

LIBRAS Communications Director Report
Academic Year 2004-2005
May 9, 2005

Major accomplishments for the year:

Surveys: The Communications Officer used SurveyMonkey, an online survey tool, to distribute two surveys to the LIBRAS membership and compile the results during FY 2004-2005:

- ◆ In June 2004, a “Research Grants Survey” was sent out to the professional librarians at LIBRAS libraries to ascertain their preferences as to LIBRAS funding of various research-related activities.
- ◆ In April 2005 a “Membership Survey” was sent to all staff at LIBRAS libraries requesting their input as to how well the organization was meeting current needs and their ideas for future directions for the organization.

Elections: The Communications Officer was again instrumental in setting up the 2005 officer elections. As with last year’s elections they were conducted online, but this year using the SurveyMonkey survey tool. The elections were conducted May 28 through May 5, 2005. Results were sent to the Nominations Committee chair on Friday, May 6.

LIBRAS Web site: updating portions of the site was an ongoing effort throughout the year. In addition to updating the usual SIG and other meeting announcements and reports, posting job openings, answering e-mail sent to the Webmaster, and updating the LIBRAS calendar, major projects included:

- ◆ expanding the Continuing Education area of the site to include reports of conferences attended by members who received LIBRAS funding to attend
- ◆ modifying the online election forms first created by Synergistic Networks (our Web hosting service) two years ago to allow for online registration for the “Information Literacy 101” workshop held at St. Xavier University in November 2004
- ◆ with Rosemary Henders’ input, creating an “Information Literacy” section in January 2005 to contain materials related to the Information Literacy workshop
- ◆ moving the “LIBRAS Lines” online newsletter to a blog format in April 2005, using a free account on blogger.com; this allows for posting more than 5 articles at any one time and has an auto-archive feature, enabling readers to retrieve past articles without having to contact the Communications Director for them

Other activity:

- ◆ A press release was sent out in October 2004 to ILA, ACRL and IACRL offices announcing the winners of the first LIBRAS Professional Development Grants.
- ◆ A press release was sent out in March 2005 to ILA, ACRL and IACRL offices announcing the selection of Jennifer Paliatka of Elmhurst College to the 2005 class of Synergy. (Jennifer’s selection marks the 3rd year in a row that at least one librarian from a LIBRAS library has been selected.)

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Nelson
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2004-05 LIBRAS Communications Director