

LIBRAS Fall Directors Meeting and Program
Dominican University
Thursday, October 15, 2009

Attendees: Jack Fritts (President), Benedictine; Jennifer Paliatka (Past President/Continuing Education Coordinator), Elmhurst College; Ken Orenic (Vice President/President-Elect), Dominican; Marie Hay (Treasurer), Trinity International; April Levy (Secretary), Columbia; Sally Anderson, North Park; Iva Freeman, Kendall; Mary Hollerich, Lewis; Bella Karr Gerlich, Dominican; Lisa Richmond, Wheaton; Yana Serdyuk, Concordia; John Small, North Central; Mark Vargas, St. Xavier; Larry Wild, Judson.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am.

All attendees introduced themselves.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 14th, 2009 Annual Meeting. The motion passed and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Marie Hay gave the Treasurer's report.

- All member libraries have paid their annual dues to LIBRAS with the exception of two libraries.
- The existing CDs will roll over and no money will be drawn from them
- A motion was made to approve the LIBRAS 2009-2010 budget. The motion passed and the budget was unanimously approved.
- A discussion took place about rolling over Continuing Education funding from the previous fiscal year to fund attendance to ALA Annual conference, which typically takes place in late June or early July.

Past President Jennifer Paliatka gave the Continuing Education Report.

- A discussion took place about the criteria used in determining how Continuing Education funding is awarded. Criteria includes the number of applicants from a single institution; applications prioritized by library directors; number of times an applicant has applied for funding for the year;
- A discussion took place about funding deadlines. To date 10 of 17 LIBRAS institutions have submitted Continuing Education funding applications.
- A motion was made to amend the wording of the LIBRAS Continuing Education Program Guidelines document, Category A, bullet point, to insert the word "member" after the word "early". The motion was passed unanimously.
 - A motion to amend the amendment to strike the word "only" was introduced and passed unanimously.
 - The sentence will now read as follows: "LIBRAS will pay the registration at the early bird member rate for anyone who is eligible."

SIGs and Liaisons:

Although LIBRAS has several electronic lists for its SIGs, we do not know who is on the lists. This is causing a communication problem, because information is not getting to those who need it. SIG Chairs are creating their own lists of potentially interested people for their events and contacting them directly. There was a suggestion that the LIBRAS website include information about all meetings – today's Directors Meeting was not listed anywhere on the website. Also, Directors should promote LIBRAS to their staffs. There should be more information on the website, and a calendar should be included. A letter is being developed to be sent to staff at all libraries informing them that they are members of LIBRAS, and will be sent in draft form to the Directors for review.

Ken Orenic presented a Google Docs spreadsheet he has created that lists all staff members at LIBRAS libraries, along with their contact information, and indicates which LIBRAS SIGs might be relevant to each. The link to the spreadsheet will be shared with everyone so it can be used to create lists of interested parties for each LIBRAS event. There are over 250 people on the list.

A Google Group could be created as well that would include all staff members and would eliminate the need for electronic lists, although the Directors' list should be maintained until the Google Group is underway. LIBRAS liaisons will be maintained, and a column for liaisons will be added to the spreadsheet.

A practicum student from Dominican is working on reorganizing the content of the LIBRAS website.

Member Updates:

Elmhurst College: Enrollment is up, and everyone is concerned about the MAP grants being funded. There have been no salary cuts or furloughs. They went through HLC and passed with flying colors. The library is in a pilot program for First Year Seminar, involved in all 32 sections, plus librarians work with each house and have provided formal sessions about Information Ethics. Technology cuts are possible in the future, fewer computers because old ones will not be replaced, broken scanner not being replaced. The Library has a new website created with WordPress.

North Central: They have had the largest freshman class ever for the second year in a row, and are doing well financially with an increased endowment. First Year Experience has been a great success, with the Library seeing new students their second day on campus, which sent a good message. The First Year Experience will be evaluated for next year. First Year Seminar is taught by senior faculty members who are also the students' advisors.

Concordia: This year they have had the largest freshman enrollment ever. The online programs are expanding faster than expected, mostly in graduate students in Education. They expected 50 students and got over 200. The College of Music was fully accredited for the first time, and the Library was heavily involved in the process.

Dominican: They have a flat budget and are moving money from materials line into serials. Enrollment projections were met. They have had the second highest freshman enrollment in their history. The new PhD program in Library Science has eight people enrolled in the first cohort. Some money was provided to the Library for materials to support the program, which was used to purchase Dissertation Abstracts. They have implemented mediated printing for community users; logins and passwords are needed to use computers and to print. Free printing will be discontinued soon. Currently, 20 free prints are provided per login. They have given out 1500 unique logins and passwords to community members since beginning the system. Most of their community users are from Bellwood or Forest Park. Dominican students and faculty will not have to pay for printing. They are using Pharos software to administer the printing, and will be getting a kiosk for community members to use.

There was general discussion of creating logins for community users – Dominican has such a large number of them that creating the logins was needed, and has reduced the number of pages printed. It was noted that I-Share members cannot login at Concordia or St. Xavier. St. Xavier also does not allow access to the Microsoft Office suite for non-college people.

A new Instruction Coordinator, Ning Zou, has been hired at Dominican.

North Park: Their enrollment is down, as projected. The Library is busy. They have a student staffing a security desk asking for IDs from 3 p.m. until midnight. They have a current exhibit of five architectural models of area churches. The opening event and lecture was held the previous week and was well-attended. There is some tension regarding inviting the general public to exhibit openings and other events, but not allowing them to use the Library otherwise. They turned down a request from their campus to convert the Library's computer classroom into one that could be used for all classes. Instead, other computer labs in the building will be converted to classrooms. The Library will get more computers and will become the only computer lab area on campus. The university is up for accreditation, and librarians are involved, setting up a wiki for the campus to store information for the visiting team, and one librarian chairing the Academic Subcommittee.

Lewis: They had record enrollment of over 5900 students. The goal is to reach 8500 in the next few years. An Education PhD program has been started, the university's first PhD program. The Library has an almost non-existent instruction program with only two librarians doing instruction. They have received funding to hire a new reference/instruction librarian and hope to get 1-2 more similar positions next year. Instruction is the number one priority. The new Library Director started on June 1. The Library had a working shelflist until the end of June. The next thing to go will be the Kardex. They are using Voyager for their OPAC only as of now, and the book collection is the only collection in the OPAC; periodicals, government documents, and microfilm will be added later. Their book budget is improving with the addition of \$50,000, although it is still not enough. They are hoping to get new furniture, carpeting, and paint.

Kendall: Enrollment is up, but there is a budget freeze until January. The half-time technical services librarian position cannot be filled because of the freeze, so the Library Director is the only person in the Library to serve their 1200 students. She is not able to participate in LIBRAS and does not know if

Kendall can continue to participate after this year. Because Kendall is a for-profit institution it does not match LIBRAS member qualifications anymore. Students get \$25 in free printing, and all printing is 2-sided. New majors in Psychology, Food Science, and Nutrition have been added.

St. Xavier: They had a 20% decrease in new freshmen students. Retention is up, however. The Library had a 20% budget cut and 2.3 FTE staff members were laid off. Phase 1 of the Library renovation has been finished, including 8 new study rooms, new compact shelving, and over 60% of books and 99% of journals have been moved off site. The Library began using WorldCat Local instead of Voyager over the summer, and the Director would like to do a presentation about it for LIBRAS. They like it much better than Voyager. It includes federated searching of databases. The Director is presenting at ICERI conference in Madrid in November about the use of new communication technologies and tools for better engagement with the campus community. 95% of their reference questions are now answered through chat using Meebo.

Judson: They have flat enrollment, but the largest incoming Freshman class. Furloughs have been stopped, and there will be no pay cuts for faculty. They have a flat budget for the 3rd year, but not frozen. They are cancelling most print subscriptions in favor of Project Muse and JSTOR.

Trinity International: The Library has created a new website using Drupal, which has worked very well. All pages are dynamic. They are still working on the site and learning a lot as they go. The university has a new president, who is an alumnus, and he said that he remembered the carpet stains in the Library from when he was a student there, so now the Library will be getting new flooring and carpeting! The university met enrollment projections and the budget is flat.

Wheaton: Enrollment is up slightly. They have had a budget cut, and salaries and acquisitions are flat. A search for a new president is underway. They also created a new website using Drupal, and hired an outside designer for the visual appearance of the site, while using library staff for the technical aspects. They are considering a trial with WorldCat Cataloging Partners for outsourcing their cataloging, and the Director is looking to consult others who have done this. The Library has a special collection archive of seven British authors that is ready to be cataloged and they are seeking grants to fund this. The Library is interested in participating in One Book, One College, and are organizing it this year to launch next year. They are using Gimlet software at the Reference Desk to build a knowledge base and track statistics. It is helping them get a better sense of their users, and they are willing to share information about what they have learned with anyone interested.

Benedictine: Enrollment is up, except for transfer students. They have almost 7000 students. Their budget is unchanged. The Library went through a Program Review over the summer with outside consultants. A report has been prepared, mostly with recommendations for changes at the Provost's end. Only 30% of the recommendations were for the Library. Library instruction is built into the writing classes, 30-40 sessions. They have lots of online programs, and launched a new EdD program to accompany the existing program in Organizational Development. Jack was involved in all aspects of developing the new program. The Library is involved in almost every class in the program. The university has also added an MSN that is strictly online. One librarian is holding online office hours. A

book that Jack Fritts edited has been published – *Mistakes in Library Management*, published by Scarecrow.

Columbia: Enrollment of new students was down, but retention higher than projected. The Library has a new front page to its website, and is now using Library H3lp for chat instead of Meebo. The staff is very happy with Library H3lp because it allows several people to be signed into chat from different computers, and keeps chat transcripts.

Program:

Bella Karr Gerlich presented a brief program about her research in developing the READ scale (Reference Effort Assessment Data). She will also be presenting about it at the ICERI conference in Madrid. Her development of the scale was prompted by the 2002 ARL SPEC Kit about the collection of reference statistics. The SPEC Kit revealed that there was no standardization in the recording and classifying of reference statistics.

She developed a 6-point scale measuring the knowledge, skill, effort (of library staff) that occurs during the reference transaction. In 2007, Gerlich and Lynn Berard of Carnegie Mellon collaborated on a national study of 14 institutions in 12 states to assess its effectiveness. 170 individuals participated. The scale was tested with real questions either over a 3-week period or for an entire semester. Evaluators of the scale found it easy to implement and felt that it added value to the statistics they kept.

The READ scale is now being used in LibStats and SiteScripiter. Contact Bella Karr Gerlich if your library is interested in using the scale. The report of the results of their study will be published in the January 2010 issue of *College & Research Libraries*. The white paper is available now on the *C&RL* website.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.