

Fall LIBRAS Director's Meeting
Benedictine's Moser Center
November 6, 2008

Present: Jennifer Paliatka, (President), Elmhurst; Jack Fritts, Benedictine, (Vice President); Marie Hay, (Treasurer) Trinity International; Kenneth Orenic, (Secretary) Dominican; Larry Wild, Judson; Marcille Frederick, Trinity Christian; Brother Robert Wilsbach, Lewis; James Cubit, Lake Forest College; Bella Karr Gerlich, Dominican; Sally Anderson, North Park University; Lisa Richmond, Wheaton; John Small, North Central College; Iva Freeman, Kendall College; Jan Chindlund, Columbia; John Law, Aurora; Susan Swords Steffen, Elmhurst; Terry Cottrell, St. Francis; Yana Serdyuk, Concordia.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

1. An overview of LIBRAS was given by a panel of speakers including: Susan Swords Steffen, Elmhurst, Larry Wild, Judson; James Cubit, Lake Forest College; Iva Freeman, Kendall College;
 - a. Susan Swords Steffen discussed the history of LIBRAS, including its inception date (1966), cooperative activities between member libraries; networking and professional development opportunities, especially for librarians new to the profession, and the responsibilities of library directors such as serving in leadership roles; and supporting library staff involvement in LIBRAS activities.
 - b. Iva Freeman discussed the cooperative initiatives in which LIBRAS member libraries have participated, including the purchasing of a collection of Shakespeare video tapes and a Microfiche reader used to copy ERIC Documents; the LIBRAS archives are housed at North Park University.
 - c. James Cubit discussed the importance of LIBRAS' Special Interest Groups for professional development and continuing education opportunities for library staff.
 - d. Larry Wild discussed the benefits of professional development opportunities LIBRAS provides and how he personally benefitted from the advice of other LIBRAS directors when he first arrived at Judson.
2. Jack Fritts delivered the Continuing Education Coordinator's Report on behalf of Mark Vargas, Past President and Continuing Education Coordinator. Jack stated that the deadlines for funding are October 1, February 1, and April 1. Continuing Education funding is provided at the "early bird" rate only, where applicable, and is not available to pay for academic course work. Funding is available to all full-time staff members.

3. Jennifer Paliatka polled attendees for ideas for future programming at LIBRAS events, and ways to improve member involvement. Suggestions included:
 - a. Maintaining a current Calendar of Events.
 - b. Holistic Collection Development – Jack Fritts will suggest idea to the Collection Development SIG.
 - c. Soliciting LIBRAS members to present at the Annual Meeting, or, asking a speaker from outside LIBRAS to give a presentation.
 - d. Training on the next catalog to be used by CARLI.
 - e. Library directors should encourage staff to become more active in LIBRAS. Director might consider making participation in LIBRAS activities compulsory.
 - f. Partner experienced librarians with newer librarians at other LIBRAS institutions.
 - g. Schedule field trips/visits to different libraries to share knowledge of how other libraries provide their services.
 - h. Open houses for new staff members.
 - i. Mentoring – survey staff members to gauge interest; who is willing to become a mentor?
 - i. Possibly create a sub-committee to examine mentoring opportunities. Jack Fritts, Jennifer Paliatka, Jan Chindlund and Bella Karr Gerlich expressed interest in serving on this sub-committee.
 - j. Program for Collection Development.
 - k. Strategic planning – meeting goals.
 - l. The future of Reference Services; Information Commons; Roving Reference.
 - m. Improving communication/connections with teaching faculty.
4. Jack Fritts stated that the list of LIBRAS liaisons needs to be updated.
5. Jennifer Paliatka discussed the current SIGs and Chairs –
 - a. Archives, Kim Butler, North Central College
 - b. Circulation/Interlibrary Loan, Carol Warner, Judson University
 - c. Emerging Technology, Caroline Sietmann, Dominican University
 - d. Reference, Katie Meier-O'Shea, North Park University
 - e. Technical Services/Serials, Jennie Johnson, North Central College
 - f. New Librarians does not currently have a Chair.
6. Jennifer Paliatka discussed ending the DDC-1 and I-Media listservs.
7. There was no new business. The meeting concluded with library representatives giving updates at their institutions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Orenic, Secretary