

LIBRAS ANNUAL REPORT

2005-2006

OFFICERS

President: Larry Wild (Judson College)

Vice President/President-Elect: Sally Anderson (North Park University)

Secretary: Jennifer Paliatka (Elmhurst College)

Treasurer: David Malone (Wheaton College)

Past President and Continuing Education Coordinator: Ted Schwitzner (North Central College)

APPOINTMENTS TO STANDING POSITIONS

Archivist: Steven Elde (North Park University)

Communications Director: Ryan Williams (North Central College)

Special Interest Group Chairs

Circulation/ILL SIG Chairs:

Tippi Price (Trinity Christian College)

Carol Warner (Judson College)

Reference/Instruction Chair:

Charlene Thompson (Judson College)

Collection Development Chair:

Lisa Gonzalez (Trinity Christian College)

Serials SIG Chairs:

Marie Hay (Trinity International University)

Linda Harding (Elmhurst College)

Technical Services SIG:

Anne McKearn (Aurora University)

Debbie Sarna (Benedictine University)

Grant Review Committee

Susan Swords Steffen (Director, Elmhurst College)

Nancy McTague (Librarian, Aurora University)

Kimberly Hale (Support Staff / Paraprofessional, Columbia College)

Fortieth Anniversary Committee

Lisa Gonzalez (Trinity Christian College)

Dayle Zelenka (North Park University)

Elaine Fetyko Page (Elmhurst College)

Mark Kroll (Benedictine University)

LIBRAS Liaisons

Aurora University

Nancy MacTague

Benedictine University

Mark Kroll

Columbia College

Shirley Bennett

Concordia University

Yana V. Serdyuk

Dominican University

Kara Giles

Elmhurst College

Jennifer Paliatka

LIBRAS Liaisons (Cont.)

Judson College	Larry Wild
Kendall College	Iva Freeman
Lake Forest College	Rebecca Miller
Lewis University	Laura Patterson
North Central College	Ryan Williams
North Park University	Katie Maier O'Shea
St. Xavier University	Anita Morgan
Trinity Christian College	Ingrid Steen Boyer
Trinity International University	Linda Fratt
University of St. Francis	Terry Cottrell
Wheaton College	David Osielski

SUMMARY OF MEMBER PARTICIPATION

For the period July 1, 1005 to May 24, 2006, 11 meetings have been held. Most member libraries sent representatives to one or more meetings or programs during 2005-2006. A summary list of this year's meetings includes:

- 2 Directors Meetings
- 3 Executive Committee Meetings
- 1 SIG Chair Meeting
- 2 Program Meetings (including the 40th Anniversary Celebration)
- 4 SIG Meetings

HIGHLIGHTS

A major highlight of 2005-2006 was LIBRAS' 40th anniversary. A 40th Anniversary Committee was formed following the May 11th 2005 Annual Meeting, and the committee worked hard to plan the celebration. The celebration was held in conjunction with the 2006 Annual Meeting on May 24th, at St. Xavier University.

The Executive Committee made efforts this year to begin acting on the strategic plan that was developed in spring, 2005. First we focused on

Goal #3 - Improve, enhance and facilitate communication at individual, institutional and consortial levels

by implementing

- A. Establish a liaison program in order to orient and inform the membership about LIBRAS and facilitate news and information from the member libraries.

We developed a "job description" for LIBRAS liaisons, to 1) disseminate information about LIBRAS to all members of the library staff; and 2) communicate items of interest about the liaison's library and campus. A person from each LIBRAS library volunteered to serve as LIBRAS Liaison. We then set up a LIBRAS Liaison Listserv, hosted at Wheaton College and maintained by Terry Huttenlock. We then used the LIBRAS liaisons and Liaison Listserv to pursue

Goal #1 - Promote the development of all library staff members.

- A. Develop programming relevant to all staffing levels.

- B. Encourage paraprofessional/support staff participation in LIBRAS events and groups.
- C. Provide leadership opportunities to all staff members through SIGs and other venues/ventures.

Information about all meetings (Executive, Directors, Program, SIGs) was sent to the liaisons via the listserv, in addition the usual postings to the specific group's listserv. In addition, announcements were sent concerning LIBRAS staff accomplishments (e.g., being chosen for Synergy, an article in the newspaper, etc.). We need to assess how well the liaison program is working to communicate with all LIBRAS staff, but anecdotal evidence seems to indicate that more LIBRAS staff members are being informed than previously.

Another improvement in communication technology came with the change of the LIBRAS domain name. When the LIBRAS Web site was created several years ago, it was LIBRAS' desire for the URL to be www.libras.org. However, the domain name libras.org was unavailable, so the LIBRAS Website domain name has been libras-inc.org. At the August Executive Committee meeting, David Malone suggested that we find out who owned the libras.org domain name, and determine if we could buy it from the owner. Thanks to David's expertise we did determine the domain name's owner, and contacted the person. Through subsequent conversation and negotiation with the owner we were able to obtain the libras.org domain name by issuing a tax donation receipt to him. In March, 2006, the URL of the LIBRAS Website became www.libras.org. At the same time—again, at David Malone's suggestion—we changed Internet Service Providers, to a service that is much less expensive and will enable us to develop the LIBRAS Website more effectively.

A third development of note this year concerned the requirement of the bylaws that “The President will arrange for the annual audit” and “The Treasurer's records will be audited at the end of the membership year”. Since this bylaw was written in 2003, each successive LIBRAS president has attempted without success to find an auditor willing to audit the LIBRAS financial books at a price that we could afford. I tried again this year, and received advice from a Certified Public Accountant that certain requirements placed upon CPA firms “effectively prevent CPA firms from taking on audit engagements for small organization.” Instead, he suggested “that the charter be revised to reflect the reality that the organization's size prevents it from obtaining an audit in today's business environment”. I presented this information to the Directors at the March Directors' meeting, and the decision was made to revise the bylaws to state: “The Treasurer's records may be reviewed upon demand by an Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the Executive Board.”

At the request of the directors, the Executive Committee revised the Continuing Education Guidelines to clarify the rationale for what is included in each category. The changes were approved at the Annual Meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met three times in 2005-2006. The first meeting was the traditional officers' transition meeting, held at Judson College on June 13, 2005. The gavel was officially passed to the new president, and knowledge and various records were transferred from outgoing

officers to incoming officers. The Executive Committee also discussed possible program ideas for the new year, and began preparing the budget for the year.

The second Executive Committee meeting on August 18, 2005, at Wheaton College, focused on finalizing the budget and program ideas, and planning the Fall Directors Meeting. The Committee also discussed the LIBRAS domain name, and started investigating whether LIBRAS might obtain the domain name libras.org. The third Executive Committee meeting was held on February 9, 2006 at North Central College. This meeting was largely devoted to revising the Continuing Education Guidelines.

DIRECTORS

The Fall Directors Meeting was held September 9, 2005, at Elmhurst College. Fourteen directors or their representatives were present, either in person or by conference call. The Directors approved the annual budget for the year, which included costs for the 40th Anniversary celebration. The ongoing difficulty obtaining a LIBRAS audit was discussed, as well as the libras.org domain name. It was decided that an ALL-LIBRAS listserv would be too difficult to maintain. Instead, one person from each LIBRAS institution will serve as LIBRAS Liaison, and a LIBRAS Liaison Listserv will be formed. Each LIBRAS Liaison will be responsible for communicating LIBRAS information to the listserv and to all staff members.

The Spring Directors Meeting took place on March 9, 2006, at Kendall College. Thirteen directors or their representatives were present. The directors decided to revise the bylaws to make a review of LIBRAS books available on request, in lieu of requiring an audit. The Continuing Education Guidelines were discussed at length, and it was decided that the Executive Committee would revise the guidelines to make funding of similar activities more consistent.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Two new grant programs, the Professional Development Grant and the Research Grant, provided three LIBRAS library staff members the opportunity to advance their education and grow professionally. The Professional Development Grant provides \$750 for up to two LIBRAS member staff, in support of coursework for LTA, masters or doctoral level education. Susan M. Griffiths of North Park University and Rebekah Hall of Trinity International University received this grant. David Malone of Wheaton College received the first Research Grant of \$750, in support of travel and costs associated with conducting research. David's research project is "Electronic Resource Management at Small, Private, Liberal Arts Colleges." The Grant Selection Committee was comprised of Susan Swords Steffen, Nancy McTague, and Kimberly Hale.

Through May 19, 2006, LIBRAS received and funded 19 continuing education applications.

PROGRAMS

With the leadership of Sally Anderson, LIBRAS presented two programs in 2005-2006.

Sally Anderson planned the first program meeting, held on November 1, 2005, at Wheaton College. Kathryn J. Deiss, Director of the Strategic Learning Center at the Metropolitan Library System, presented “Leading at Every Level to Create a Spirited Organization”. Through the presentation and following discussion, participants considered how effective leadership and followership allow organizations to excel, and what it means to create a spirited organization. The program also considered group and individual risk, enthusiasm, identifying talents, and the critical need to tap spirit in order to succeed. Approximately 35 people attended the meeting, from 11 LIBRAS institutions.

The second program meeting of 2005-2006 was the 40th Anniversary Celebration, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting at St. Xavier University on May 24, 2006. The 40th Anniversary Celebration was planned by the 40th Anniversary Committee. Lisa Gonzalez of Trinity Christian College was chairperson of the committee until March, when she left Trinity. Elaine Fetyko Page then took over leadership of the committee, and did much of the work in completing preparations for the celebration. The committee had created a display artifacts and memorabilia depicting the history of LIBRAS and the original LIBRAS institutions, and a very enjoyable buffet luncheon was served. Past and present members of LIBRAS had been invited to the celebration, and 42 people from 15 member institutions attended.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGS)

Larry Wild and Sally Anderson met with most of SIG chairs and co-chairs on September 2, 2005, at Trinity Christian College. Several ideas were generated, including joint meetings with Collection Development and Technical Services SIGs.

The Reference SIG met on November 15, 2005 at Elmhurst College, with 18 people in attendance. A panel of three students discussed how students perceive Reference departments and what libraries can do in response. The spring meeting of the Reference SIG was held on February 23, 2006, at Benedictine University, with five people in attendance. Three subject specialists from Northern Illinois University presented science research and reference sources in the areas of Engineering, Health Sciences, and Government Publications. Mr. Nestor Osorio, Professor and Subject Specialist for Science and Engineering at NIU, provided the group with many engineering resources. Ms. Jitka Hurych is Professor and Head of the Science, Engineering and Business Department, as well as a subject specialist for Health Sciences disciplines at NIU libraries. She provided a variety of resources in the Health Sciences. Mr. Earl Shumaker, Head of the Government Publications Department at NIU libraries, demonstrated a wide variety of online government resources that would be helpful for science research.

The Circulation/ILL SIG planned a meeting for December 7, 2005, on the topic of diversity in the workplace. The meeting was cancelled because one of the co-chairs, Tippi Price, was in the hospital with heart problems. The meeting was rescheduled for February 17, 2006, and titled “Bridging the Gap: Diversity Within the Workplace—How to Bridge the Gap in Your Library”. This time all preparations were made, the speaker was present, but no one attended so the meeting was cancelled.

The Serials, Collection Development / Technical Services SIG planned a joint meeting, on the topic of the changes to and use of OCLC Connexion. The meeting was postponed to Fall, 2006, because the upgrade to Voyager, which is shared by most LIBRAS institutions, overshadowed all other concerns.

ELECTIONS

Ryan Williams, Communications Director, set up the election using Survey Monkey, and the system worked very well. The 2005-2006 Nominations Committee was comprised of Kim Hale (Columbia College), H. Dale Zelenka (North Park University), and Kay Culhane (Aurora University). Despite valiant attempts, the Nominating Committee was unable to find a candidate for Vice President/President-Elect who met the bylaw requirement of having served as a LIBRAS officer. The Directors decided to suspend the prior service requirement for Vice President/President Elect for this year only, and allow any Director to nominate himself/herself or any member of his/her staff whom the Director felt was qualified. Mark Vargas, director of St. Xavier University, nominated himself, and was elected as Vice President/President-Elect.

The remaining slate of candidates included two candidates for Secretary, and one candidate for Treasurer (David Malone agreed to serve a second term as Treasurer).

MELVIN R. GEORGE AWARD

Ted Schwitzner of North Central College was awarded the Melvin R. George Award. The award honors Melvin R. George, second president of LIBRAS. He along with the other LIBRAS founding directors, by their example, made a significant contribution to the development of interlibrary cooperation. Following nomination and review by an awards committee, Ted received the Melvin R. George Award at the Annual Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

In February, Josephine Kujawa, Library Director at Lexington College, contacted LIBRAS via the "Contact Us" link on the LIBRAS Website. Ryan Williams reported the request to Larry Wild. Lexington College is a small private women's hospitality management school located in the West Loop area. Lexington College is a single-purpose college awarding a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Hospitality Management and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Hospitality Management. Larry Wild contacted Ms. Kujawa, and explained the LIBRAS membership requirement of a four-year, liberal arts core function. Ms. Kujawa was interested in pursuing membership, but upon learning of the \$500/year membership fee, decided not to pursue LIBRAS membership at this time.

ADVOCACY

LIBRAS was well represented at Illinois Library Day on March 1, 2006. Representatives included Ted Schwitzner (North Central College), Sally Anderson (North Park University), and Larry Wild (Judson College). The Illinois State Library took a lead role in organizing the event, and attendance was increased from the last several years.

Sally Anderson and Ted Schwitzner attended National Library Day in Washington, D.C.. Sally's report follows:

National Library Legislative Day 2006 Report

Ted Schwitzner and I attended the National Library Legislative Day in Washington, May 2. I arrived on Sunday, April 30, and was able to attend the Pre-Conference, a two-hour session at the new Washington office of the ALA. The session was entitled "Introduction to National Library Legislative Day: Why Your Participation is Important: What to Do and How to Do It," or "Lobbying 101". I would strongly recommend this session for anyone doing this for the first time.

After three years of attending these legislative days, Ted Schwitzner is becoming a veteran of these lobbying efforts and understands the importance of such work: "One of the underlying messages of the day is that advocacy at the federal level is most effective when you make connections and develop relationships with legislative aides, assistants, and counsels. These are the people who will be in the best position to fill in a legislator on what people's concerns are, and they can help move concerns along considerably, making sure that the right issues get to the legislator. A complementary component to that goes with the adage that "all politics are local": that is doing advocacy at the local level, by visiting or writing district offices and creating relationships there.

Monday, May 1 was the ALA Briefing Day, at the Holiday Inn on Capitol Hill. Several speakers made presentations about meeting with congressmen and/or the staff. They also went over the key messages that we were to present to the congressional offices. The following is taken directly from the handouts provided by ALA (for more information see <http://www.ala.org/ala/issues/fedissues.htm>)

:

- Fund the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at the President' request of \$220.855 million.
- Fund the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries at \$100 million.
- Restore \$2.5 million funding for EPA libraries, which contain much information not found anywhere else.
- Thank the congressman/woman for preserving the E-rate program, which makes telecommunications services affordable to public libraries and schools.
- Support S. 2360 that seek to establish net neutrality, maintaining equal access to the Internet for all content providers such as libraries. The fear is that broadband companies will sell faster access to those who can afford it.
- Although there is not a bill yet, preserve fair use and educational use of TV news and public affairs programming by voting against any "broadcast flag" which would prevent distribution of broadcasts through the internet. The message is to exempt public affairs and education programming from such copy protection.
- Support funding of the Government Printing Office and federal depository library program

- Although there is not a bill yet, support “orphan works” legislation to facilitate use of copyrighted works whose owners cannot be found or identified.
- Support the bi-partisan “Executive Branch Reform Act of 2006” HR 5112, which would limit the use of “pseudo-classification” markings such as “sensitive but unclassified” and “for official use only.”
- Urge Senators to schedule a vote on S. 494, the “Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act,” which would protect national security whistleblowers.

Of these issues, the key issues relating to academic libraries are the LSTA funding, the intellectual property issues and copyright, net neutrality, and access to government information. For more information on these issues see <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/washingtonwatch>

There was an ACRL Legislative Day luncheon with guest speaker Rodney Petersen, a policy analyst with EDUCAUSE. He spoke on safety, security and privacy, and the responsible use of information technology in higher education.

On Monday evening there was an Illinois delegate dinner at the Capitol Hill Club. A professional lobbyist, Ronald L. Kelley, of the Livingston Group, was the guest speaker and was very interesting, in spite of the late hour.

Tuesday, May 2

I visited the following congressional offices and spoke with the congressional aides in each case. Usually there were about 4 to 6 of us, and we took turns bringing up the above issues. I met with:

- John Marshall, legislative assistant for Rep. Bobby Rush
- Lauren Aronson, legislative assistant for Rep. Rahm Emanuel
- Emily Chibnall, legislative assistant for Rep. Dan Lipinski
- Sirat K. Attapit, legislative assistant to Sen. Dick Durbin; and Steven Robinson, “Albert Einstein Fellow,” and legislative assistant for Sen. Barack Obama
This was a joint session to which all ILA members were invited.
- Bernard Glenn-Moore, CBCF Legislative Fellow for Rep. Danny Davis

In addition to the meeting with Rep. Lipinski's aide, Emily Chibnall, Ted Schwitzner also met with the following:

- Rep. Judy Biggert and her assistant, Brian Colgan
- Kate Anderson (for Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert)
- Staff for Rep. Henry Hyde, who provided the group with passes into the House and Senate chambers. “Though this is my third Legislative Day trip, I had not been into the Capitol before. The Senate was in session and watching the business of the day take place actually gave me a new perspective for the whole process. Particularly fascinating was seeing Senators and aides moving quickly in and out of the chamber for various reasons, as well as seeing the many side conversations.”

In these groups, as an academic librarian Ted usually spoke about the copyright and network neutrality issues.

A reception followed at the Rayburn House Office Building at the end of a long day. Sen. Durbin was a co-recipient (with Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho) of the FOLUSA Public Service Award at the May 2 reception.

This is a very interesting and educational experience for anyone wishing to make the trip. It is a reminder of how much what we sometimes take for granted depends on legislative action on the national level. Many people were there “lobbying” for the first time, and the ALA Washington office and the ILA staff prepared us well. I would strongly encourage LIBRAS members to participate in this activity.

Sincerely,

Sally Anderson
Libras President 2006-2007
Director of Brandel Library
North Park University

PUBLIC RELATIONS MATERIALS

In preparation for the 40th anniversary celebration, notebooks and pens were purchased from the promotion material company 4imprint. The notebooks included a special 40th anniversary LIBRAS logo, and the tagline “Academic libraries working together for you since 1966.” Both the pens and the notebooks were imprinted with the new LIBRAS URL: www.libras.org

FAREWELL

In March, LIBRAS said farewell to Lisa Gonzalez, director of Trinity Christian College. Lisa left Trinity to pursue Masters studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. We wish her well in her future endeavors, and we look forward to welcoming her successor to the consortium.

FINAL REMARKS

LIBRAS continues to be a unique, vital organization. Serving as President has been a challenging and rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted

Larry Wild, President