

**Report to the
Alliance Library System Board of Directors
February 19, 2009
Executive Director's Report**

The general operating grants from the Secretary of State are on track and the 2008/09 expenses remain on target. Alliance administers three separate budgets, ALS, MITBC and RSA.

- For ALS we are being extremely cautious and holding off any discretionary spending until there is direction from the State Library or we get closer to year end (June 30th).
- For MITBC, with the hiring freeze, we are keeping expenditures to a bare minimum, paying only salaries and contract expenses. We are waiting for direction from the State Library as to what the funding levels will be next year.
- For RSA we are maintaining the current budget, but again being very cautious about any additional expenditures.

The proposed 2009 - 2010 ALS/RSA/MITBC budgets are in the initial drafting stages. The process is complicated this year due to the uncertain funding situation, the ever escalating costs of health care, heat, light and water, while gas costs are actually declining. We are hoping for some direction and clarification from the Governor's budget address expected March 18th. Drafting a system budget is always a complex process but this year the variables and uncertainties make it one of the most challenging ever. However, having said that, I am confident that with wise planning and a bit of luck we will weather this storm and learn much in the process. The proposed 2009 – 2010 budget will be ready to present to the Board in April, sent to the Illinois State Library in May and defended in Springfield in July.

Library development (consulting), continuing education, resource sharing (RSA) and the delivery of library materials (interlibrary loan) are the 4 primary responsibilities of library systems in Illinois. With the new ability of customers to directly place holds on material from their home computer and much wider accessibility to resources, conservatively we anticipate delivery volumes will increase 7 - 9% annually over the next 3 years (or if you prefer, up 24% over the next 3 years!!) as residents use libraries more and more.

Projected ALS Delivery Volumes

Fiscal Year	Projected Items delivered	Projected increase	Increased items/day	% increase
2009	798,000			
2010	861,840	63,840	261	8%
2011	930,787	68,947	281	8%
2012	1,005,250	74,463	304	8%

The LSTA grant offerings from the Illinois State Library have been announced. Letters of Intent are due March 31st, complete applications by May 1st, awards announced in September with funding anticipated by October. The ALS grant writing workshops have been very well attended this year so we expect great results for the membership. ALS is working on the following grants.

2009 LSTA grant opportunities

Category	Amount	Eligible	Criteria	ALS proposals	Comments
In Sync with Technology.	\$5,000 to \$50,000	All libraries and systems	Integrate new technologies or significant equipment	1)Upgrade training lab 2)tech & training to assist customers find jobs	In year 2 of a 3 year program
Digital Imaging	Option #1 \$5,000 - \$25,000 Option #2 \$80,000 - \$100,000	All libraries and systems	Option #1 Digitize a collection Option #2 Digitize historic collections	1)Route 66 digitization 2) audio description training	No yearbooks/phone books or family genealogies
Dream Catcher	\$2,500 to \$25,000	All libraries and systems	Develop educational training activities for the customer	Support new school library curriculum training	Community partnerships encouraged
Read: for Education and Dev.	\$2,500 - \$25,000	All libraries	To promote reading and library programs	N/A	Yahoo...the return of collection development grants

It has been a hectic start to the year and we still have Summer Reading Kickoff February 27th which attracts over 100 kid's librarians to ALS, Illinois Library Day in Springfield and ALS Day April 28 or 29th, with the possibility of Governor Quinn as keynote speaker. I am currently working on a series of grant applications with Lori, writing PREP's for the Management Team and researching the 2009 Trends Report, which is due in June. However, my primary focus is on the funding situation for ALS, MITBC, the RSA and how it is going to affect service over the next 12 months. The issues are huge, but I believe the solutions are all within our grasp.

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