

Executive Director's Report For October 2009

Jan Ison

*Executive Director
Lincoln Trail Libraries System
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Mortenson Associates

LTLS was once again honored to host the Mortenson Associates for an afternoon of discussion of the Fish Philosophy of Customer Service and Library Cooperation. This group of 14 associates was from 9 countries. I always enjoy the opportunity to meet and greet our distinguished colleagues from across the globe.

Business Managers Meeting

On Friday October 2nd, I facilitated a discussion of the Business Managers of the Illinois Library Systems. The topic was to determine how to uniformly track overhead costs for various system services and programs. The group agreed on a definition and a plan to move ahead to achieve this uniform tracking.

ILA

I attended the Illinois Library Association Conference in Peoria. I was a speaker at the session discussing the Library Support Staff Certification program that LTLS is a pilot site for. In addition I participated in the "kick off" rally for the "Save Illinois Libraries" campaign. The "kick-off" launched the effort to prevent further cuts to Library and System funding by the Illinois legislature during the October veto session in Springfield.

19th Annual Mortenson Distinguished Lecture

Each year the Mortenson Center for International Librarianship holds a lecture with a distinguished international scholar. This year I had the opportunity to attend the lecture by Ellen Tise, the President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). This was a double pleasure, as I know Ellen as a colleague from my work with the OCLC Members Council. I had the opportunity to visit with her for breakfast and provide a brief tour to Champaign Public Library.

ILEADU

I participated in a couple of phone calls regarding the IMLS Funded ILEADU program. I will be the facilitator for the 3 events that are being planned and it is fun to engage in discussions about how to ensure that this is a great program.

Hoopeston Public Library Open House

Lou Graham, Director of the Hoopeston Public Library retired at the end of October. On the 16th of October I had the opportunity to attend an open house celebrating her retirement and welcoming the new library director. A special treat was meeting Lou's daughter who is a school librarian in the Shawnee Library System area.

Future Planning

The Illinois Library System Directors held a daylong planning session in October to discuss our plans for the future regarding cooperative library service. This was a continuation from previous planning but the recent budget crisis in Illinois has encouraged us to move ahead to consider next steps. The goal is to ensure that cooperation between all types of libraries remains a vibrant support for library services in Illinois.