

## FALL 2009

Seasonal highlights to keep IPL Deans and Fellows informed of  
IPL news and service activities

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## NEW PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENT: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

**Managing Partners:** iSchool at Drexel University

Florida State University School of Library & Information Studies

**Current Partners:** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science

University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences

Rutgers School of Communication and Information

Syracuse University School of Information Studies

University of Texas at Austin School of Information

University of Washington Information School

## UPCOMING MERGER BETWEEN THE IPL AND THE LIBRARIANS' INTERNET INDEX

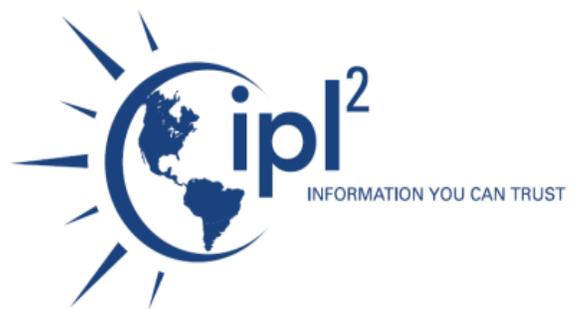
In early 2010, the IPL will merge with the Librarians' Internet Index (LII) to create a new web presence – **ipl<sup>2</sup>: Information You Can Trust.**

While the site will continue offering the same trusted resources and services, there will be several enhancements designed to give users greater access to the information they need, when they need it. These enhancements include:

- a redesigned homepage that provides easier navigation to the most popular content on IPL and LII,
- a new monthly newsletter highlighting new resources and providing timely information about current events, written by students and volunteers, as a continuation of LII's newsletter, *New This Week*,
- a new combined database of IPL and LII trusted resources based on Fedora, the open source operating system, and enhanced with Dublin Core metadata, and
- improved search functionality using Lucene, the popular open source search engine library.

**ipl<sup>2</sup>** will continue to be used as a teaching and learning tool for LIS students around the world by offering students unique opportunities to interact with real patrons in a variety of new and exciting ways.

The name **ipl<sup>2</sup>** was created by the IPL-LII merger team after considering hundreds of possible submissions from all over the world to the "Rename the IPL" contest. The **ipl<sup>2</sup>** logo was designed by Kara Howland, graphic designer for the iSchool at Drexel University.



## IMLS PROJECT WEBSITE LAUNCHED (<http://vll.ipl.org>)

A project website was launched in Spring 2009 to disseminate information about activities related to the IPL IMLS-funded grant, *A Virtual Learning Laboratory for Digital Reference: Transforming the Internet Public Library*.



In addition to information about the research team and relevant publications, the project website also hosts a repository of learning objects pertaining to digital reference and collections, provided by instructors in LIS programs and available for use in teaching. The types of learning objects include: presentations, videos, exercises/assignments, syllabi, and training materials.

Another repository on the project website is the Tech Clearinghouse, a collection of trusted resources offering training, tips, tutorials, and/or best practices for using modern, web-based technologies in libraries. The website links to the IPL Learning Community, Backroom for Instructors, the IPL Labs, and the IPL's accounts on Facebook, MySpace, and YouTube.

## NEW TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR IPL PARTNERS

The IPL is now offering two exciting teaching opportunities for IPL Partners: Mosio's Text a Librarian and QuestionPoint.

*For more information about how to teach with either Mosio's Text a Librarian or QuestionPoint, please contact Dr. Eileen Abels at [eabels@drexel.edu](mailto:eabels@drexel.edu).*

### MOSIO'S TEXT A LIBRARIAN

Since Spring 2009, a partnership with Mosio's Text a Librarian (<http://www.textalibrarian.com/>) has allowed advanced workshop students at Drexel and Florida State University to practice providing reference and information service via text messaging. Mosio's Text a Librarian consists of a Web-based, bulletin board-like interface that facilitates question answering for inquiries submitted by text message. Mosio's contribution includes training materials and student use of the Web-based text messaging reference software.

### QUESTIONPOINT

Starting Fall 2009, advanced workshop students at Drexel and Florida State University will gain exposure to chat reference via QuestionPoint (<http://www.questionpoint.org/>). The IPL's partnership with QuestionPoint gives students access to QuestionPoint training materials and use of the software to role play as librarian and user.

Drexel and Florida State University will be the first two institutions to test QuestionPoint, after which it will be available to all partner schools.

## HIGHLIGHTS ON TEACHING WITH THE IPL

### ASK AN IPL LIBRARIAN DIGITAL REFERENCE SERVICE

1. At this time, nineteen instructors from 10 institutions will teach 21 classes during the Fall 2009 term incorporating the *Ask an IPL Librarian* email reference service. The institutions include: Drexel University, Florida State University, Kent State University, Pratt Institute, Rutgers University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Maryland, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Washington, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
2. In response to comments we received from students and instructors using the IPL in teaching and learning, we launched a new feature to support students during their question answering experience with the IPL's email reference service. Starting August 25th, students are able to "Request Feedback" from others – primarily Reference Administrators, Senior Reference Administrators, the IPL Administrative team and seasoned reference volunteers.

Guidelines on requesting and providing feedback will be available in our "Backroom for Students and Volunteers" at: <http://training.ipl.org/backroom>

For questions about this initiative, or to provide comments and suggestions, please contact the IPL Administrative Team: [ipl@drexel.edu](mailto:ipl@drexel.edu).

### COLLECTIONS

The following collections were developed by students in Florida State University's College of Information's LIS5916 Virtual Reference Environments, instructed by Dr. Lorri Mon in Fall 2008. These collections first appeared on the IPL in December 2008.

*Goldstein Children's Collection:* <http://www.ipl.org/div/gsteincpp/>

A podcast library of audio and visual children's stories, read aloud with colorful artworks from the books, from the Florida State University (FSU) College of Information Goldstein Library's amazing collection of children's books, many of which are out of copyright.

*Goldstein Lawson Collection:* <http://www.ipl.org/div/gsteinlaw/>

Collection of art work in the Florida State University (FSU) College of Information Goldstein Library. Art work is by artist Robert Lawson who won Caldecott and Newberry Medals for writing and illustration.

### STUDENT INTERNS

Interns are students enrolled in IPL consortium member LIS programs selected for an IPL internship through an application process.

View the accomplishments of student interns from Florida State University, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Washington, who assisted with digital reference and collections during Summer 2009: <http://ipl.org/div/about/interns/>

## THE “IPL 15 THINGS” TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

In honor of the IPL’s upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 17, 2010, the IPL will be launching the IPL 15 Things – introducing 15 of our favorite technologies: blogs, microblogging, wikis, social networking, virtual worlds, podcasts, videos, forums and web boards, RSS, document sharing, social tagging, reading, awareness tools, text messaging, and images/photos. For each of these technologies, we will provide background information, best practices, related readings, examples of how the IPL is using the technology, and most importantly, hands-on exercises.



The first of the IPL 15 Things will be released on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Every few weeks, additional “things” will be released with the final release scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>.

To participate and/or share this experience with students, please visit <http://www.ipl.org/15Things>

## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

As of August 24, Adam Feldman resigned from the IPL. Christine Gumina, a recent graduate of the iSchool at Drexel University and an IPL volunteer since June 2008, is the IPL Reference Coordinator during the interim.

We are currently searching for a Manager, Reference Service. A job announcement and application instructions are available at <https://www.drexeljobs.com>. Search for Requisition #3197.

Please contact Dr. Eileen Abels for additional information at [eabels@drexel.edu](mailto:eabels@drexel.edu).