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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Elmhurst Librarian Selected for State Leadership Initiative**

ELMHURST, IL — **Catherine E. Ingram**, head of Adult Services at Elmhurst Public Library, is one of only 30 Illinois librarians selected to participate in Synergy: The Illinois Library Leadership Initiative, a unique yearlong program designed to develop future leaders in the library profession and in the Illinois community.

The group of 30 librarians will attend three sessions and work in a unique environment with other developing leaders, experienced Illinois library leaders and nationally recognized speakers. The goal of the program is for each individual to develop leadership skills that can be applied in local, state and global arenas. The Illinois State Library and the Illinois Library Association sponsor the seminars.

"I am thrilled that Catherine has been selected to participate in this unique endeavor," said Illinois State Library Director **Anne Craig**. "Synergy participants will be exposed to new strategies and new ways of thinking about the future of the library profession. I am confident that Catherine and our other Synergy participants will help us chart a course for the future that encourages citizens to enter the library profession and become library leaders, while maintaining our libraries as cornerstones of our communities."

According to the CNN report, *Hard economic times a boon for libraries*, (Yates Feb. 28, 2009) "In the past year, libraries across the country have seen dramatic increases in the use of their services, which in addition to free Internet access can include resume workshops and...seminars." In the current economic climate, it's more important than ever to encourage the continuing of education for librarians. "We must be proactive and seek out new library leaders and keep our libraries growing and vibrant in the coming years." said Craig

The Elmhurst Public Library strives to enrich life in Elmhurst by providing opportunities to explore, learn and grow. EPL offers the support and resources for Elmhurst residents to develop a love of reading; access information for work and learning; pursue interests that will enrich their lives; understand changes in technology, society and culture; and gather and interact with each other. Elmhurst Public Library is a place for discovery at the heart of the community.

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