

# THE iCONN TIMES

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## REQUEST ILL EXCEEDS 60,000

Filled Interlibrary Loan (ILL) requests exceeded the 60,000 mark for the first time in the history of reQuest ILL. Libraries participating in reQuest ILL filled 60,034 lending requests in fiscal year 2003 (July 2002 to June 2003). This represents a 23% increase in the volume of filled ILL requests over the previous fiscal year.

Congratulations to libraries participating in reQuest ILL!



## iCONN Newspaper Collection Enhanced

The iCONN newspaper collection has been upgraded to iCONN Newsstand from ProQuest and includes full text for the following six newspapers:

Newspaper	Full text start date	Image start date
<i>Christian Science Monitor</i>	9/30/1988	
<i>Hartford Courant</i>	1/1/1992	
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	1/1/1985	
<i>New York Times Late Edition (East Coast)</i>	1/1/1999	
<i>New York Times Book Review</i>		1/1/1999
<i>New York Times Magazine</i>		1/1/1999
<i>Wall Street Journal</i>	1/2/1984	
<i>Washington Post</i>	1/1/1987	

All papers are available under the ProQuest interface and can be searched by subject, title, keyword, author, publication and date. Users can search newspapers singly or in any combination simultaneously. All papers are available to public, school and academic libraries.

The statewide subscription to Newsstand makes it possible for libraries to individually subscribe to the historical backfiles for these titles without incurring the expense of prerequisite current subscriptions. Additional newspapers from a selection of over 150 dailies, including state, regional, national and international titles are also available for a fee from ProQuest.

This subscription to iCONN Newsstand from ProQuest replaces the subscriptions to the *Hartford Courant* from NewsBank and the iCONN Newspaper Collection from Gale.

## Consumer Reports in iCONN!

*Consumer Reports* - full-text articles, images and full-page PDFs - will soon be part of iCONN. Although article citations from *Consumer Reports* going back to 1980 have always been part of iCONN, what is being added is a 5-year backfile of full-text. This full-text content will be added, as it becomes available, to the following 7 iCONN databases: Business and Company Resource Center, Expanded Academic ASAP, General Reference Center Gold, Health and Wellness Resource Center, InfoTrac OneFile, InfoTrac

Junior Edition, and InfoTrac Student Edition. Gale has already received some of the data from the publisher, and is currently preparing (indexing, etc.) the content to be included in the databases. The full-text April contents should be accessible by August. The full-text backfile is being built gradually and will eventually go back to 1999.

There is a 90 day embargo on *Consumer Reports*, which means that the most current three issues are not available.

STAFF  
CHANGES

Bruce Stark, the Statewide Library Catalog Coordinator since March 2003, transferred back to the Connecticut State Archives on June 13. As a consequence, the position of statewide library catalog coordinator moved with him. The need for this full-time position will only increase with the implementation of a new reQuest system by July 1, 2004. We are currently in the process of securing approval for a consultant who would be able to fill this position on a part-time basis by August 4, 2003. Concurrently, we are seeking approval to reestablish the full-time state position for statewide library catalog coordinator, which may be possible if hiring practices for non-state funded positions loosens. Alternatively, we would consider hiring a full-time consultant. William Sullivan, as Administrator, has assumed the responsibilities of statewide library catalog coordinator until a part-time coordinator can be brought on board.



The *iCONN Times* is a quarterly publication of the Connecticut Digital Library. Find it on the Web at [www.iconn.org/staff/support.html](http://www.iconn.org/staff/support.html).

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## ProQuest Training Scheduled

In July, ProQuest will upgrade their web interface to PQNext. Six half-day training sessions featuring PQNext and the iCONN ProQuest databases will be offered in August:

Database	Date	Start	End	Audience
iCONN Newsstand	August 5	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	K-12 & Public Librarians
ABI/Inform Complete	August 5	1:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	College Librarians
iCONN Newsstand	August 6	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	K-12 & Public Librarians
iCONN Newsstand	August 6	1:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	K-12 & Public Librarians
ABI/Inform Complete	August 7	9:00 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	College Librarians
iCONN Newsstand	August 7	1:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	K-12 & Public Librarians

Training sessions will be held at the Middletown Library Service Center. (Directions to the Service Center are on the Web at [www.cslib.org/facmlsc.htm](http://www.cslib.org/facmlsc.htm)) To enroll in a session, send an email to: [jemerson@cslib.org](mailto:jemerson@cslib.org). Include in the email: your name, the name of your library or school, and the session date and time. Enrollments will be confirmed by email. There is no charge for this training.

iCONN AND  
ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

In the last issue of *iCONN Times*, we mentioned that the Department of Higher Education was undertaking a review of the Board of Governors' standards for academic libraries, to see how current and how reflective of institutional and state needs they continue to be. That review was precipitated in large measure by the remarkable resources provided by iCONN and the growing availability of on-line texts and other materials essential for teaching and research at the college and university levels.

The Department has received a number of thoughtful and helpful responses from academic librarians, from the Council of Connecticut Academic Library Directors, and from members of the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board. We would welcome the participation of others across the state as well, individuals and institutions interested in academic libraries who might look like for the new century. Please send an e-mail with your comments and suggestions to the Department of Higher Education at [jjdzanys@ctdhe.org](mailto:jjdzanys@ctdhe.org)

This is an exciting time for all of us who rely on libraries and information resources for our studies, our jobs, and our personal interests and needs. We look forward with

gratitude to any and all advice on how libraries, whose resources have been specially enriched by iCONN, can best continue to make those essential contributions.

- Jonas Zdanys, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Chief Academic Officer, Department of Higher Education

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
(RFP)

An RFP for specific services of the Connecticut Digital Library was issued via the state Department of Information Technology's (DoIT's) Website on May 15. The services include the next generation of reQuest and a "library portal" that encompasses all information resources accessible through iCONN, including reQuest. The RFP Number is: # 023-A-29-7057.

The complete RFP, including questions and answers from the May 30, 2003 vendor conference, is available in PDF format as a single file, while the functional requirements are also available separately as a Word document. Both versions are now linked from the reQuest home page at [www.iconn.org/staff/request.html](http://www.iconn.org/staff/request.html).

Vendor responses are due on July 14, 2003. All vendor inquiries are being handled by DoIT. We expect to have the system operational by July 1, 2004.