research engine.

Find it on the Web at: [www.iconn.org/siteindex.aspx](http://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

## REQUEST MAGAZINE CATALOG UPDATED!

The long-awaited update to the reQuest Magazine/Serials Catalog is now complete. The last update was in July of 2005 and will now be updated twice per year.

The reQuest Magazine Catalog shows which libraries in CT own the print/microfilm of magazines, journals and newspapers.

For more information on the union list and how to request reports of libraries' holdings, please go to: [www.iconn.org/staff/culs.aspx](http://www.iconn.org/staff/culs.aspx)



## COMING SOON...DOWNLOADABLE AUDIOBOOKS



## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS IN CONNECTICUT

iCONN staff along with other staff from the Connecticut State Library, Library Connection, and Connecticut History Online have been developing ways to make more access points to their digital collections.

- ◆ **Visit the CT Digital Collections page to access the individual home pages for these collections:** <http://www.iconn.org/digitalcollections.aspx>
- ◆ **Coming soon...**content of these collections will be integrated into Gale's master index and will be searchable through iCONN's *PowerSearch*.

If your library has a collection that needs to be digitized or needs a place to store your digitized collection, the **Treasures of Connecticut Libraries** project may be for you. Contact Gail Hurley at iCONN, [ghurley@cslib.org](mailto:ghurley@cslib.org), 860-704-2222 or Ann Weaver at Library Connection, [aweaver@libraryconnection.info](mailto:aweaver@libraryconnection.info) or 860-298-5322 x 1004 for more information or to schedule a visit to your library to discuss the possibilities for your collection.



Gale has agreed to build and host a "master index" of all content licensed to iCONN, beginning with all Gale content. Gale has named this index "PowerSearch" in iCONN.

PowerSearch will eventually allow users to search all content through a single, integrated database that indexes both metadata and full content, and return results in a single, consolidated results list sorted by relevancy. It is intended to eliminate the need to perform "federated searching" across a range of databases.

In addition, our goal is to add non-Gale content as well as soon as it becomes available.

Soon we will be offering downloadable audiobooks through iCONN. Geared towards K-12 students and the public, the collection includes over 1,000 fiction and 300 nonfiction titles across a wide range of subjects. Anyone can search the collection but a public library card number is required to download titles. Look for an announcement soon via e-mail.