

Executive Director's Report For November 2005

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Executive Director
Lincoln Trail Libraries System
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New Staff Members	November was a great month as LTLS was able to interview and hire several new staff members for our grant projects. Amani Ayad was hired as a consultant for the Diversity Grant. Amani has a Master's Degree in Education, Vocational, and Technical Education from the University of Illinois. Randi Weiss is the Consultant for the PolyTalk, Library Interpreters Network. Randi has degrees from UIUC and GSLIS and is a life-long resident of the Mansfield area, even working at the library when she was in high school. Kit Moore was hired as the new Cataloging Consultant. He also has degrees from UIUC and GSLIS.
IOUG	Donna Schaal and I attended the Board Retreat of the Illinois OCLC Users Group. Following reports from the Chair, Treasurer, Illinois State Library, and ILLINET/OCLC Manager, other agenda items were covered including staff support for PromptCat and FirstSearch, the Illinois/Wisconsin Question Point Program, and IOUG's mission and future directions. Topics covered on the second day were nomination and election procedures, Illinois representatives to the OCLC Members Council, workshops, and OCLC Members Council update.
ILSDO at RPLS	The Illinois Library System Directors Organization met at Rolling Prairie Library System. Advocacy initiatives were discussed including Illinois Library Day 2006, Advocacy Cards 2006, tax caps, and school budget cuts. A draft of possible revisions to the System Area and Per Capita Grant Application process was passed out. ISL staff gave updates on various activities.
Partnership in Nation of Learners Videoconference	Amy Weber and I attended a videoconference held at WILL and hosted by IMLS and the Center for Public Broadcasting. One outcome was a listserv that is to be used by people representing organizations that participated and are located in the WILL coverage area. The list will foster discussions about community concerns and opportunities; sharing of information about resources, projects, and events; and discussions about possible collaborations.
FISH! at UIUC	Amy Weber and I presented the "FISH! Philosophy of Customer Service" program to staff at the UIUC Library. This was the third time that we have conducted the workshop at the university. It is a terrific experience for Amy and I to meet and work with staff of the library on this program.
Danville Public Library Strategic Planning	Joe Sciacca and I attended the Danville Public Library Board meeting to listen to Mike Boedicker's presentation on the Danville planning process and to answer any questions that the board might have. LTLS staff will facilitate the work with members of the community planning committee. We will have three meetings with the group.
CODI	Pat Boze and I attended the CODI Directors Conference on Sunday, November 6. It was a daylong program about issues facing libraries and information about directions for SirsiDynix. I had the opportunity to meet with our customer service liaisons at Dynix and to have dinner with Pat Sommers, CEO, and other members of the management team.
ILSDO Strategic Planning	System Directors met in November to discuss some strategic initiatives that emerged from the statewide survey that was conducted. As a result of the meeting, all systems agreed to take a leadership role in diversity. This was the main issue about which libraries indicated they would be making changes. Systems need to be prepared to assist.
Mid-Illinois Talking Book Center Meeting	Lori Bell and Sharon Ruda traveled to LTLS to discuss the talking book service and how systems that do not host the service can be more involved in the service. Lori has done some great demos of new services and I was concerned that the LTLS libraries were not as aware as they might be. It was a good meeting and we agreed that this needs to be an ongoing process.
Budget/Finance Committee	The Budget/Finance Committee met for presentation of the FY2005 audit by Karl Drake of Bray, Drake, Liles, and Richardson, LLP. Discussion followed and there were no proposed changes to the audit. Budget changes for FY2006 were proposed. The committee moved to accept the audit as presented and to recommend to the full board that the fall budget changes be accepted.