

AGENDA ITEM: Statewide Information Databases

ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS MEETING:

1. Consideration of funding for continuation of the Library of California Periodicals/Serials database.
2. Consideration of funding for continuation of the Librarians' Index to the Internet.

RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD: I

move that the Library of California Board direct its Chief Executive Officer to allocate Library of California funds not to exceed \$65,505 for continuing support of the Library of California Periodicals/Serials database.

RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD: I

move that the Library of California Board direct its Chief Executive Officer to allocate Library of California funds not to exceed \$281,600 for continuing support of the Librarians' Index to the Internet.

BACKGROUND:

ISSUE 1: Consideration of funding for continuation of the Library of California Periodicals/Serials database.

Library of California Periodicals/Serials database

The Library of California Periodicals/Serials Database contains records for serials (periodicals, newspapers, annuals, some monographic series, and other ongoing publications) owned by California libraries and is hosted by the University of California's California Digital Library. The database includes the following components:

CULP California Union List of Periodicals	Created by contributions to the LoC funded serials service bureau, GRC International (GRCI). includes public, academic, school and special libraries. Microfiche version of this list available from GRCI, selected union lists are available on a cost recovery basis.
CALLS California Academic Library List of Serials	Includes the 9 UC campuses, California State Library, California State Universities, Center for Research Libraries, Stanford University, California Academy of Sciences, California Historical Society, Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, and Graduate Theological Union.
SERHOLD Serial Holdings	Includes California medical libraries in other universities and hospitals from the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) list of serials.

This funding will support the hosting of the database by the California Digital Library (CDL). An LSTA grant will study options for a new design to gather serials holding data from contributors to conform to the requirements of the new CDL hosting system and will support the activities of the serials service bureau during this transition year. Staff will use the results of the study to suggest how the LoC may provide value-added service to LoC members as part of the process. The purpose of this LSTA project is a more efficient service at reduced cost to all libraries in California.

Library of California members are urged to participate in this resource-sharing project. LoC members may contact GRCI for technical assistance on the creation and maintenance of records to be added to CULP, and LoC Regions may contact GRCI for information on the creation of regional union lists. The Tierra del Sol region has recently requested such a listing.

Measures of Success

The LoCP/SD garners contributions from over 500 libraries through the work of the serials service bureau, GRC International. Exhibit A lists the 236 LoC contributors to the database. A very high percentage of public libraries that are LoC members contribute to the database. Data from the most recent weekly statistics of UC's CDL indicate that the LoC P/SD represents about 10% (50,690 searches) of the use of all hosted databases in the MELVYL/LoCP/SD online catalog. About 25% of these searches (12,782) are from outside UC campuses.

ISSUE 2: Consideration of funding for continuation of the Librarians' Index to the Internet.

The Librarians' Index to the Internet (LII) is a searchable, annotated subject directory of more than 6,000 Internet resources selected and evaluated by librarians for their

usefulness to users of public libraries. Both librarians and non-librarians use it as a reliable and efficient guide to described and evaluated Internet resources.

Another role that the LII fulfills is as a high quality index, merging the best practices of librarians to evaluate and select materials with technologies making it possible to disseminate the index widely, with minimal cost. At a time when there is much concern about Internet access in libraries, the LII is an invaluable resource to front-line librarians who need to promote access to high quality, authoritative electronic information resources.

Library of California members may “co-brand” with the LII. To date over 21 LoC libraries have co-branded with the LII. An example from the Fresno County Library is shown in Exhibit B. Exhibit C displays a page reflecting a choice from the main topic headings.

The Librarians’ Index to the Internet currently receives over a million hits per month. A more detailed description of the Librarians’ Index to the Internet written by Holly Hinman, InFoPeople Project Coordinator, is provided as Exhibit D. As noted in that report Carole Leita, the creator and long-term manager of the Librarians’ Index to the Internet, is retiring. Recruitment for a new manager has been completed, an announcement will be made soon about the selection of a new manager.

Measures of Success

The Librarians’ Index to the Internet is evaluated on a continuing basis through the use of web site statistical evaluation tools and online surveys. The web site statistical tools count the number and types of users coming to the site based on their Internet domain name. An online survey was just initiated and preliminary results should be available for discussion by the time of this meeting. In addition to statistics, indexers, LII management and InFoPeople management continually evaluate the site and elicit comments from its indexers and users. A summary of usage statistics and comments from users that are posted on the LII web site are included as Exhibit E and F.

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS:

Cooperative Licensing Services

On June 1, 2001 an announcement was emailed to all regional library contacts alerting them to the availability of LoC funded memberships in Amigos Library Services for LoC members. This information was forwarded to all LoC members by the regions. Amigos has provided information on their web site specifically for LoC members who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. Amigos made membership application forms available online and has assigned staff to answer inquiries from LoC members on their

services. The California State Library/Library of California *Connection* newsletter recently featured an article on this new service.

An advisory group is being formed to assist staff in ensuring that services provided by Amigos meet the needs of LoC members and are provided in an effective manner. Staff is still soliciting a volunteer from each region to serve on this committee.

Relevant Committee: Support Services

Staff Liaison: Ira Bray

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**Library of California Contributors
to the
LoC Periodicals/Serials Database**

Library Type	Number of Libraries Participating	Percentage of Library Type
Public	149	89%
Academic	62	40%
Special	21	19%
School	4	3%

Alameda County Library	Camarena Memorial Library
Alameda Free Library/City of Alameda	Carlsbad City Library
Alhambra Public Library	Cerritos Community College District
Allan Hancock College	Cerro Coso Community College
Altadena Library District	Chapman University
Amador County Library	Chula Vista Public Library
Anaheim Public Library	Citrus Community College District
Arcadia Public Library	Coalinga-Huron Unified School District Library District
Auburn Placer County Library	College of Marin Library
Azusa City Library	College of the Sequoias
Azusa Pacific University	Colton Public Library
Bakersfield College	Columbia College
Beaumont Library District	Colusa County Free Library
Belvedere-Tiburon Library Agency	Commerve/City of Commerce Public Library
Benicia Public Library	Concordia University (Irvine)
Berkeley Public Library	Contra Costa Community College District
Bethany College	Contra Costa County Library
Beverly Hills Public Library	Corona Public Library
Branson School	Coronado Public Library
Brawley Public Library	County of Los Angeles Public Library
Bruggemeyer Memorial Library	Covina/City of Covina Public Library
Buena Park Library District	Daly City Public Library
Burbank Public Library/City of Burbank/	Del Norte County Library District
Burlingame Public Library	Diocese of Orange
Butte County Library	Dixon Public Library
Butte Glenn Community College	Dominican College of San Rafael/Archbishop Alemany Library
Cabrillo Community College District	Downey City Library
Calabasas Public Library/City of Calabasas/	E & J Gallo Winery
Calaveras County Library	El Camino Community College District
California Academy of Sciences Library	El Centro Public Library
California Air Resources Board Library	El Dorado County Library
California Institute of Integral Studies	El Segundo Public Library
California Institute of the Arts	Escondido Public Library
California Lutheran University	Feather River College
California State Library	Fresno City College
California Western School of Law	Fresno County Free Library
	Fullerton Public Library

Gavilan Community College District	Ohlone College
Glendale Community College District	Ontario City Public Library
Glendale Public Library	Orange County Law Library
Glendora Public Library	Orange County Public Library
Golden Gate University	Orange Public Library
Grossmont Hospital	Oxnard Public Library
Hartnell College	Pacific Grove Public Library/City of Pacific Grove/
Hayward Public Library	Pacific Union College
Hemet Public Library	Palm Springs Public Library/City of Palm Springs/
Humboldt County Library	Palmdale City Library
Huntington Beach Public Library	Palo Alto City Library /City of Palo Alto/
Inglewood Public Library	Palo Verde Valley Library District
Inyo County Free Library	Palos Verdes Library District
John F. Kennedy University Library	Pasadena City College
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center/ Golden Gate Service Area	Pasadena Public Library
Kaweah Delta Health Care District	Patten College
Kern County Library	Patton State Hospital
Kings County Library	Placentia Library District
La Sierra University	Pleasanton Public Library
Lake County Library	Plumas County
Lassen Community College Dist.	Point Loma Nazarene University
Livermore Public Library	Porterville Public Library
Lodi Public Library	Rancho Cucamonga Public Library
Loma Linda University	Rancho Mirage Public Library
Lompoc Public Library/City of Lompoc/	Redondo Beach Public Library
Long Beach Public Library	Redwood City Public Library
Los Angeles County Law Library	Richmond Public Library
Los Angeles Public Library	Rio Hondo College District
Los Gatos Public Library	Riverside Community College District
Madera County Library	Riverside County Law Library
Mechanics' Institute	Riverside Public Library
Memorial Hospitals Association	Roseville/City of Roseville Public Library
Mendocino County Library	Sacramento County Law Library
Menlo Park Public Library	Sacramento Public Library Authority
Merced College	Salinas Public Library/City of Salinas/
Merced County Library	San Anselmo Public Library
Mill Valley Public Library	San Benito County Free Library
Mills College	San Bernardino County Library
Miracosta College	San Bernardino Public Library
Mission Viejo Library	San Bernardino Valley College
Modesto Junior College	San Bruno Public Library
Modoc County Library	San Diego County Public Library
Monrovia Public Library	San Domenico School
Monterey County Free Libraries	San Francisco Public Library
Monterey Public Library	San Joaquin Delta College
Moreno Valley Public Library	San Jose Public Library
Mount San Antonio College	San Marino Public Library
Mountain View Public Library	San Mateo County Library
Murrieta Public Library	San Mateo Public Library
Napa City County Library	San Rafael Public Library
Napa Valley Community College District	Santa Barbara Public Library System
National City Public Library	Santa Clara City Library
Naval Postgraduate School	Santa Clara County Library
Oakland Public Library/City of Oakland/Life Enrichment Agency	Santa Clara University
Oceanside Public Library	Santa Cruz Library Jt. Powers Authority/Santa Cruz City-Cy Lib. S

Santa Fe Springs City Library
Santa Maria Public Library
Santa Monica College
Santa Monica Public Library
Sausalito Public Library
Shasta College
Shasta County
Sierra Community College District
Sierra Conservation Center
Sierra Madre Public Library
Signal Hill Public Library
Siskiyou County
Solano Community College
Solano County Library
Sonoma County Library Joint Powers Agreement
Sonoma Developmental Center
Sonoma State University
South Pasadena Public Library
South San Francisco Public Library/City of So. San Francisco/
Southwestern College
Southwestern University School of Law
SPAWAR Systems Center
St. Helena Public Library
Stanislaus County Library
Stockton San Joaquin County
Sunnyvale Public Library/City of Sunnyvale/
Susanville Library District
Sutter County Library
Taft College
Tehama County
Torrance Public Library
Trinity County Library
Tulare County Public Library
Tulare Public Library
Tuolumne County Library
United Technologies/Pratt & Whitney Space Propulsion
University of Redlands
University of San Francisco
University of the Pacific
Upland Public Library
Valley Children's Hospital
Ventura Community College District
Ventura County Law Library
Ventura County Library
Veterans Administration Medical Center
Watsonville Public Library
Western State University College of Law
Westmont College
Whittier Public Library
Willows Public Library
Yolo County Library
Yorba Linda Public Library
Yuba County Library



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K-12 Schools

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Best of...

[California Public Schools Guide \(GreatSchools.net\)](#) - <http://www.greatschools.net/modperl/go/CA>

Excellent database for comparing public elementary, middle, or high schools in California. Created by an independent, non-profit organization, GreatSchools database provides standardized test results, school district standards, demographics, and diversity information for each school. Many schools have expanded profiles, which include curriculum; the community and its culture; staffing; school climate and safety, and much more. Links are provided for individual schools' Web sites, too. This site also includes information about choosing schools, the enrollment process, and creating parent-school partnerships. - [mc](#)

Subject: [Public schools -- California -- Statistics](#)

Directories

[Boarding Schools Directory](#) - <http://www.schools.com/tabs/>

This international listing of schools can be searched, or, browsed by region. Users of the site will also find helpful tips on choosing a school and facts about boarding school life. More than 200 schools listed, mostly in the United States, with 22 in Canada and 4 in Europe. Updated annually. From The Association of Boarding Schools. - [cl](#)

Subject: [Boarding schools -- Directories](#)

[CAIS School Directory](#) - <http://www.caisca.org/listing.htm>

Directory of the member schools of the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS). Listed by region - north and south, with separate listings for boarding schools and single sex schools. Information includes grade-level, size of student body, and Web address, if available. - [cl](#)

Subject: [Private schools -- California -- Directories](#)

[K-12 Schools in California](#) - <http://web66.coled.umn.edu/schools/US/California.html>

Schools with Web sites. Divided by Elementary and Secondary and includes School Districts and Educational Organizations. Last updated in 1998. *See also* the more current list of [California School Districts with Web servers](#) maintained by the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education.

- [cl](#)

Subject: [Public schools -- California](#)

Databases

[California Public School Profiles](#) - <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/>

Demographic data reported by the school district to the California Department of Education, includes location, legislative districts and members, school demographics, student counts, technology, alternative education enrollment, students by ethnic group, limited-English-proficient (LEP) students, certified and classified staff, teaching credentials, teachers by ethnic groups, teachers for LEP students, average class size, and links to STAR test results. Site also links to a glossary explaining the elements in the profile. Site is awkward to navigate. Read the instructions carefully. - [rs](#)

Subjects: [Public schools -- California](#) | [School districts -- California -- Statistics](#)

[DataQuest](#) - <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dataquest.asp>

This database "helps you find facts about California Schools and districts." Search state, county, district, or school level for: Academic Performance Index (API) score and rank; enrollments, by course, grade, race, ethnicity, gender; dropouts by grade, race, ethnicity, and gender; English Learners (EL), including number redesignated to Fluent-English Proficient (FEP); Staffing, teacher, administrator, classified by ethnic designation and gender; and Sat 9 (Stanford 9) test scores. QuickQuest lets you create your own reports. - [cl](#)

Subjects: [Public schools -- California](#) | [School districts -- California -- Statistics](#)

[National School Locator](#) - <http://nces.ed.gov/ccdweb/school/school.asp>

A prototype search tool for locating U.S. public elementary and secondary schools. Developed to enable school officials and others to identify a school with only a limited amount of information. Data returned includes address/phone number, school district info, number of teachers, students, and school population by grade and race/ethnicity. - [cl](#)

Subject: [Public schools -- United States -- Databases](#)

Specific Resources

[Internet Access in Public Schools](#) - <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs99/1999017.html>

This *Issue Brief* presents data on Internet usage in the schools based on nationally representative surveys of regular public schools and classrooms from 1994-98. From the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). - [cl](#)

Subjects: [Internet in education -- Statistics](#) | [Public schools -- United States](#)

[L.A. Unified School District School Reports](#) - <http://www.cityofla.org/MAYOR/lausd/>

This site presents 1998 data about 453 elementary, 101 middle, and 68 high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The information includes enrollment, average class size, the Stanford 9 results, demographics, attendance, English speaking abilities, per-pupil spending, expulsions and suspensions, special programs available, free lunch programs, percentage of fully

credentialed teachers, the number of computers, crime - both against persons and property, how it stands within the district, where it's located within the district, and more. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to read the PDF files. - [dl](#)

Subjects: [School districts -- California -- Los Angeles](#) | [Public schools -- California -- Los Angeles](#) -- [Statistics](#)

[Standardized Testing and Reporting Program \(STAR\)](#) - <http://star.cde.ca.gov/>

The Stanford Achievement Test Series, Ninth Edition (Stanford 9), a multiple-choice test that allows comparisons to be made to a national sample of students, was administered by all California school districts to students in grades 2 through 11 in 1998 and 1999. See results for districts and for individual schools in a report which will be the benchmark for annual assessment of education in the state. - [jp](#)

Subjects: [Public schools -- California -- Examinations](#) | [Educational tests and measurements -- California](#)

[STAR 2000: State of California Standardized Testing and Reporting Program](#) - <http://www.startest.com/>

Aimed at teachers, test coordinators, and liaisons, this site has a program timeline, district workshops, newsletters (require PDF reader), and most important, the controversial California Reading List. Titles from this list are recommended with the Stanford 9 test scores received in the mail by the parents of each child. The list is searchable by interest level (grade ranges), key word, and reading list number (highest has the most challenging books). Stanford 9 is the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Ninth Edition, also known as SAT-9. - [rs](#)

Subjects: [Public schools -- California -- Examinations](#) | [Educational tests and measurements -- California](#)

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Background: Librarians' Index to the Internet
Holly Hinman, InFoPeople Project Coordinator

The Librarians' Index to the Internet is described on its Web site (<http://lii.org>) in these terms: "The Librarians' Index to the Internet is a searchable, annotated subject directory of more than 7,500 Internet resources selected and evaluated by librarians for their usefulness to users of public libraries. It's meant to be used by both librarians and non-librarians as a reliable and efficient guide to described and evaluated Internet resources."

The Librarians' Index to the Internet (LII) was awarded Library of California funding in April 2000, effective as of October 1, 2000, when Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) support ended.

The LII is managed by a full-time coordinator assisted by two part-time editors. Most of the content is created by a corps of volunteer librarian indexers who receive training from the coordinator. There are currently over 100 active volunteer indexers who collectively contribute approximately 6,000 hours annually, valued at approximately \$120,000.

An Advisory Board provides policy oversight for the LII. Members of the Board are:

Joan Bartel, Director of Information Technologies & Collections, Los Angeles
Public Library

Ira Bray, Electronic Information Resources Consultant, California State Library

Dana Evans, Reference and Documents Librarian, Sonoma County Library

Martha Gifford, Retired Librarian, Ventura County Library Services Agency

Gail Haar, Deputy County Library, Marin County Free Library

Julianna Hamann, Community Partner, Alpine Branch, San Diego County Library

Holly Hinman, InFoPeople Project Coordinator

Carole Leita, LII Coordinator

June Pilsitz, Electronic Resources Librarian, Newport Beach Public Library

Roy Tennant, Manager of eScholarship Web & Services Design, California
Digital Library

The LII receives an average of 242,004 requests per week, or 1,048,606 per month. During the first quarter of LOC support, usage increased 36% over the previous quarter. A current awareness service, *LII New This Week*, is sent to more than 8,700 subscribers. Twenty-two California libraries currently co-brand the LII. Co-branding allows a library to have a link on their Web site to the Librarians' Index to the Internet that goes to templated version of the LII which includes the library's name, main navigation links, logo graphic, and background and text colors. Users of the co-branded library's Website are able to use and search the LII while still being able to access the main sections of the library's Web site.

Co-branding libraries include: California State Library; Peninsula Library System; Benicia Public Library; California College of Arts and Crafts Libraries; Contra Costa County Library; Fresno County Library; Glendale Community College Library; Inyo County Library; Los Angeles Public Library; Los Angeles Valley College Library; Marin County Library; Monterey County Free Library; Newport Beach Public Library; Palo Alto City Library; Rancho Mirage Public Library; Riverside Public Library; San Diego Public Library; San Francisco Public Library; San Jose Public Library; Santa Clara City Library; Stockton-San Joaquin Public Library.

During fiscal year 2000/01, the LII database was converted to MARC format and tested in MarinNet and Newport Beach. In the future, the LII database will be available for libraries to download and integrate into their local library catalogs. This will enable users to seamlessly search both library holdings and high-quality Web sites.

Evaluation

The Librarians' Index to the Internet is evaluated on a continuing basis through the use of Web site statistical evaluation tools. These tools count the number and types of users coming to the site based on their Internet domain names. Internal use of the site is also monitored to determine the usefulness of the various Web pages and search tools, and to identify subject gaps. In addition to usage statistics, the site is reviewed and evaluated by the indexers, the LII managers, and the InFoPeople Project staff. Users are encouraged to submit comments and suggestions. A formal online end-user survey is being conducted in March-April 2001 to elicit information about the LII users and to help LII managers improve the quality of the LII service. Results will be shared with the Library of California Board as soon as they are available.

FY 2001-2002 Budget Request

The Librarian's Index to the Internet received \$189,150 in Library of California funding for the nine months from October 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. Extrapolating that to a full twelve months of funding would result in an annual budget of \$252,000. The budget requested seeks an increase of \$28,135, or 11%. The increase will cover the following costs:

- \$5,000 more in compensation for the LII manager, to cover higher benefit charges
- Addition of one half-time editor, to assist with increased workload
- \$5 more per hour for programmer, who works an average of 10 hours per week
- Addition of one indexer training workshop, for a total of three

It should be noted that Carole Leita, the creator and long-term manager of the Librarians' Index to the Internet, is retiring. Recruitment for a new manager will begin in late April 2001.

Budget detail follows:

Salaries and benefits	\$81,250	LII Manager
Contract services	\$78,000	3 editors, .5 FTE each
	\$39,000	Programmer, .25 FTE
Operational expenses	\$15,000	Indexer training and support
	\$10,000	General office expenses
	\$31,600	Technical enhancements to database
Indirect costs	\$25,485	Peninsula Library System
Total =	\$280,335	

How the LII Is Used

Numbers

LII requests:

February 2001 - **1,313,584** accesses - **46,913** per day.

Jan-Dec 2000 - **10,114,218** accesses. That's 195,000 per week and 28,000 per day.

All the Web links search

On 01/06/01, a link search in [All the Web \(Fast\)](#) found **14,448 pages** with links to the *Librarians' Index to the Internet*. Searched on current URL (lii.org) and old URL (sunsite.berkeley.edu/internetindex)

AltaVista links search

On 01/06/01, a link search in AltaVista found **10,066 pages** with links to the *Librarians' Index to the Internet*. Of these: 24% from the .edu domain, 16% from .us, 14% from .com, 10% from .org, 6% from .net, 3% from .ca, 2% from .au, 1% from .gov, and 1% from .uk, 23% from elsewhere.

Articles about the LII

Jascó, Péter "[Librarians' Index to the Internet](#)" [Digital Reference Review](#), March, 2001.

Price, Gary. "The Librarian's Librarian: Carole Leita" [Searcher Magazine](#), 8(10) (November/December, 2000):69-73. [*not online*]

["By Librarians, For Everyone"](#) Library Highlights, Institute for Museum and Library Services, October, 2000.

["Librarians' Index to the Internet: By Librarians, for Everyone"](#) (PDF) Connections, California State Library, October, 2000.

Holmes, Tamara E. "[Doing research the Web way](#)" USA Today, July 14, 2000.

Farrell, Dave. "[A Gift to You, From a Cybrarian](#)" The Holland [Michigan] Sentinel, April 9, 2000.

Smith, Karen D. "[Smart Surfing](#)" Amarillo Globe-News, March 29, 2000.

Leita, Carole and Holly Hinman. "[A Public Librarian Helps Launch an Index](#)" Library Journal 123(16) (October 1, 1998):48.

Quotes from Web sites that link to the LII

[Best of Quotes](#)

[Public Libraries](#)

[College and University Libraries](#)

K-12 Libraries

International

Others

Best of Quotes

Internet Librarian Column, by Karen Schneider, *American Libraries*, February, 2001.

The Librarians' Index to the Internet is better than ever and still commercial-free (take that, Yahoo!)

Ten Best Sites for Librarians, by Gillian Davis, *Suite101.com*, January 23, 2001.

This is the best subject guide there is, in my opinion. Particularly for public librarians and public librarian patrons, but really useful for anyone. Sites go through a very specific selection process, are indexed by trained librarians, and are annotated. Besides its function as an excellent subject guide, the for librarians section is a fantastic library portal in itself, the New This Week section is a great current awareness tool, and the Best Search Tools page is a must for any reference librarian. The co-ordinator of the LII is Internet guru Carole Leita.

"How Do I Find?" Column by librarians Karen Hartman and Ernest Ackermann, *Fredericksburg Star*, December 4, 2000.

Listed first in article on Virtual Libraries. ...run by public librarians in California. Each site included is reviewed and signed by one of these librarians.

EarthLink Weekly Email Newsletter, November 13-19, 2000

Although designed for use by public librarians, this 7,000-site directory is an excellent resource for anyone who needs to research a topic on the Web. You'll find sites related to the arts, education, geography, literature, law, medicine, sports, and many other subjects, and each site listing contains a brief review.

Science & Technology News Network - Site of the Week - October 1, 2000

This is a place to get accurate, up-to-date, and serious information about Internet resources. The "Librarian's Index to the Internet" offers an annotated subject directory of more than 6,600 librarian-selected sites. There's also a section that provides weekly updates of the top 20 sites as well as plenty of "site suggestions" for those who crave a more complete guide. The index is easily searched by keywords, subjects, titles, descriptions and links. For instance, a search on pest control using the index's "site suggestions" retrieves a diverse listing of related resources, such as basic, educational, regulatory, and scientific information, including tips and annotated links.

Galaxy.com Top Ten Literature Web Sites and Complete article (PDF), September 29, 2000

Those librarians and their love affair with books and information... they've done it again. A group of librarians has spotted a big, disorganized pile of stuff (in this case, the Internet) and has not been able to resist putting it in order. At the Librarians' Index to the Internet, you'll find a searchable, annotated subject directory. Over 7,000 Internet resources have been selected, after close scrutiny by librarians who check for usefulness of content. This resource is open to librarians and the public-at-large. Funny, it all started with one

Librarians' Index to the Internet User Survey

Introduction:

We determined that in order to adequately sample a user base of 100,000 (the number of unique LII users per week) we would need at least 661 survey responses. This is for a 99% confidence level with a confidence interval level of 5. This means we are 99% certain that the results are correct within plus or minus 5 points. (For more information see the Sample Size Calculator at <http://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>). We ran the survey from March 30, 2001 to April 6, 2001 and gathered 790 responses.

Summary:

98% of the users were very satisfied or satisfied with the LII.

57% of the users were from California (this translates to 57,000 users a week, or, almost 3 million Californians served a year.).

See <http://lii.org/images/usersbyzip.gif> for a chart of all users by ZIP Code.

68% were using the LII (at the time of the survey) from a library of some type (academic, public, school, special, other).

321 people had comments (*Attachment 1*). Some were suggestions for improving the LII but most were expressions of pleasure and explanations of how they found it useful. We will be discussing the suggestions for improvement at the next LII Advisory Board meeting.

Complete responses from the survey follow.

Carole Leita

LII User Survey Questions and Responses:

1. Are you using the LII from...?

38% from work (some of these were library staff who didn't choose library)

34% from a library

25% from home

2% from school

2. If you are using the LII from a library, what kind of library is it?

70% using it from a public library

14% academic

7% school

6% special

3. What is your ZIP code? Please use 99999 if not in the United States.

57% 90001-95999 (California)

6% 99999 (outside U.S.)

5% 10001-19999 (New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware)

- 5% 96001-99950 (Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Alaska)
- 4% 00001-09999 (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey)
- 4% 20001-29999 (Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina)
- 4% 30001-39999 (Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi)
- 4% 40001-49999 (Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan)
- 3% 70001-79999 (Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas)
- 3% 60001-69999 (Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska)
- 3% 80001-89999 (Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada)
- 2% 50000-59999 (Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana)

4. Are you a library staff member?

- 73% Yes
- 27% No

5. If you are not a library staff member, which of the following best describes you

- 49% Employed
- 17% Student
- 17% Retired
- 7% Library volunteer
- 4% Not employed

6. How long have you been using the LII?

- 30% More than 3 years
- 45% 1 to 3 years
- 17% 1 month to a year

7. How many times in the last 30 days have you used the LII?

- 48% said they use the LII 11 or more times a month
- 42% 2 to 10 times a month

8. Overall, how SATISFIED are you with the LII?

- 72% Very satisfied
- 26% Satisfied
- 1% Unsatisfied
- 1% Unsatisfied

9. How did you first hear about the LII?

- 34% said they found out about the LII from a Librarian
- 15% word-of-mouth
- 13% link from another Web site
- 10% informational e-mail or newsletter
- 7% News story (magazine, newspaper, TV, radio, etc.)
- 6% InFoPeople workshops or other classes

Attachment 1: Comments from LII User Survey

It's fabulous. It is the first place I look at when a teacher asks me to find sites for classes to use. I really like looking at "What's New". Great site. Thanks on behalf of myself and my school site.

I constantly refer customers to LII for use at home to find good, quality sites for their children.

You are a great time saver! I don't have to wade through unrelated pages. Thank you!

It is good to find a U.S. site that is not totally U.S.-centric. Please keep up and enhance the international coverage. This is the best Internet index I have found so far -- I use Google for text searching and LII for human-selected, classified searching.

I've done a couple of Internet workshops with the general public, and they seem very interested in what LII can provide. They like to find websites that can help them focus on "what's out there" that's believable, and they find the descriptive information quite useful. (So do I.)

I love LII because you select such reliable sources. In our Internet classes, we always recommend that patrons use your site to find reliable, good-quality Web sites and distinguish it from more familiar (to them) Web directories such as Yahoo!

This is a most amazing resource. I quickly find useful things here that I never would have discovered using the usual search engines.

It is a wonderful site, authoritative and broad.

High school students appreciate the direct access to valid web pages. Several of our adult customers, who consider themselves unskilled, insist on using LII for all their searches, they learned to use it easily and are satisfied with their results.

As a staff member of a small public library, I do not have the time or expertise to develop a comparable site of our own. We encourage patrons to use LII in an attempt to *discourage* some of the mindless searching and reliance on questionable websites which are all too common.

Don't ever go out of business. We love your site and refer many many users to it! Weekly update is very useful. Annotations to web sites without commercial "noise" really help users.

I use Yahoo! when I want to find the Web site of a particular organization or company, but if I'm searching for information I will start with the LII. It is great to have a non-commercial resource like this on the WWW; thanks!

I am grateful for this site. It is easy to use and offers concrete information on so many subjects.

I was a librarian in a small town library with limited resources. Your site has been invaluable to me. Thank you.

You do a great job, and have helped me out many times at the Reference Desk in finding useful information quickly, without having to sift through all the undifferentiated information from search engines or questionable resources found on commercial directories. Thank you for providing such a great services for all of us.

I tell library patrons and friends and family that all they need to get what they want off the net is LII and Google.

I use LII when teaching Intro to the Internet to illustrate the difference between an indiscriminate subject directory such as Yahoo! and one that gives helpful annotations.

It is very useful for quality hits. I would not like to do without it!

LII is just great! I recommend it to friends as my reliable infosource. Not commercial but not stuffy either.

LII is my favorite site -- I'm a librarian at a small high school and not only do I use LII, I direct my students your way. I love the fact that you can search by keyword or browse through subjects. I check the new sites each time they come out to keep abreast of what's out there on the internet. I recommend your site to everyone. Thank you for you excellent work!

I love your site! It helps me regularly with reference questions. I always check the "New on..." link for interesting new sites. Thank you for providing such an excellent service!

Fantastic resource. I use this at work almost every day, and also at home with my daughters as a starting point for almost every research project or assignment they get from their high school.

Always use it in Internet and library instruction classes as an example of a useful, reliable and user friendly search directory.

I love it, it saves me a lot of time and helps me locate great information not dead ends, ads, or a 3rd graders report. Keep up the good work.

I use it as a homepage in this Media Center..6-12. I teach high school research classes and I recommend use of LII to the classes in favor of a general search engine.

I love this resource -- never, ever take it away. I urge you to put more \$\$ into supporting it, keeping it current, etc.!

I made your site my homepage on my home computer. Thanks for all the good work!

I use it to teach my senior students how they can find the subject matter they seek during our internet training class at the Moorpark Library.

I include LII in all my class instruction because it is such a good starting place. It's very rare that I do not find what I want here.

The short descriptions are great - please thank all who create them.

I teach a beginning Internet for Seniors class, and recommend LII to the students as a good first stop for evaluated web sites.

I use LII professionally and personally as a first, second, or third choice when searching, depending on the search I'm doing. It's a great tool! Annotations are a great help. Keep up the good work.

We use it as our home page at our public reference desks. We also like the Best Search Tools page.

I think LII is one of the best resources on the Internet. Thanks so MUCH for all your work in creating and maintaining it!!!!

LII gets bookmarked on every browser I use. I consider it indispensable to many of the searches I do, because it's a source for consistently reliable information. I wish I (or you!) had a nickel for every time I've recommended it to a library user (I highlight it in the Internet classes I teach, too) -- and I've gotten a great deal of feedback that corroborates my high opinion of LII. You're doing a terrific and much-needed job.

It's a wonderful way to organize the Internet. I really enjoy and appreciate it.

It's great - as a former librarian, I commend you!

This is a great resource that is indispensable to my work as a reference librarian. Carole Leita should be declared National Internet Guru.

Actually, I use LII from both home and work. Even though I am now an administrator rather than working the front line, I still find it invaluable.

I hope that LII will become the homepage for ALL CA libraries. It is invaluable and why should individual libraries make their own list of sites when yours is already so good?

I use the lii for almost all my internet searches. Each drawer of this library's reference desk has copies of page 1 and on the back is a printout of "Best Search Tool" With a simple explanation of how to use the lii, we offer copies to our patrons.

I am a librarian at a community college. When I do web demos I always show the students lii.org. The instructors, especially, appreciate it and are very enthusiastic. Thanks!

I find the service so useful that I use it as my home page. Keep up the good work!!

One of my favorite sites on the internet. I tell all my friends/associates about it. It's simply outstanding. Keep up the good work.

Great alternative to search engines. I use both. I'm an older PH.D.type so the library like organization of the site is a good fit for me.

As a librarian, I rely on lii to alert me to excellent resources (new this week) and I continually suggest to students that they use lii to find reliable sources for their research. Thank you!

This is one of the best little known secrets on the web!

I think it is a terrific service. I can't think of anyway to improve it. I always check the new-this-week listings and frequently send pages to the teachers in my school. I tell people about how great the site is all the time. Good work guys!

I really like the comments that go along with the web site listings. They help me to know if it's really a site I want to look at before I go there. I have found lots of information for my homework projects.

I think your links are wonderful. I use your site in our adult computer classes in the library.

Please keep your main menu the nice concise one page that it is. I OFTEN print this off to give to students as an FYI recommendation for use.

Please keep up the great work! This is a resource I not only use, but love to promote. I'm also please with the number of resources you include that are International or not U.S. specific in their scope.

You're doing a great job. I find the weekly mailings very helpful. And I frequently include the web site as part of my search strategy. Keep up the good work.

It's GREAT. My first source when my own bookmarks don't give me the answer I need. Well organized, fast searches, good indexing. ***** out of *****

I use it constantly and it is consistently the best place to start searching. Thanks for the good work.

I love it. And recommend it to our clients who are looking for general information. Love the email updates each week.

The LII is simply a wonderful site, and I hope that it receives the funding and support necessary for it to continue to flourish. Thanks!

Refreshing in the not-so-responsible selling world of the internet to find a responsible search engine. Keep up the good work!

We consistently use lii to guide us quality sites. We really appreciate all the work you've done. lii is a wonderful resource!

Terrific site! Thanks for all of your hard work. You help unravel what sometimes is a tangled ball of yarn.

LII is great -- as I've said before, it's like Yahoo for people who don't subscribe to People Magazine.

LII is a GREAT site. We recommend it to our students. Keep up the good work, and thanks.

Keep up the good work. You make me look good.

You are the first source I turn to for Internet information.

I have been using it for so long it's hard for me to remember when and where I first heard about LII. I used to work at a high school library and it was often the first place I would have students and staff start their research. Not many had heard of it. I think it is a great resource and applaud the librarians who work on it.

As a (Canadian) academic librarian with over 25 years experience searching databases, I can say that after Google, I like your search engine the best (and I'm sure you know how great Google is!)

It's a wonderful tool. I use the subject index and keyword searching and demonstrate it consistently. Please keep up the excellent work! Also use in academic library work. Students are always grateful and surprised to learn about the LII.

It's not just for librarians or left coasters. Even New Yorkers find your site useful! Thanks for investing the time to keep the links up to date.

I recommend your site to my customers regularly. They are happy to find a site that organizes information the way their library does. Thank you for your work at making relevant web sites easier to find.

You are my hero, lifesaver, and all around wonderful. Keep up the excellent work. Thank you.

although my department is a library department at work, i work on information projects independently of the library facility. i also do a great deal of teaching on information literacy and always include lii. it is the standard as far as i am concerned. however, i must tell you that it is not widely known among the information professionals that i teach. i ALSO use it from home and in my teaching settings.

My favorite site on the WWW is LII. I use it every hour I am on the Reference Desk

I like the phenomenal variety of topics, links, addresses, etc., that are available. The whole world is right here, just a click away!!!!

The Ill is a fantastic tool to find websites for school assignments.

It is so-o-o-o great! I can click on to whatever I am searching for, without the wait and jumping around all over the I-net.

We have little signs posted on the public internet stations at our library branch saying that www.lii.org is "THE BEST PLACE TO START YOUR SEARCH". We really like it!!

I love it and recommend it to the students at my school frequently.

It is a fabulous site and I am always sending patrons to it. The 20 or so times I used it is probably too small a number and does not reflect the number of times I refer patrons to it (3 or 4 a day, minimum)

I conduct Internet classes and always use LII as an example of a well-constructed, user-friendly site.

This is a great resource. I share it with everyone I know. It is the best way to find websites for what you are looking for.

You are absolutely, without question, the very best resource for sites of great quality. Thank you for you invaluable resource. You are to be heartily congratulated. Best wishes.

I'd just like to offer my thanks for doing such an outstanding job! I use your site daily to put our patrons (I'm a public library Reference Librarian)in touch with appropriate resources. Would I be labeled a "geek" if I admitted that I wait anxiously for Wednesday to come around so that I can check out the "New This Week" list? I've turned many of my peers on to this site, and I regularly mention it in my "Internet: Beyond the Basics" class that we offer our public (I tell them it's one of the librarians' "secret weapons"). Everyone agrees that your site is a "keeper" worthy of being added to anybody's "bookmarks" or "favorites." Please continue with your fine work and pass along our thanks to all involved with developing/maintaining your site.

I love the weekly feed! I love the white space on your pages! I like all your access points. Keep up the good work.

I recommend it to one and all as a top reference source.

A wonderful site. I count on it to discover interesting, high quality sites.

I prefer LII over all other search engines.

This site has become essential to my searching. It makes life much easier.

Yes: I particularly like the internal search box. If someone were setting up a search engine, I would recommend that they use LII as a pattern.

LII is an essential tool at the reference desk. I frequently suggest that patrons use it at home, and have had lots of positive feedback from them.

I recommend to teachers I train as a starting place for student research.

Although I inform our public about LII and its availability from home on our home page, I think large billboards should advertise its existence like the ones used in this area (Fresno) to promote "check it out at the library".

If I can find a website for a patron through LII, I am confident that I am directing them to "the best of the best" for information.

I am a librarian at a small academic college. The LII is a marvelous finding tool. Your server seems to be much faster than that serving IPL. Thank you!

Fantastic site. My home page.

I just want to tell you that LII is marvelous and I recommend it to both teachers and students. (I'm the MS/HS librarian at a California K-12 school)

Keep up the great service - I recommend your site to everyone.

Love the brief descriptions of web sites; love the search engine -- overall, it's a terrific resource for librarians and others searching the 'net! Thanks!!

I find LII so helpful for work and personal searches. I have recommended it to numerous patrons, coworkers, family and friends. Keep up the great work!

I use LII early and often and subscribe to the weekly update. When I teach the Internet to older students and to adults I always introduce them to LII.

lii is my new favorite starting point for many web searches

The best virtual reference site on the Internet! thanks for such a great site!

This is a wonderful site. It gives access to the more serious and useful websites out there.

I am an academic librarian and use LII all the time in my personal life, and often in a professional capacity.

This website helps me enormously in better serving library patrons. Thank you!

all public libraries should co-brand with LII

I can't tell you how many people I have referred to LII as the place to begin when you don't know where to begin.