LIBRAS Annual Meeting
Dominican University
Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Present: 48 attendees

The Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. LIBRAS President Jack Fritts (Benedictine) welcomed attendees and outlined the program and meeting agenda. The members of the Executive Committee (Jack Fritts; Jennifer Paliatka, Past President/Continuing Education Coordinator, Elmhurst; Ken Orenic, Vice President/President-Elect, Dominican; Marie Hay, Treasurer, Trinity International; April Levy, Secretary, Columbia) introduced themselves and presented their Annual Reports. Jack offered special recognition to Jennifer for her five years of service to LIBRAS.

2. Jack announced that Elections for 2010-2011 LIBRAS officers will be held through Survey Monkey within the next week or so. Open positions are Vice President/President Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary.

3. Communications Director Amy Weidner (Benedictine) mentioned technology changes taking place in LIBRAS this year, including the waning use of the listservs, the creation by Ken of a Google Docs spreadsheet to maintain a list of staff members at LIBRAS libraries, and the frequent use of the LIBRAS website. Amy reminded attendees to send information to her for posting on the LIBRAS blog and website.

4. SIG Chair for Reference and Collection Development Katie Maier-O'Shea (North Park) reported that the SIG will hold an event in June featuring Mark Vargas of St. Xavier discussing his library's implementation of OCLC's WorldCat Local. At this meeting there will also be a roundtable discussion with attendees asked to share information about something they are doing that is working well. The event will be held at Elmhurst College.

5. SIG Co-Chairs for Emerging Technologies Caroline Sietmann (Dominican) and Aimee Walker (North Central) reported that the SIG will be holding an event in June at Columbia College that will feature a roundtable on new technologies implemented by LIBRAS libraries.

6. Ken will email all LIBRAS liaisons reminding them of the link to the Google Docs spreadsheet containing the list of staff members at LIBRAS libraries and ask them to update the list as their institutions have staff changes.

7. Sally Anderson (North Park) requested an updated list of databases subscribed to by each LIBRAS library. The list from a few years ago can be updated.

8. Sally Anderson presented the 2009-2010 Mel George Award to Iva Freeman of Kendall College.

After a short break the meeting resumed.

9. Wade Stewart (Elmhurst) presented his work on redesigning the LIBRAS website using Drupal. The redesign will enable the blog and website to merge, and will enable easier updating of content, including a calendar. Wade is also reorganizing the content of the site to make

information easier to find. He welcomes suggestions for the website and may be contacted at wstewart@elmhurst.edu.

10. Mary Hollerich (Lewis) suggested that the calendar on the redesigned LIBRAS website also include events taking place at LIBRAS libraries even if those events are not connected to LIBRAS. A different color can be used on the calendar to differentiate these events from those sponsored by LIBRAS.

11. Missy Laytham, Head of Technical Services at North Park and recipient of the 2009-2010 Research Grant, gave a progress report on her research studying the organization and operations of Technical Services departments at each LIBRAS library. She is investigating the practices of smaller technical services departments in order to contribute to the research literature, and has done lengthy interviews with Heads of Technical Services. Because the research is ongoing she cannot report results at this time, but plans to complete the project by May 2011.

12. Larissa Garcia of National Louis University presented the program, "LibGuides: Multipurpose Online Guides for Your Institution". Larissa created a LibGuide for the presentation itself and will share the link to that guide. She provided a thorough introduction to the functioning and features of the LibGuides product. National Louis' librarians have used LibGuides to create both course-specific and subject guides for their students. They have also used LibGuides to create guides for specific faculty research that include direct links to articles, ebooks, and books in the catalog. Faculty can then use these guides in their courses. National Louis also uses LibGuides in conjunction with Jing to create tutorials for students. In addition, they use LibGuides to publicize library events and credit courses. Larissa shared best practices and recommendations for managing LibGuides, and initiated a discussion with attendees about their use of and practices with the product.

13. A networking lunch and roundtable discussions followed the presentations. In addition to LIBRAS members, a number of Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science students attended.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Levy, Secretary