

Executive Director's Report

For June 2007

Jan Ison

*Executive Director
Lincoln Trail Libraries System
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PolyTalk Award

LTLS won the SirsiDynix Building Better Communities Award for PolyTalk. This award recognizes libraries for creative and enterprising uses of technology to improve their user communities. We are especially pleased that we were selected from 15 outstanding finalists and over 100 libraries. LTLS PolyTalk will receive a \$10,000 check for this project. Congratulations to Joe Sciacca and Michelle Ralston for their excellent work. Also thanks to Allen Lanham, LTLS Board member, for being present at the announcement.

Integrated Library Systems Futures Symposium

The Symposium took shape during the month. The Symposium will provide a variety of options for LTLS members. On September 13 and 14 there will an intense program including such noted speakers as Marshall Breeding, Karen Schneider, Chip Nilges, Rob McGee, and several libraries who are implementing unique features to the ILS. On Friday evening there will be a special presentation about the many studies that OCLC has conducted in the last 3 years that provide a good framework for conversations for local libraries and for the system. This will be billed to LTLS members as the beginning of an annual event to consider big picture issues. On Saturday we will invite some of the speakers to give us an overview of the issues discussed on Thursday and Friday with an emphasis on providing a framework for governing officials. LTLS staff distributed a "preview flyer" about the workshop during ALA to individuals that might be interested in the program.

American Library Association

I attended the American Library Association conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of June. I thought the programs at the conference were especially good this year. My focus was going to programs to hear speakers who might be invited to our symposium, listening and learning about what some key trends are in libraries, and going to conference wide speakers who provide good thought for what issues they consider important. A good example is Marion Wright Edlemen who talked at length about the need for safe places for children at all times of the day. I wondered if libraries were doing enough to provide them a place to explore and learn. Another big emphasis was on OCLC's WorldCat local project and the discussions on how that is evolving.

Cataloging Reorganization

The LTLS Cataloging reorganization was completed during the month. Staff changes have been made and the operation was fully revised as of July 1, 2007. The response from our members has been positive especially about the turn-around-time for cataloging. I am pleased with what the staff has been able to accomplish. Rarely do we have any new items at LTLS for more than 4 working days. This comes at the time when our most productive copy cataloger had a well-deserved 2-week vacation.

Executive Committee

The LTLS Executive Committee met during the month and made recommendations for a major updating of the LTLS Standing Rules. In addition the committee conducted an evaluation of the Executive Director and reviewed proposed 2008 priorities.

LTLS Blogs

It has been 8 months since LTLS implemented our new web site and added several blogs to provide information to our members. It is interesting to note that there have been almost 25,000 visitors to our blogs since they were implemented.