

Consultants' Report For February 2005

Lincoln Trail Libraries System
March 21, 2005

ISLMA Retreat - Lance Study

Keith Curry Lance recently completed a study of the impact of school libraries in Illinois on the test scores of students in Illinois. The study had a number of key findings on factors that make for a strong library program: adequate staffing, computers in and outside of the school library that have access to school library materials, frequent visits to the library by staff and students, and large, current collections of books and journals/magazines. Amy Weber attended a two-day forum to discuss how educators in Illinois can share the findings of the study with key people in Illinois, such as legislators, parents, teachers, administrators, school board members, and other community leaders. Also attending were Jan Ison (LTLS), Karen Hackman (Central High School, Champaign), Kathy Wickline (Tolono Unit 7, Tolono), and Pam Storm (Charleston CUSD #1, Charleston).

NSLS Legislative Breakfast

North Suburban Library System held a legislative breakfast. Amy Weber attended this event as an observer as there has been discussion of hosting a legislative breakfast at LTLS. The goal was to observe how NSLS conducts this event.

LINC Committee on Local Holds

Pat Boze and Joe Sciacca met with a LINC committee investigating the issues related to "local holds." Currently, LINC policy does not allow local holds (holds on items that can only be requested by patrons of that library).

LINC Directors Group

The LINC Directors Group met and reviewed LINC activities and costs for FY2006.

Mortenson Center Collaboration

Joe Sciacca, Jan Ison, Kit Condill, and Pat Boze met with representatives from the Mortenson Center to discuss possible collaboration ideas.

Cataloging Maintenance Center

During February, the CMC Original Cataloging Pilot Project again received 30 items for cataloging, for 19 of which OCLC copy was found. The LTLS CMC provided original cataloging for 11 items. Regular CMC cataloging for Illinois library systems continued as usual.

Newman Township Library Long Range Plan

On February 16, Jan Ison and Joe Sciacca attended a planning session at Newman Public Library for community input to the library's long range plan. The meeting was facilitated by Wiseman Consulting and Training and was part of an IMLS planning grant awarded to the library through the Illinois State Library to help create a "Future Vision" for the Newman Township Library. About 40 people from all parts of the community, including business, development, government, schools and general public, attended. The event was very successful, and the community expressed high praise for the energy that Librarian Renee Henry has brought to the library.

Diversity Grant Activities

Kit Condill met with community activists in Arcola regarding the needs of Arcola's Latino community. The first diversity workshop (Creating and Maintaining an Inclusive Library) was held at the Mattoon Public Library; the first "I Am An American" presentation took place in Effingham. Both programs were very well received. Instructors for the Basic Library Spanish classes were hired. A meeting was held with James Loewen, award-winning, best-selling author of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, a book on the history of race relations in Illinois, to discuss his possible involvement with our grant activities.

Library Visits

Georgetown-Ridge Farm Community Unit School District #4, Mahomet Public Library District, Mattoon Public Library, Newman Township Library, Onarga Community Public Library District, University of Illinois Mortenson Center