



**Libras, Inc.**

**Annual Report**

**2014-2015**

## President's report – Elaine Fetyko Page (Elmhurst College)

As we head toward the official 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LIBRAS in December 2015, LIBRAS continues to be of great value to its small, liberal arts-based college library members.

LIBRAS has had a bit of a struggle in reinstating its official non-profit status with the IRS, but through this process, it has been an excellent opportunity to reflect on the value LIBRAS has had for its member institutions for nearly half a century. We continue to see libraries use this organization as a resource: for continuing education funding assistance to further each institution and the consortium's knowledge and expertise in a variety of library venues; for networking with colleagues across institutions to gain insight on how to do our jobs more efficiently and effectively, especially as budgets continue to lag behind needs; for encouragement among libraries who struggle within their own institutions for respect and financial support; and for newer initiatives like the shared institutional repository Constellation, which has been nurtured and grown by our iLeadU team, to showcase the excellent academic work done at our respective institutions.

While members of LIBRAS agree that the annual dues are a worthwhile investment, it is still a struggle each year to find individual librarians or library staff to fill executive committee and SIG chair positions. We have had many SIG chairs and executive committee members who have gone on to larger leadership positions, both statewide and even nationally, and it would be wonderful to have all member libraries encourage their staffs to participate fully in LIBRAS activities because of this potential for individual growth. In addition, SIGs have done an excellent job over the past few years offering new ways to network and participate without the hurdles of leaving the library or traveling.

My hope for the next fifty years of LIBRAS is that its members help each other to continue to thrive in the changing higher education environment, and remain advocates for liberal learning.

## Vice-President's report - Rebecca Miller (Trinity International University)

### SIG Reports:

#### Stephanie Fletcher - Collection Development SIG

#### Amigos Online Conference: Discovery Tools Now and in the Future

November 18, 2014

- Co-sponsored and hosted by Trinity International University
- Attendance: 8
- Together as a group, we viewed presentations on discovery tools and discussed our own experiences and challenges with them. We shared more ideas and enjoyed some fellowship over lunch.

#### Occam's Reader Webinar

February 18, 2015

- Attendance: 30 (online)
- The founders of the e-book interlibrary loan program [Occam's Reader](#) spoke to us about the project, its success, and its future. Attendees had time to ask the panel questions. The presentation and roundtable were hosted online by Texas Tech University Libraries via [join.me](#). The CARLI interlibrary loan and technical services communities were also invited. A recorded and archived [video of the presentation](#) is available for those who were unable to attend.
- Presenters:
  - Ryan Litsey  
Occams Reader Project Manager  
Assistant Librarian, Document Delivery  
Texas Tech University Libraries
  - Kenny Ketner  
Chief Developer of Occams Reader  
Program analyst III  
Texas Tech University Libraries
  - Nora Dethloff  
Occams Reader User  
Librarian, Assistant Head of Information & Access Services  
University of Houston Libraries

## **Ursula Zyzik - Public Services SIG**

### **All You Want to Know About LibGuides v.2**

Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Saint Xavier University

- LibGuides have been a standard librarians' tool to create course and research guides. The newly released version 2 will greatly enhance the functionality, aesthetics and usability of the guides. The transition to LibGuides v.2 will also require new approaches both from the librarians and administrators. Margaret Heller, Digital Librarian from Loyola University in Chicago, was our guest to share her knowledge and experience in transitioning to the new platform. The afternoon began with a boxed lunch for informal networking from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

## **Julie Wroblewski - Archives SIG**

### **Records Management for Archivists**

October 7, 2014 12:45 – 3:00 at North Park:

- Webinar, followed by refreshments and discussion.
- 6 attendees (which is good/typical for archives events) and 1 no show, good discussion about how we are handling this at our institutions. There was also at least one person who I had not seen at a SIG event before, so that was good too.

### **Celebrating American Archives Month – Planning Ahead for Success**

June 15, 2015

- This event will be a presentation on an initiative sponsored by the Chicago Area Archivists to promote Chicago Area Archives Month events. A guest speaker from CAA will give an overview of how to sign up to have your event included in the promotion. This will be followed by informal discussion of what we're planning and sharing of tips and ideas for successful, low overhead Archives month events. North Central College archives will host this event.

## **LIBRAS Goals for next year:**

Host a 50th year celebration in December

Committee members:

- Jan Chindlund, Columbia
- Felice Maciejewski, Dominican
- Susan Swords Steffen, Elmhurst
- Alexis Carscadden, Kendall
- John Small, North Central

Committee Meeting in June

- Set a date and location
- Design a new logo
- Look for historical materials (e.g. video from 30th anniversary, program from 20th anniversary)
- Speaker or events
- Sit-down lunch?

**Treasurer's Report – Andy Meyer (North Park University)**

## **Secretary's Report – Amy Weidner (Benedictine University)**

### **General Meetings Held**

LIBRAS Directors met October 17, 2014 at Dominican University and on April 20, 2015 at Kendall College.

The Executive Committee met September 29, 2014 at Benedictine University (with SIG Chairs), December 15, 2014 virtually via a Google hangout.

The annual meeting will be held on May 27, 2015 at North Park University.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the above meetings will be posted on the LIBRAS web site.

Reports from all meetings, officers and committees will be collected and placed in the LIBRAS Archives located at North Park University.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Weidner, Secretary  
May 22, 2015

**Past-President's Report – David Malone (Wheaton College)**