

Executive Director's Report

For March 2006

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Executive Director
Lincoln Trail Libraries System
April 17, 2006

Illinois Library Day

Over 600 librarians attended Illinois Library Day in Springfield on March 1, 2006. LTLS had approximately 50 participants. Our legislators were very receptive to our visits and willing to spend a considerable amount of time with us. Festivities included a march from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum to a rally at the State Capitol building. Speakers at the rally included Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White, Illinois State Library Director Anne Craig, Lincoln Library Director Richard Norton Smith, ILA President Dianne Harmon, ALA Executive Director Keith Fiels, and others.

Read Across America

For the past several years the local Rotary Clubs have participated in Read Across America, which is sponsored nationally by the NEA. As a member of the CU SunRise Rotary Club, I was a reader for the local event on Saturday, March 4th. The event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate reading, and the organizers work hard to be sure that children learn about the love of reading. Both Champaign and Urbana public libraries also participated in this community event.

Instant Messaging

LTLS has enabled Instant Messaging as another method of communicating with the staff. Several staff members and I participated in a workshop about IM for libraries and subsequently accounts were set up for all consultants and managers and staff who regularly communicate with members. This was publicized through an announcement at the LINC Directors Group meeting, an email to all libraries, and *Quick Connections*. Several librarians have started using IM for communication with us.

ILSDO

The regular bi-monthly meeting of ISLDO was held at the DuPage Library System, March 8 and 9. Topics included a review of Illinois Library Day and how to capitalize on the success to get even more participants next year. Two other key topics were the LSTA grant available to library systems and our continuing work on diversity as a priority for systems.

ISL Strategic Planning

On March 10 staff of ISL and library representatives for Illinois were invited by Anne Craig to participate in an input session on the development of the new ISL Strategic Plan. This is the first overall planning process that ISL has undertaken in the 20 plus years that I have been in Illinois. Director Craig is to be commended for making this a priority in the first months of her tenure.

LINC Directors Group

The semi-annual LINC Directors Group meeting was held on March 15th. The major topics were FY 2007 Budget and changes in policy. The policy that was on the agenda, at the request of several libraries, was the policy regarding local holds. Currently the LINC policy does not recognize that libraries can reserve materials that only patrons with library cards from the issuing library can place a hold on. Some libraries want that policy to change, and a discussion was held on the merits of changing the policy.

ILLINET OCLC Pricing

On March 29 and 30 I met with ISL staff and Mary Anne Stewart from PALS to consider options for shared OCLC pricing for public and school libraries beginning in FY 2008. This was a working meeting with options tested and merits discussed. The goal was to prepare a draft for the ISL Director by the end of the meeting. Progress was made but the goal was not achieved. Subsequent meetings were scheduled in April and May.