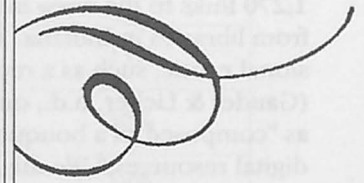# INSPIRE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

by Howard Trace

In January of 2004, INSPIRE, the Indiana Virtual Library, celebrated six years of providing Hoosiers with library catalogs, web links, and thousands of full text magazines, newspapers, reference books, pamphlets, and encyclopedias (see Appendix 2). This article updates a previous article, "The Once and Future INSPIRE" by Mike Williams. Williams' article describes INSPIRE development from initial meeting in 1996 through early 2000. Since 2000, INSPIRE has continued to grow and evolve to provide Hoosiers with an even wider range of information products.

A significant event occurred for INSPIRE in 2000 when INSPIRE ceased to be a project of INCOLSA and became a permanent program of INCOLSA. This change demonstrated the commitment of Indiana libraries to INSPIRE and the spirit of cooperation that INSPIRE had been fostering for four years.

In 2001 INSPIRE issued its third Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) to determine if the databases being offered were the best value both in price and content. After an exhaustive process that reviewed the database offerings of over a dozen vendors, the offerings of EBSCO and Gale were again selected as the best mix for the information needs of the residents of Indiana. 2001 also saw the initiation of the INSPIRE Database Fund. This fund emerged from a suggestion that INCOLSA develop a fund from within the library community to purchase databases in addition to those purchased with state monies through the BAA process. Over 100 libraries graciously offered to participate in the database fund, and contributed over $60,000. This allowed INCOLSA to purchase the Poem Finder, Story Finder, and Essay Finder databases from Roth Publishing in early 2002. These new databases were made available on INSPIRE to all residents of Indiana as if they had been acquired with state money. Indiana libraries showed the depth of their generosity through the database fund.

Unexpectedly, as INSPIRE was rolling out three new databases the state rolled up the database funds for INSPIRE. The Build Indiana fund, which included INSPIRE database funds, was re-appropriated by the governor in March of 2002 to reduce the state budget deficit. In order to fund the INSPIRE databases during 2003 alternative means of funding needed to be found. This was accomplished, and the funding crisis averted, through a combination of sources, including: INCOLSA, LSTA, and State Library funds, as well as INCOLSA member support. Funding through 2005 was also secured with the allocation of $1.25 million per year by the Indiana General Assembly for INSPIRE databases in the 2004-2005 state budget. This allocation was only possible through the support of hundreds of libraries across Indiana who contacted their legislators to make them aware of the value of INSPIRE to all the residents of Indiana.

Meanwhile, 2002 saw a number of database and interface changes for INSPIRE. The INSPIRE interface was streamlined by removing many of the buttons and images to allow for simpler navigation. In order to assist users in choosing the appropriate database(s) a brief synopsis of each of the database was added to the INSPIRE interface. EBSCO and Gale also updated their interfaces with the release of Biography Resource Center 2.0 from Gale and EBSCOhost 6 from EBSCO. On the database side, the Dun and Bradstreet Company Directory was replaced by Datamonitor Company Profiles while other databases, like TOPICsearch and Regional Business News, were expanded.

To assist libraries with the INSPIRE database and interface changes INCOLSA began offering INSPIRE workshops. The offerings began with a single half-day overview, but the schedule has since been expanded to include workshops on both interfaces and subject content with new topics always being considered for inclusion. In addition to the workshops, a one hour demonstration of INSPIRE is available for groups that simply need an introduction to the Indiana Virtual Library.

The most important INSPIRE development of 2002 was the unveiling of INSPIRE password accounts in September. INSPIRE passwords replaced digital certificates as the method of authentication and access to the

INSPIRE databases for those users that cannot be authenticated using IP addresses. Passwords have proved much more popular with users than digital certificates. 24,000 digital certificates were downloaded during the four years they were used, while over 30,000 passwords were requested in their first 18 months (See Appendix 1).

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Due to the funding crisis, the 2003 BAA was not issued. Instead, the contracts with the existing INSPIRE vendors were renewed resulting in significant savings and no interruption in access. New information continued to be added with medical and business databases being added by EBSCO, and the expansion of the Essay Finder database from Roth to include speeches and plays.

One of the most common questions encountered by the INSPIRE help desk staff is regarding the availability of genealogical material through INSPIRE. Although there is little genealogical material within the INSPIRE databases, a new feature of INSPIRE, Hoosier Heritage (http://www.hoosierheritage.net/), was added with links to digitized genealogical and local history collections from libraries across Indiana. Watch for Hoosier Heritage to be expanded with more capabilities and more sites.

The future for INSPIRE is full of possibility. Current trends in digitization, portals, OPACs, reference, and ILL offer plenty of opportunities for additional services to be added to the Indiana Virtual Library.

Appendix 1: INSPIRE Database Use Statistics

	Logins	Searches	Full Text Articles
1998(est)	400,000	3,124,383	1,572,000
1999(est)	800,000	6,248,768	3,602,685
2000	1,255,932	9,523,093	4,297,156
2001	1,411,229	7,750,225	4,686,123
2002	2,035,586	7,114,520	5,140,652
2003	2,492,788	9,930,421	6,806,872
Totals	8,395,535	43,691,410	26,105,488

Appendix 2: INSPIRE Resources

Currently INSPIRE consists of 27 databases covering topics such as education, business, health, biographical information and Spanish language resources along with a variety of web links from across Indiana and around the world. The resources offered are:

- **Academic Search Elite** – Covering the general sciences, the humanities and the social sciences with over 2,000 journals available in full text with some coverage as far back as 1985.

- **Biography Resource Center** – Nearly 415,000 full text biographies on over 320,000 people from more than 790 volumes of over 130 Gale Group sources along with full text articles from more than 250 magazines.

- **Business Source Premier** – Covering topics such as accounting, management, economics and international business, with over 3,500 full text journals.

- **Clinical Pharmacology** – Providing drug information in both lay and professional language, including all U.S. prescription drugs, hard-to-find herbal and nutritional supplements, over-the-counter products and new and investigational drugs.

- **Corporate ResourceNet** – Designed to meet the diverse information needs of today's companies, this database contains full text articles from more than 1,300 magazines and journals.

- **Datamonitor Company Profiles** – Thousands of in-depth full text reports on companies from around the world.

- **EBSCO Animals** – Providing in-depth information with full text and images on a wide variety of animals and animal related topics.

- **ERIC** – Indexing and abstracts for over 900 education related journals.

- **Funk & Wagnall's New World Encyclopedia** – Providing the full text to over 25,000 records.

- **Health Business FullTEXT** – Nearly 130 well-known administrative journals critical for hospital administrators and managers

- **Health Source Consumer** – Offering full text for 146 books, 1,065 pamphlets and nearly 300 periodicals covering consumer health information topics including nutrition, sports medicine, exercise, self-care and drugs.

- **Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition** – Provides nearly 600 scholarly full text journals focusing on many medical disciplines and features abstracts and indexing for nearly 850 journals.

- **Hoosier Heritage** – A collection of links to the digital collections at Indiana libraries.

- **¡Informe!** –With over 200,000 full-text articles from the most popular Spanish-language and bilingual periodicals, it provides quality Hispanic reference material — not simply Spanish translations of English-language materials. Searchable with either a Spanish or English interface.

- **Knight Ridder Collection** – A 90-day archive, updated daily, of approximately 100 newspapers from the Knight Ridder wire service.

- **Links** – INSPIRE's own collection of websites providing access to resources from across Indiana and around the world.

- **Lit Finder** – Thousands of full text poems, short stories, essays, speeches and plays.

- **MAS Ultra** – School Edition – Designed specifically for high school libraries, this database provides full text for nearly 550 periodicals, over 500 pamphlets, 281 reference books, and thousands of biographies, and primary source documents.

- **MasterFILE Premier** – Full text from over 1,900 general reference, business, consumer, health, science and multi-cultural periodicals with nearly 400 full text reference books, 84,074 biographies, and 86,132 primary source documents.

- **MEDLINE** – Created by the National Library of Medicine to provide authoritative medical information on medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, and pre-clinical sciences, *MEDLINE* allows users to search abstracts from over 4,600 current biomedical journals

- **Middle Search Plus** – Offering nearly 150 full text magazines geared toward Middle School research covering general reference, health and science topics along with thousands of biographies, and primary source documents.

- **Military & Government Collection** – With full text for more than 300 journals and periodicals this database offers current news pertaining to all branches of the military and government.

- **Newspaper Source** – Daily updating from over 200 major U.S. and international newspapers including full text from *The Chicago Tribune, The Christian Science Monitor, The New York Daily News,* and *USA Today.*

- **Primary Search** – Providing full text from over 60 magazines for elementary school research as well as 40 reference books and over 100 pamphlets.

- **Professional Development Collection** – Featuring full text for nearly 600 journals targeted toward librarians and educators.

- **Regional Business News** – Comprehensive full text coverage for 75 business journals, newspapers and newswires from all metropolitan and rural areas within the United States.

- **TOPICsearch** – Searching by topic, keyword or current event provides access to 78,000 documents selected from 3,000 sources on social, political, economic and scientific issues of interest in today's classrooms.

- **What Tree Is It?** – Answering the perennial question using leaves and fruit to identify over 60 common trees.

REFERENCES

Williams, M.A. (2000). The once and future INSPIRE. *Indiana Libraries,* 18, 29-32.

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