

Consultants' Report For August 2005

Lincoln Trail Libraries System
September 19, 2005

Continuing Education and Training	The continuing education and training calendar for August 2005-July 2006 was mailed to member libraries along with CLaSS order forms. LTLS has already received several subscriptions. The first training programs took place in late August.
Book Market @ the Square	LTLS participated in the second annual Book Market @ the Square. There were more participating agencies, authors, and publishers this year. The spelling bee and raffle raised over \$400 for the Reading Group, an adult literacy organization. LTLS held its first book sale to benefit the LTLS foundation. The sale raised just over \$200.
MyMediaMall	LTLS staff worked to install software needed to implement MyMediaMall, the collaborative e-book/downloadable audiobook project with North Suburban Library System. SIP2 was installed so patron barcodes could be queried as items are checked out. Staff also evaluated the MyMediaMall web site, the opening day collection, and the circulation policies that the libraries as a group are implementing. This product will be released in September.
Farm Progress Show	Amy Weber staffed the library booth at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur. Librarians and library system representatives manned the booth throughout the three-day show. Rolling Prairie, Alliance, and Lincoln Trail library systems sponsored the booth. Beverly Obert, director of RPLS, hopes to make this a multi-system project in the future.
Champaign Public Technology Planning	Joe Sciacca and Pat Boze met with Marsha Grove and Mary Bissey at Champaign Public Library to discuss issues related to technology, communication, and planned enhancements for their new building.
Horizon Upgrade Postponed	On August 10, SirsiDynix announced a stop to all planned upgrades to Horizon and the next version of the web catalog. LTLS had planned for this upgrade to occur on August 18 and 19, but the company announcement has deferred this until further notice. Major software bugs were cited as the reason. SirsiDynix also indicated that intensive work is being done to correct problems, but no further announcement has been made about when upgrades will be reinstated.
LSTA Grant Review	Donna Schaal attended the Illinois State Library's LSTA Grant Review session. The reviewers, representing each library system, were responsible for reading and scoring the grants in their category before attending the two-day session. After discussion, each grant was voted on, and the committee submitted a final list to the Illinois State Library. The State Library will decide the recipients for the fiscal year, to be announced at the end of September.
Diversity Grant	Donna Schaal, Amy Weber and Kit Condill completed an LSTA grant entitled "Diversity & Cultural Competency in Rural Libraries." The grant was completed on time and within budget. New products that will be made available to the libraries are: a multi-lingual screen saver; customizable bookmarks and flyers in Spanish, Korean, Chinese, French, and English; a welcome poster in 19 different languages; and a website which focuses on the needs of librarians in regard to serving diverse populations in their community.
Library Visits	Arcola Public Library District, Champaign Public Library, Philo Public Library District (2), The Urbana Free Library