

Consultants' Report For March 2006

Lincoln Trail Libraries System
April 17, 2006

System PR Meeting

On March 10, Lincoln Trail Libraries System hosted a meeting of PR representatives from each of the ten Library Systems. Patrick McGuckin, Illinois State Library, and Lara Clark, American Library Association, also attended. The meetings will continue once a quarter with the next one taking place at North Suburban in June.

Illinois Library Day

LTLS had around 50 participants, up from 25 last year. Over 600 people participated statewide. Staff coordinated rides and legislative visits. Overall, the comments from participants were positive. Changes in format, such as the march to the Capitol, rally, and box lunches at the State Library, were well received.

PolyTalk Interpreters Network Grant

Work continued on publicity and contacts with volunteer interpreters. Fifty plus libraries were invited to join the PolyTalk pilot. Rantoul Public Library has registered for the pilot. Rantoul Director Holly Thompson reported that her staff encounters at least one patron per week who they cannot help because of a language barrier. Libraries that have registered for the pilot can call LTLS and be connected with an available interpreter.

Diversity Grant

The Poverty Simulator workshop was held at The Urbana Free Library. Amani Ayad moderated an "I Am An American Program" put on by Marshall Public Library. Staff continued to compile names of presenters and programs on diversity that may be helpful to libraries. A draft manual on how to hold an "I Am An American" program was prepared.

Weed and Feed Cataloging

Nine hundred and fifty letters were sent announcing the Weed and Feed Cataloging Support position to libraries (primarily public and school district) throughout the state that received a Weed and Feed (or, Back to Books) grant for the fiscal years 2004-2006. So far there have been 21 contacts from libraries outside of Lincoln Trail.

GSLIS

Donna Schaal demonstrated "MyMediaMall" to the Adult Popular Literature class at GSLIS. She also attended the GSLIS research showcase covering topics from Information Retrieval and Digital Libraries to Social Informatics.

AskAway Virtual Reference

Pat Boze and Donna Schaal attended a training session at the Illinois State Library for the new AskAway virtual reference project. This project will go live in Illinois and Wisconsin on April 24, providing 24x7 chat and email reference for residents of both states. LTLS is coordinating registrations from member libraries that are joining this project. At the end of March, 13 LTLS members had joined the AskAway project.

Instant Messaging

Staff registered for AOL Instant Messenger accounts and a listing is posted on the LTLS web site. A small but growing number of LTLS member library staff are using IM as an alternate means of communicating with system staff.

Library Workers Day Recognition

A web-based form was developed to encourage the public to recognize excellent library service in honor of Library Workers Day. The messages posted to the LTLS recognition form are available at <http://www.lincolntrail.info/cgi-bin/libworkerday/recognize.cgi>.

Library Visits

A. Herr Smith & E.E. Smith Loda Township Library, Arcola CUSD #306, Arcola Public Library District, Bement CUSD #5, Bement Public Library District, Champaign Public Library, Charleston Carnegie Public Library, Chrisman Public Library, Giertz Education Center at Krannert Art Museum, Gilman District Library, Iroquois West CUSD #10, Jamaica CUSD #12, Marshall Public Library, Ogden Rose Public Library, Onarga Community Public Library District, Paris Union School District #95, Rantoul Public Library, St. Joseph Township Swearingen Memorial Library, Tuscola School District #301, University of Illinois Women and Gender Studies Library