

Consultants' Report For November 2005

*Lincoln Trail Libraries System
December 19, 2005*

IOUG Board Retreat

The IOUG (Illinois OCLC Users Group) Board met in Springfield to discuss the direction of the board and its future plans. IOUG is charged with the training of OCLC products throughout the State of Illinois. The meeting focused on how training is delivered to the different areas and the IOUG mission to provide that training. A new and improved website will also be investigated in the near future.

Cataloging Maintenance Center

Staff interviewed candidates for the new "Weed and Feed/Back to Books" Consultant and hired Kit Moore who will start on December 6. Vanessa Whippo and Maria Nowak developed a vendor survey that was emailed to all LINC building directors to gather information to use as a guide as PromptCat participation is expanded.

CODI Conference

Jan Ison, Pat Boze, and Donna Schaal attended the CODI (Customers of Dynix, Inc.) Conference in Minneapolis November 6-9. A separate "Directors Forum" was held on Sunday. Patrick Sommers, CEO of SirsiDynix, and Stephen Abrahms, Vice-President for Innovation at SirsiDynix, were the primary speakers for this special forum. The regular 3-day conference featured a variety of sessions related to Horizon 8.0, WebReporter, the new PAC (4.1), and other products offered by the company. A write-up of this event is available at <http://www.ltls.org/lincupdate/lincupdate12062005.html>.

Continuing Education Update

The dates for the Basic Library Spanish course were set. First offered as part of the LTLS diversity grant, the course is now being offered as part of the regular LTLS education and training program. The course provides specific vocabulary to enable participants to interact with Spanish-speaking patrons. Five three-hour sessions will be held on April 4, 11, 18, 25, and May 5. Speakers have been contacted for the LTLS' 40th anniversary event, and the tentative date is set for Monday, March 6, 2006.

School Library Per Capita Grant

Forty-two of the 43 eligible public school libraries in LTLS submitted their School Library Per Capita Grant applications to the Illinois State Library by the November 18 deadline. Signature pages are due on December 16, 2005.

Strategic Planning

The Strategic Planning Committee met for their fourth meeting. A SWOT analysis was conducted. This technique is used to help assess an agency's external threats and opportunities and its internal strengths and weaknesses. The next step is to compare internal and external factors that were identified in this process. The intersections of these factors will help the committee develop strategies for the strategic plan.

Library Advocacy Card Campaign

The advocacy card campaign for 2005 has been completed. During the campaign, 44 librarians in the LTLS area visited or wrote a letter to their legislator(s) and shared a total of 72 cards with 8 legislators. Participating were 4 special librarians, 6 academic librarians, 7 school librarians, 25 public librarians, and 2 public library board members.

Virtual Reference Update

My Librarian will continue as part of a statewide initiative and will consist of a partnership with the Wisconsin virtual reference project. This will help keep costs down and provide other benefits. My Librarian will be part of OCLC's 24/7 initiative, which means that participating libraries will have access to contracted service for chat when they are not available, including night hours.

Library Visits

Champaign Public Library, Philo Public Library District