

# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### **Free Internet Safety Bookmarks Available in Public Libraries**

Public libraries in Lincoln Trail Libraries System and throughout the state will be giving away bookmarks with tips on Internet safety to help youth and parents make safe and informed decisions online. The bookmarks have been printed as a series, each aimed at a specific audience, including kids, teens, and parents. They are:

Dealing with Cyberbullies: Tips for Kids  
Safe Blogging: Tips for Teens  
Social Networking: Tips for Parents

MySpace and the Illinois Library Association (ILA) collaborated to provide these bookmarks. "Through this partnership, our goal is to educate both parents and teens and empower them to talk to one another about online safety," said Hemanshu Nigam, chief security officer for MySpace. "Education is the key to online safety and these bookmarks are an effective tool to teach smart online practices that teens and parents can use anywhere on the Net, not just MySpace."

Robert P. Doyle, Executive Director of ILA, said, "One of the primary concerns of the Illinois library community is the safety of children. These bookmarks are just one example of how the Illinois library community is partnering with MySpace, parents, and police to help children learn how to use the Internet, and to become savvy users of information. We know there are legitimate concerns about the Internet. We know, however, that the best way to protect children is to teach them to guard their privacy and make wise choices. Education will promote safe use of the Internet, not laws blocking access."

The Internet safety bookmarks are also available to download and print locally at the ILA Web site ([www.ila.org/netsafe](http://www.ila.org/netsafe)).

MySpace, a Fox Interactive Media company, is the premier lifestyle portal for connecting with friends, discovering popular culture, and making a positive impact on the world. ILA provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services in Illinois. Its 2,900 members are primarily librarians and library staff, but also trustees, publishers, and other supporters.

Founded in 1966, Lincoln Trail Libraries System has headquarters in Champaign and is one of 9 multitype library systems in the State of Illinois. The System serves 7 academic, 53 public, 45 school, and 17 special libraries in Champaign, Clark, Coles, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, and Vermilion counties. Lincoln Trail's mission is to connect the people of East Central Illinois to information through cooperation.

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