

Executive Director's Report For September 2007

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Homer Public Library Dedication

I went to the dedication of the Homer Public Library's new building on September 22. It is a wonderful new facility located in a building that was converted from a church to a city building housing the library, city offices, and a wonderful meeting room. Senator Frerichs was in attendance. I had an opportunity to talk with him about the budget situation and encouraged him to speak to Senator Jones about the over-ride.

Interviews for "Longshots"

I was interviewed twice for "Longshots," once with Alice Calabrese and once alone. "Longshots" is a podcast that Sarah Long does which explores the world of libraries through interviews with key library figures and commentary on issues that matter to libraries. Alice and I were interviewed about our experiences at IFLA and the issues that were discussed during the conference. I was also interviewed about PolyTalk. Sarah will also be writing a column about IFLA and PolyTalk for her weekly column in the *Chicago Daily Herald*. The column is syndicated throughout Illinois.

Budget Hearing

I attended the hearing conducted by the Illinois House of Representatives regarding the FY 2008 Budget. The hearing was held in Urbana and more than 150 people crowded into a small meeting room to provide testimony about how the Governor's veto would affect local agency service. I spoke on behalf of libraries. It was a good meeting. The Illinois House subsequently overrode the veto but the Senate has not yet voted.

WebJunction Illinois

Lisa Barnhart and Dawn Torterella visited all the library systems in Illinois to discuss our role in the WebJunction Illinois service. WebJunction is a Gates funded partnership with OCLC. The focus of the service is to support library staff through online resources, community and continuing education. WebJunction Illinois will focus on Illinois content to help Illinois librarians.

Mortenson Program

The Mortenson Center Associates for the fall of 2007 visited LTLS on September 25. LTLS staff conducted two information workshops for them. The first was an introduction to LTLS and library cooperation Illinois style. The second presentation was an overview of OCLC services and programs. There are 14 countries represented by the current group of associates.

Paula Kaufman

I met Paula for lunch to thank her for her service on the LTLS Board. She shared a comment with me about the ILS Symposium from Peggy Steele who said it was the best workshop she had ever been to. Paula and I discussed several issues, one being digitization and who LTLS should be in contact with at the University of Illinois to decide what our role in this should be.

ILS Symposium

This report wouldn't be complete without highlighting the Symposium that LTLS sponsored on September 13-15. More than 230 participants from Illinois and other states participated in this exciting conference. The content was outstanding, and this was a good "kick-off" for developing the next phase of LINC, the LTLS started ILS.