

Executive Director's Report

For May 2005

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*Executive Director
Lincoln Trail Libraries System
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Urbana Free Library Dedication and Grand Opening

Among the best things that we get to do at LTLS is attend special events at libraries. On May 1, 2005 the Urbana Free Library Dedicated the remodeling and addition to the library. The planning began as early as 1987 and the construction began in October 2002. The library as lots of wonderful additions, but one of the highlights is the large children's department which is three times bigger than the old department. It was a great day and a wonderful celebration.

ALA Legislative Day

On May 2 and 3rd I participated in ALA Legislative Day Activities. May 2nd was a daylong briefing regarding library issues. Among the key issues – Civil Liberties, Intellectual Freedom, Privacy, Copyright, Access to Government Information, LSTA Funding, and more. This daylong workshop is essential in order for library advocates to be effective. On May 3rd the delegation visited local legislators, Allen Lanham and I visited Representative Johnson and the delegation as a whole visited with aides to the Illinois Senators.

Budget Analysis and Review Committee

This was my 2nd to last meeting of the ALA/BARC. This two-day spring meeting is dedicated to reviewing the budgets of all ALA offices, divisions and round tables and making a recommendation to the ALA Executive Board on budgetary ceilings. The committee also discussed at length the long-term fiscal position of ALA.

Illinois OCLC Users Council

I attended along with Adrian Van Buskirk, Ramona Rollins and Joe Sciacca the IOUG Annual meeting in Chicago. The keynote for the program was Cathy DeRosa, Vice President of Marketing for OCLC. There were many other breakout sessions. I did a presentation on Illinet OCLC billing encouraging libraries to use the online invoice system to retrieve bills.

OCLC Members Council

On May 15 - 17 I attended the OCLC Members Council. This was the last meeting for this fiscal year. The speakers during the meeting were Kurt De Belder, University Librarian at Leiden in The Netherlands, Steward Bodner, New York Public Library, Lorcan Dempsey, OCLC, Jay Jordon, OCLC and others. The standing Joint Committee on Membership sought input on changes to the membership algorithm for Members Council. I am on the committee and assisted in facilitating the discussion.

Jim Eldridge's Board Retirement

Jim Eldridge, long time Board member of the Rantoul public library decided not to seek re-election last April. The Rantoul Board and staff honored him with a reception. I was please to be able to attend and thank Jim for his many hours of dedicated service to libraries and LTLS.

Illinois Library System Directors Organization

On May 26th and 27th ILSDO met at the North Suburban Library System. It was a very productive meeting. We spend several hours discussing the future of cooperation and how to make changes in ILSDO to achieve an increased level of cooperation and collaboration. Among the most important agreements was to do a statewide survey of libraries in Illinois to identify issues of concern for the future of libraries. This is exciting as it is the first time that a statewide survey has been undertaken by all systems.