

Consultants' Report For April 2006

Lincoln Trail Libraries System
May 31, 2006

Automation Grants

Lincoln Trail submitted to the Illinois State Library a final assurance list of eight libraries that have committed to joining the LINC automation project. LTLS is awaiting word on the official notification of this grant.

Ask Away

AskAway, the virtual reference project with Illinois and Wisconsin libraries, debuted on April 24. Fourteen Lincoln Trail libraries are participating in this collaborative project to provide 24x7 email and chat reference to all Illinois and Wisconsin residents.

Diversity Grant

On April 24, 2006, the all-day forum, "Libraries and Communities Building Bridges: An Inter-Cultural Dialogue," was held in Effingham and attended by 37 participants from four different systems--LTLS, RPLS, ShLS and LCLS. Excellent feedback and great excitement and appreciation were received from participants for the two guest-speakers. Rajmohan Gandhi (Director of Global Crossroads at the University of Illinois) presented "A Vision for the Future Through Shared Values: Tolerance, Understanding and Mutual Respect," and Tracie Hall (Director of the Office of Diversity and Spectrum at the American Library Association) presented "Candy Canes and Tire Tracks" addressing multi-cultural, ethno-linguistic, and demographic trends. A Cultural Competency Workshop was held in Mt. Vernon, "Afrika to America; The Beat Goes On" was presented at Tuscola High School, and LTLS was a sponsor for the Champaign Centennial High School Poetry Slam featuring high school students of all ages and from all backgrounds in a poetry competition.

PolyTalk Interpreters Network Grant

Grant Consultant Randi Weiss visited libraries in the Alliance, Lincoln Trail, North Suburban, and Prairie Area library systems. She also gave an interview about PolyTalk on the nationally broadcast teleconference, *Serving Immigrant Populations: A Prototype for Diversity*. Randi also connected the directors of Mi Raza, a community organization in Arcola, with librarians from the Arcola Public Library, and they will work together to improve the adult Spanish-language collection at the library.

Illinois Cataloging Maintenance Centers Meeting

On April 28, representatives of the three Illinois Cataloging Maintenance Centers met with Suzanne Schriar and Mary Downing of the Illinois State Library to complete the FY2007 plan of service narrative. The Centers are increasing the maximum amount of time allowable for upfront original cataloging from 40% to 75% for the next fiscal year and agreed that conducting ongoing publicity is necessary.

Weed and Feed Cataloging

Weed and Feed cataloging support continued with the primary beneficiaries being Weed and Feed grant recipients from LTLS. Contacts with libraries throughout the state continued, and materials are expected soon from other areas of the state.

OCLC Meetings

Pat Boze coordinated three meetings at different locations to explain the process of becoming an OCLC governing member. The meetings were attended by LTLS libraries that are currently not OCLC governing members.

Library Visits

Bement Public Library District; Champaign Unit 4 Schools, Centennial High School; Danville Public Library; DeLand-Weldon CUSD #57; Paris Carnegie Public Library; Paxton Carnegie Library; Blue Ridge Township Public Library, Mansfield; Milford CUSD #280; Rantoul Public Library; Urbana Free Library