

Consultants' Report For June 2006

Lincoln Trail Libraries System
July 17, 2006

PolyTalk

The PolyTalk database and Web site were launched. The database enables registration by staff of Illinois libraries and by volunteer interpreters. Library staff can search the database to locate volunteers as needed. Staff prepared and presented a display on PolyTalk for the Diversity Fair held at the ALA Conference in New Orleans, and the display won third prize. LTLS donated the \$50 prize to the New Orleans Public Library for their rebuilding effort.

ALA Annual Conference and Volunteer Service

Pat Boze, Amanda McKay, Joe Sciacca, and Randi Weiss joined over 900 librarians who volunteered one day of service as part of "Libraries Build Communities," a massive volunteer effort to assist the New Orleans Public Library rebuild following the 2005 hurricane disaster. Volunteers sorted through approximately 100,000 donated books at one library and worked on a landscaping project at another library. Consultants attended numerous sessions at the Conference and visited the library vendor exhibits and poster sessions as well. (See special report.) Pat Boze and Jan Ison met with SirsiDynix representatives at the Conference and discussed issues of concern to LTLS and the LINC libraries.

LTLS Web Site

Joe Sciacca researched various technical issues for implementation on LTLS web sites, including encryption, generating RSS feeds, stand-alone LINC search box from any web page, threaded discussion boards, integrating blog content, and other community-building features.

New LNet Email Interface

A new WebMail interface for LNet email users was launched. WebMail provides web-based access to LTLS email. LTLS supports over 400 email accounts for member library staff, general delivery, and LINC notices. Prior to launching the new service, personal account holders were surveyed regarding their desire to continue use of the LTLS account based on an ongoing trend for libraries to implement local mail servers or to switch to alternate email account hosts. The new LNet WebMail is available at <http://webmail.lincolntrail.info>.

Open Meetings Act - Upcoming Changes

Joe Sciacca researched upcoming changes to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The changes are in SB585, passed by the General Assembly and awaiting the Governor's signature. The changes require that a quorum for any meeting must be physically present at the meeting location. The body may vote to allow members to attend meetings via remote telephone or video connection; however, those members may not count toward a quorum. Status and history of SB585 is located on CapWiz at <http://capwiz.com/ila/issues/bills/?bill=8762216>.

Statewide OPAC Toolkit Project

Staff attended a statewide meeting to explore options for designing a single OPAC interface for Illinois Libraries. This session resulted in identification of desired features for such a project. This concept was subsequently developed by a team of LTLS staff into a proposal for LSTA funding.

CE Events

On June 8, 2006, LTLS hosted 27 librarians from around the system on a tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. In the morning, the group had a self-guided tour through the new Presidential Museum. In the afternoon, the group was the guest of the Presidential Library. Kathryn Harris conducted an overview of the library and the types of articles, information, and materials that the library specializes in collecting. LTLS hosted a school library day on June 12, 2006 for the first time. Twenty-three librarians attended. The speakers addressed the needs of media information specialists and school library staff.

LINC Milestone

The Bement Public Library District came online with LINC on June 19, 2006.

Library Visits

Arcola Public Library District, Bement Public Library District, Chrisman Public Library