

THE ICONN TIMES

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FORTHCOMING CHANGES

What enhancements are being planned in iCONN and reQuest? Check them out at: <http://www.iconn.org/Forthcoming.aspx>.



MAKING ICONN.ORG MORE USER-FRIENDLY— OUR #1 GOAL

Making iCONN more usable (“user-friendly”) is our #1 development priority. An online form makes it easy for users to provide feedback about their “iCONN experience,” and we continually monitor that feedback to identify ways to improve the system. Recently, we had the opportunity to make two improvements:

1. Previously, when entering a search at the main keyword search screen, the system would automatically search and present separate search results for over 25 databases, including many with overlapping content. We found that this presentation tended to overwhelm and confuse users, especially novice users, and reinforced the perception that iCONN is “too complex.” The solution we settled on was to reduce the number of resources searched and presented to just *three* that together comprise the majority of iCONN’s content. This resulted in a much cleaner and less confusing display of search results. At the same time, we preserved the user’s ability to search over 25 databases simultaneously, or in any combination, or individually. *Our goal is to reduce the number of search results lists to one list that includes all resources, sorted by relevancy.*



2. Previously, school libraries, who tend to use the classic menu screens rather than the main keyword search screen, had only one classic menu screen that listed all iCONN databases for schools, regardless of grade level. While this presentation may have been workable for high schools, it was less so for middle and especially less so for elementary schools. The obvious solution was to create separate menu screens for elementary, middle and high schools and to include the ability to toggle between these screens. We also added a search box to the high school menu and will soon be adding a search box to the middle and elementary school menus as well.

Reactions to the changes so far have been positive. If you would like to comment on iCONN, you can use the online form at <http://www.iconn.org/SendComments.aspx>.

Search Settings:	
Results by Resource:	
by Group	
Magazines and Journals	
General OneFile	1164
Newspapers	
iCONN Newsstand	6796
Other Subjects	
History & Science	134
Reference Centers	

List of Results		Top of Page	Bottom of Page
<input type="checkbox"/> Select All/Clear All			
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pumpkins aplenty. ; Augusta Chronicle (Augusta, GA) ; Oct 9, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> General OneFile
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vandals destroy two giant pumpkins: State Fair winner's patchmates smashed in An ... ; Richmond Times-Dispatch (Richmond, VA) ; Oct 8, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> General OneFile
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Salute Colorful Virginia Grown Pumpkins During October. ; M2 Presswire ; Oct 8, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> General OneFile
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plenty of pumpkins in Erie, Pa., region. ; Erie Times-News (Erie, PA) ; Oct 8, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> General OneFile
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pumpkins fire up young racers: Kids run in 17th annual Pumpkin Dash in Sterling. ; The Daily Gazette (Sterling, IL) ; Oct 6, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/> General OneFile

SEE ICONN AT:

- ✓ **CECA** October 21
Connecticut Convention Center—Hartford
- ✓ **CLASS Conference**
November 7, Middlesex Community College—Middletown
- ✓ **CASL** November 10,
Radisson—Cromwell

UPCOMING TRAINING

10/27—Free iCONN Webinar: ProQuest for Public Libraries

10/30—Free iCONN Webinar: Database Training for Public Libraries.

To register online, or to see more training opportunities, visit the Statewide Continuing Education Calendar at:

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



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

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READSPEAKER COMING TO SELECT DATABASES

Two popular iCONN databases will have a new feature soon. *Kids InfoBits* and the *Discovering Collection* will have ReadSpeaker added on about November 1st. ReadSpeaker is a simple to use audio text reader that will "speak" the text of items retrieved in searches. The ReadSpeaker player (see below) will appear when a file has been selected for viewing, printing, e-mailing, or listening. Users with questions about how ReadSpeaker works can click on the ReadSpeaker Help button.



ReadSpeaker player

ReadSpeaker comes with the ability to play or download the audio text as an MP3 file. To download the file, the user must first agree that the use will be for educational, noncommercial use only.

iCONN welcomes your input about ReadSpeaker and the MP3 capability of Kids InfoBits and the Discovering Collection.

DIRECT LINKS TO REQUEST

Do you want a link on your home page that goes DIRECTLY to reQuest? If so, use the following:

Libraries participating in reQuest:
<http://www.iconn.org/default.asp?lid=xxxx&mode=g> where xxxx is the library's reQuest ID.

Libraries not participating in reQuest:
<http://www.iconn.org/default.asp?lid=rqst&mode=g>

Neither of these links requires authentication. Any customization done by participating libraries will show up as long as you use the first link with your reQuest ID in the URL.

Not sure of your reQuest ID? Go to "Libraries Using reQuest Services" at:

<http://www.iconn.org/staff/Participants.aspx>

11 ENHANCEMENTS (ILL)

1. ILL Request Confirmation

The ILL Request Confirmation screen has been modified to include the message: "You may track the status of your request using the ILL Request Tracking option in the Patron Menu."

2. Browsing by Status

The Borrower's Title Browse and Lender's Title Browse screens have been enhanced to provide additional information.

3. Browsing by Title

The Borrower's *Title Browse* and Lender's *Title Browse* screens now include a Library column.

4. Browsing by Patron

The Borrower's *Patron Browse* screen now includes a Library column.

5. **Will Supply/In Process Requests** have been enhanced to include "Soon to Expire" alerts.

6. **Navigational Improvements** for *Title Browse* and Borrower's *Patron Browse*.

7. Viewing and Selecting Shipping Labels

Previously, when the Maintain Shipping Labels function was selected, the default value for the View menu on the Maintain Shipping Labels screen was Both Printed and Unprinted. The View menu is now set to Unprinted Labels Only by default.

8. Removal of Shipping Labels

The conditions under which shipping labels are automatically removed by the system from the Maintain Shipping Labels list have been modified.

9. Removal of Bookstraps

The conditions under which bookstraps are automatically removed by the system from the Maintain Bookstraps list have been modified.

10. Viewing and Selecting Bookstraps

Previously, when the Maintain Bookstraps function was selected, the default value for the View menu on the Maintain Bookstraps screen was Both Printed and Unprinted. The View menu is now set to Unprinted Labels Only by default.

11. Configuring the Pick List

The Pick List feature (accessed from the Lender's Pending Status Browse List) has been enhanced to allow libraries to select the specific fields for inclusion in Pick Lists and set the order in which the fields are listed.