

**Report to the
Alliance Library System Board of Directors
Executive Director's Report
April 16, 2009**

As we enter the last two months of the fiscal year, all three budgets (ALS, RSA & MITBC) are tight but still within the 08/09 budget guidelines. Personnel, healthcare costs and building issues continue to challenge us as we try and hold the line and maximize revenue. With very close scrutiny of all expenditures we anticipate ending the fiscal year on June 30th with no, or a very small deficit in the ALS and RSA budgets and as planned, the MITBC budget will be significantly under spent. To date we have received \$1,715,699.58 of the budgeted \$1,879,939.61, or 91.3% of our expected funding with the remaining \$164,240.03 expected in July. As Paul completes drafts of the 2009-2010 budgets, we are waiting for budget confirmation from the state library. In the interim we are drafting "flat" budgets that reflect no increases in funding and will present them in detail to the board next week.

The big issue this month is changes to the Online Computer Library Center Inc. (OCLC) pricing structure. OCLC is a corporation that, since 1977 has supplied Illinois libraries with on-line cataloguing records and interlibrary loan services. As a statewide consortium of over 1,500 libraries, the Illinois State Library divides the \$5,000,000 OCLC bill amongst all the libraries that use the service. To make this expense more equitable and to prepare for OCLC's new 2012 Universal Pricing Structure, the state library and ALS have provided a onetime subsidy to RSA members to keep potential increases to under \$150 this year. Equitably sharing the OCLC bill is a huge challenge, but I am confident that working together we will make the adjustments.

The IT Department is working with Comcast Ltd. to add a second T1 line to the High Point Lane facility. This will increase band width from 1.5 – 16 mbs, improve the speed for video conferencing and the guest wireless fictions as well as providing a backup system for the website. It is a \$3,000 donation from our friends at Comcast. The line will be trenched into the building through the back parking lot and be completed by the end of May. We are excited!!!

The upgrading last month of the MITBC automated circulation system, Keystone Library Automation System (KLAUS) to a more intuitive windows based product went extremely well...certainly better than we thought! With lots of planning and early communication with our customers, there was very little impact on the service and staff has been very successful in learning the new procedures with support from the ALS IT Department. MITBC is back to circulating 1,100 talking books daily and the new procedures are gradually streamlining operations.



The Libraries Matter poster photo project “Proud to be a Librarian/Trustee/ALS employee/ILSDO member...” continues to be popular with over 990 posters made to date at a value of \$15,500. In these challenging times it seems more appropriate than ever to celebrate librarianship and our unique opportunity to truly make a difference in the lives of our customers and it seems as if the library community agrees. I would like to thank Sandy and Judy, who have spearheaded this project for making it such a success.

In 2008 ALS and its members applied for 51 LSTA grants and received 33 (\$419,638) for a success rate of 65% which represented 10.43% of the total LSTA funds allocated. The 2009 LSTA letters of Intent have been submitted. ALS and members have proposed 78 different projects in 4 categories, a 53% increase over last year. This increase is a real indication of the great categories selected by the state library and the very real need our libraries have for technology and reading programs in these economically challenging times. Over the summer the state library and grant readers will review the grants and by September we anticipate some great results!!

ALS Proposed LSTA Projects 2009 - 2010

Category	System wide Letters of Intent	ALS Project Proposals	ALS Total value
Digital Imaging	2009 – 11 2010 - 6	Audio Description Illinois ...teaching libraries around the state how to do audio descript	\$10,000
In Sync with Technology	2009 - 34 2010 - 37	Teaching podcasting to ALS Career connection ...teaching resume writing/job hunting for libraries serving populations of less than 11,000	\$48,438 \$50,000
Dream Catcher	2010 - 6	Training on ISail ... library science curriculum development for grades 1-9	\$50,000
Read for Education and Dev.	2010 - 29	A new category to promote reading based programs...ALS does not qualify in this category	
Total Applications	2009 - 51 2010 - 78	245 applications state wide \$4,022,237	\$1,208,502
Total awarded	2009 – 33 2010 - ??	65% success rate	\$419,638

Illinois Library Day is when the library community meets in Springfield to promote the library cause with our legislators. It is planned for next Thursday April 23rd (yes, the same day as the board meeting!!!) So, President John, Lee and I will have a verbal report from the day’s activities for the board meeting.

The 2009 ALS Election Committee (Sue Busenbark, Secretary to the Board and Chair of the Election Committee, Molly Horio, Kevin Eckhoff and Katie Grumbine) will have their first meeting Thursday April 23rd 5:00 - 5:30 just before the ALS Board meeting. They will review the board seats that will be vacated in October (1 trustee seat at this point) and make plans for the election in late summer.

It is time to establish the ALS 2009 Awards Committee (these are the folks that vote on and hand out the awards at the ALS annual meeting in October). Last year's committee included: Sue Busenbark, Molly Horio, Kevin Eckhoff plus Geri Kegley, Lori Bell and I. Traditionally there is a committee meeting in September and then duties at the annual meeting. This year we would like to meet on Tuesday September 15th from 11-2 here at ALS to review the nominations. Are there any board members who would like to volunteer for this year's committee?



There has been a huge response to my weekly articles, [On a + Note](#). The first one "How to lead in tough times" was written at the kitchen table on a Sunday evening. I wanted to talk in plain terms about what was happening nationally and how this economic crisis is affecting friends, families, peers and small libraries across central Illinois. Well, nine weeks later, [On a +Note](#) is reaching over 12,000 folks across North America and is on numerous websites. Folks have asked why it is so plain and I have responded saying it's not fancy or flashy; it is simply my thoughts and responses to questions library folks are asking in these trying times. How long will I write it? I have answered ...as long as I have something to say and library folks are looking for answers!!! I have been asked to do a SirsiDynix Institute national webinar May13th and talk about how [On a +Note](#) has impacted the library community during this time of change. I will send you the link when it is all said and done!

Staff is looking forward to ALS Day on Tuesday April 28th. It is one of the most important days on our calendar as we expect over 100 library folks from across the system to converge on High Point Lane. We still expect Governor Quinn will be our keynote speaker. His presence will make it a different ALS day, but I am sure the library community will be very interested in what he has to say and his thoughts about the state budget situation, environmental issues and the nation's recovery. I will keep the board fully briefed as the event gets closer.

"If you want to create hope (and fight the fear)
we must create change"Richard Harwood

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