

Consultants' Report For February 2006

Lincoln Trail Libraries System
March 20, 2006

- Diversity/PolyTalk Grants** A plan of action was developed to promote the diversity initiative and reach out to all systems/libraries involved. Staff met with consultants from the other three participating systems—Rolling Prairie, Lewis and Clark, and Shawnee—and with a number of libraries and community organizations in the four-system area. “Road kits” were developed that include the flyer of upcoming diversity programs, a list of contacts on the system and the state level, ready-to-use media releases, and business cards for the diversity website, www.librarydiversity.info. The PolyTalk project was promoted during visits to the same organizations, as well as others. Staff have begun to develop language kits of multilingual support materials to assist in basic library-specific interactions with patrons.
- Kankakee Public Library LTA Program** Donna Schaal attended a meeting between Kankakee Public Library and the community colleges in the area. The two community colleges are in their second year of an LTA program. The goal of this meeting was to establish a new LTA program to be held at the Kankakee Public Library. LTLS was invited to attend this meeting to promote the advertisement of the LTA program in our area.
- Cataloging Boot Camp** Vanessa Whippo was one of 25 applicants chosen from the Illinois library community to attend Cataloging Boot Camp 2006 to be held in May at Richland Community College in Decatur. This week-long workshop, funded by a grant from the Illinois State Library, is designed to meet the increased need for trainers to teach copy-cataloging skills to Illinois librarians.
- Champaign Public Library** Staff assisted SirsiDynix staff in setting up the SirsiDynix LiveNetwork network manager that is being tested at Champaign Public Library. Staff also met with the library’s technical services staff and Baker & Taylor representatives. Champaign Public will be using the customized cataloging product of B&T that will allow materials to be “shelf ready” when delivered. This will require Champaign cataloging staff to use different import methods with the Horizon software.
- AskAway** An ISL staff member gave a presentation on the new statewide virtual reference product, AskAway. This collaborative project between Illinois and Wisconsin libraries will be up and running by April. All Illinois libraries are being encouraged to join this project. Several of the libraries in the Lincoln Trail “My Librarian” project have indicated they will be moving to the statewide virtual reference project.
- Local Holds** Pat Boze attended a meeting at Rantoul Public Library, coordinated by Lynn Schmit from Mahomet Public Library, concerning the issue of local holds for LINC libraries. The group of library directors attending this meeting discussed the history of local holds as well as issues being considered by LINC Policy Council.
- Weed and Feed Cataloging** Cataloging support for Weed and Feed/Back to Books libraries progressed smoothly with the bulk of cataloging being done for LTLS member libraries. The service is being promoted, and the arrival of a high volume of materials from libraries throughout the state is anticipated.
- Library Visits** Arcola Public Library District, Champaign CU 4-Centennial High School, Champaign Public Library (2), Mattoon CUSD #2, Mattoon Public Library, Monticello CUSD #25 (2), Rantoul Public Library, University of Illinois Library