

Executive Director's Report

For June 2005

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Executive Director
Lincoln Trail Libraries System
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- ALA Conference** The American Library Association met in Chicago June 24 - 29. I finished my four-year term on the Budget Analysis and Review Committee. It was a great experience, but it is time to move on to other things. The conference was very good. More than 27,000 members, visitors, and exhibitors registered for the conference. Senator Obama gave the keynote address and was inspirational in his defense of civil rights and, at the same time, concerned about being "tough" on terrorism. Henry Winkler was the closing speaker and was also inspirational. He discussed his life and his commitment to children and reading.
- FY 2006 LSTA Grant Proposals** LTLS staff prepared and submitted the following grant proposals:
-Digital Imaging category - Illinois Systems: a 40-year Retrospective
-Creative Use of Libraries category - The Illinois Library Interpreters Network (ILIN): Surmounting the Language Barrier in Illinois Libraries
-Libraries Leading the Way category - Diversity and Cultural Competency in Rural Libraries: A Multi-System Initiative
-Digital Imaging category - Illinois Aviation: Preservation of Early Illinois History (submitted on behalf of Rantoul Public Library)
- Area & Per Capita Grant Application** LTLS submitted the annual application for system area and per capita funding to the Illinois State Library. This will be followed by an "in-person" presentation on July 14 at the State Library.
- Costa Rican Visitors** On June 21, LTLS staff welcomed five visitors from Costa Rica. They were here to learn more about library cooperation. Allen Lanham was the host for the visitors and provided a great opportunity for the librarians to learn about what we "take for granted" in Illinois. The following is a quote from one of the librarians. "We've learned that inter-library cooperation is indispensable for the growth of libraries," Segura said about how the trip has benefited her, her fellow librarians and Costa Rica. "Libraries that can work cooperatively are critical for the growth of a nation."
- RPLS Retirements** On June 21, Pat Boze, Joe Sciacca, and I attended a retirement reception for Bob Plotzke and Paul Johnson of the Rolling Prairie Library System. It was a terrific event and we not only visited with the retirees, but also visited with many other attendees.
- Digital Audio Content** Champaign Public Library provided an opportunity for LTLS LINC members to gain access to Digital Audio Content for FY 2006—FY 2008 through funding a first year of Electronic Books, Audio Books, and other electronic content from "Overdrive." This opportunity was very timely as LTLS and the LINC libraries had been investigating this product. With the first year funding from Champaign, LTLS will support the second two years through the Equity Fund. The "new" service is being enhanced by collaborating with North Suburban Library System. Our patrons in East Central Illinois will have access to \$45,000 worth of content the first year and \$50,000 worth of content for each of the next 2 years for a total of \$145,000 worth of content. It is an exciting project, and with Champaign's help we will get this "off the ground" much faster than expected.
- Diversity Grant** LTLS requested and received a bridge grant for the Diversity Grant to fund it for one month with the hope that we will receive a second year of funding from ISL through LSTA in expanding to RPLS, LCLS, and SHLS. Many thanks are due to the State Library for understanding our need and desire to keep this project moving ahead and funding the grant. We are all very excited.