

Executive Director's Report

For March 2005

Jan Ison

**Executive Director
Lincoln Trail Libraries System
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E-Book Conference

On March 7 and 8, Pat Boze, Joe Sciacca, and I attended an E-Books in Illinois Academic Libraries Conference, sponsored by the Illinois Cooperative Collection Management Program, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and McKendree College. It was held in Champaign. The conference provided a great overview of e-book issues and some inside looks at the options for LTLS member libraries.

OCLC Joint Membership Task Force

The OCLC Joint Membership Task Force met two times via conference call to discuss potential changes to the method for allocating representative numbers to the OCLC Member's Council. The need for this re-evaluation is due to the change in the product offerings of OCLC and the desire to be sure to make Member's Council representative of all parts of the cooperative. The task force will be seeking input on their work from Member's Council at the May meeting.

Marshall Public Library Board Presentation

On Saturday, March 19, the Marshall Public Library Board and the Marshall Area Public Library Board came together for a planning meeting. This is an annual event and provides a framework for reviewing the past year and planning for the future. I was asked to discuss two issues: advocacy and values. This was a good opportunity to work with board members and improve communications.

Board Committee Meetings

During March, three Board committee meetings were held—Budget/Finance, Planning/Policy, and Membership. The Budget/Finance meeting was held via conference call to discuss budget amendments that were approved at the March Board meeting. The Planning/Policy Committee reviewed the ILL Policy and a major revision to the Reciprocal Access Policy. Finally, the Membership Committee discussed a letter from the Rantoul Township High School District and provided guidance to the staff on a letter of response.

Speaker's 2005 Bipartisan Summit on State Finances and Budget

On March 5, I attended the Summit on the State Finances and Budget. The summit was an opportunity to provide information to the citizens about the state of the state finances and for constituents to provide information. I gave a brief presentation about the needs of library funding and asked that our current level of funding be preserved at this time, as we have already taken several cuts.

New Business Manager

On March 7, Adrian Van Buskirk joined the LTLS staff as the Business Manager. Adrian has a background in accounting within the medical industry. She has been the Accounting Manager for two health insurers and has been in the Decision Support Department of a third. She also has experience as a tax preparer. We are happy to welcome Adrian to LTLS.