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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

GET TO KNOW BOOTH LIBRARY

CHARLESTON, IL--Allen Lanham, Acting Dean of Library Services at Eastern Illinois University, has invited area residents to become familiar with Booth Library on the Eastern campus during National Library Week April 5-11.

Lanham said residents of Coles County and surrounding areas may not be aware that Booth Library houses the Illinois Regional Archives Depository for the east central Illinois region.

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GET TO KNOW BOOTH LIBRARY

Managed by the Illinois State Archives as a resource for genealogists and local historians, the IRAD contains records from 16 counties in this part of the state: Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Jasper, Lawrence, Moultrie, Richland, Shelby, Wabash and Wayne.

Records filed in the IRAD include birth, death and marriage records; land records; circuit court dockets and case files; probate court records; jail records; naturalization records; and municipal and township records.

"For people having roots in the east central Illinois region, the IRAD offers a wealth of potentially valuable information," Lanham said.

Booth Library is also a select depository of U.S. federal documents.

Lanham emphasized that area residents are eligible to enjoy the benefits of Booth Library, including borrowing privileges from its collection.

Community members can check out materials, but must present a courtesy card, which can be obtained from the library's circulation desk on the main level. Proper identification is required. Individuals can also work through their local public library to request materials from Booth Library.

The Booth Library Reference Services staff is available to give tours or special presentations to anyone who is interested in doing research at the library, including local schools, community colleges and organizations.

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Information covered typically includes how to use a computerized library catalog and other new technology to locate information from books, magazines, professional journals and newspaper articles in Booth Library or to search the holdings of other libraries throughout the state of Illinois.

For more information about what Booth Library has to offer, contact Reference Services at 581-6072. For library hours, call the "Library Hours Hotline" at 581-6423.