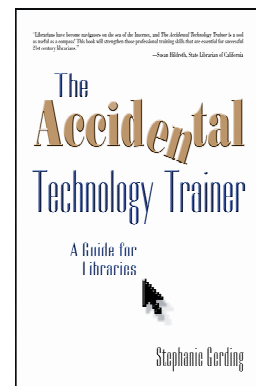# NEWS RELEASE

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The Accidental Technology Trainer

New Book Demystifies Technology Training for Librarians

November 11, 2007, Medford, New Jersey—Information Today, Inc. (ITI) has announced publication of a new book, *The Accidental Technology Trainer: A Guide for Libraries* by Stephanie Gerding.

In the book, Gerding addresses a range of issues for library staff who find themselves newly responsible for technology training—be it in computer labs, classrooms, or one-on-one with library users. With a goal of helping trainers become more effective and efficient, she covers key training principles, skills, methods, tools, and techniques and tackles such topics as learning styles, workshop planning and design, and dealing with unexpected or difficult situations. In addition to drawing on her own experience, Gerding includes training tips and insights from 16 savvy library tech trainers.

"Librarians have become navigators on the sea of the Internet, and *The Accidental Technology Trainer* is a tool as useful as a compass," according to Susan Hildreth, State Librarian of California. Hildreth said the book "will strengthen those professional training skills that are essential for successful 21st-century librarians."

"Stephanie Gerding's clear, well-organized, and supremely practical advice would have saved me time, trepidation, and a lot of embarrassing trial and error," says library technology consultant Joan Frye Williams in the foreword. "I wish I'd had this book when I was just getting started as a trainer."

The Accidental Technology Trainer includes the following chapters:

1. Being an Accidental Technology Trainer
2. Discovering Training Principles
3. Identifying Library Technology Training Skills
4. Knowing Your Library Learners
5. Learning Interactively
6. Creating and Maintaining Interest
7. Planning Technology Training
8. Organizing and Designing the Workshop
9. Dealing With Difficult Library Training Situations
10. Examining Best Practices in Library Technology Training
11. Keeping Current and Sharing Resources

Additional features include the foreword by Williams, an introduction by the author, training and workshop templates and handouts, a listing of resources mentioned in the book, and an index. To help readers keep current, a companion Web page—periodically updated by the author—provides links to recommended Web sites, plus new resources and articles of interest.

Stephanie Gerding is an independent consultant and author specializing in training, technology, and fundraising for libraries. She began her library career as an accidental technology trainer in 1996, training the staff of an academic library on its first email system. She trained thousands of librarians through her work for the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, and has managed statewide library training programs at New Mexico and Arizona State libraries. She has written for *Public Libraries* and *Computers in Libraries* magazines and served as newsletter editor for various library associations. She is the author of *Grants for Libraries* (2006) and co-author of the Library Grants Blog.

The Accidental Technology Trainer: A Guide for Libraries (272 pp/softbound/$29.50/ ISBN 978-1-57387-269-0) is published by Information Today, Inc. (ITI). It is available in bookstores and direct from the publisher by calling (800) 300-9868 [outside the U.S. call (609) 654-6266]; faxing (609) 654-4309; emailing custserv@infotoday.com; or visiting the ITI Web site at www.infotoday.com.

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