



New core services as of May 31, 2010

As you know, most Alliance Library System programs and services will be discontinued Friday May 28, 2010 and twenty-two ALS staff will be laid off. Beginning Monday May 31, 2010, ALS management team will include: Paul Santos responsible for Finance, Facilities and HR; Kendal Orrison responsible for RSA and IT; and Kitty Pope responsible for operations and planning. Together we will tie up loose ends as a result of the new core services, supervise delivery and RSA, plus plan for one new, massive library system in Illinois. Specifically:

Van Delivery

Van delivery is our number one priority, and ALS is doing everything possible to ensure that it continues. The drivers will continue their usual routes, Phil and Leonard will be sorting, backed up by Kendal, Paul and Kitty, so please be patient with us, we will do our very best. Contact Phil Evans at pevans@alliancelibrarysystem.com if you have delivery questions or need assistance.

Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA)

RSA has not been affected by the current Illinois budget crisis that has so dramatically affected ALS and MITBC. Kendal will continue to be responsible for RSA operations as $\frac{1}{2}$ of his job and the other $\frac{1}{2}$, (paid by ALS) to support ALS IT services and delivery. Martha, Erica, JT and Chris will continue to provide the same level of excellent service to RSA members that you have come to expect and enjoy. If you have questions please contact Kendal at korrison@alliancelibrarysystem.com

Mid Illinois Talking Book Service (MITBC)

The MITBC is supported by the State of Illinois who pay salaries and the Library of Congress who supply the talking books. With no funding from the state, the service will be "suspended" May 28th and all staff laid off. "If" or "when" the service can be resumed or officially closed as per federal guidelines is not known at this time. If you have questions please contact Kitty at kpope@alliancelibrarysystem.com . I will do my best !

ALS Website

The immediate plan is to have the ALS website in its May 28th form available for the next 6-8-10 months. Members will have access to the Technology Training Wheels and all the other resources but, there will be no new postings i.e. Job postings or news. Kendal will be responsible for the website in its new stripped down form.

Professional Development and Grant Opportunities

All ALS workshops, professional development programs and grant opportunities have been cancelled. This loss will not be felt immediately by the membership, but in the coming months it will become a huge issue that each library is going to have to address. This was an area where ALS truly excelled and so I grieve this loss of service and know it will be tough for members to replace.

L2

The fate of L2, the statewide continuing education/PD calendar is uncertain at this time we will keep members updated on developments in this area.

Special Interest Group Meetings

ALS has been honored to be a part of the 15 networking groups that meet around central Illinois however, after May 28th ALS staff will not be able to attend.

Consulting

Consulting service will no longer be available after May 28th. ALS led the nation in demonstrating how Knowledge Based Consulting particularly to our small libraries was essential and truly made a difference. Words cannot express my grief over this loss.

ALS building/vehicles/ equipment etc.

At this point the future of 600 High Point Lane and the disposition of surplus vehicles and equipment is unknown. As the Board sorts through these issues and assesses what is needed and what is not, we will keep you informed. If you have questions please call Paul at psantos@alliancelibrarysystem.com

ILSDO Fund for Illinois Librariesthe 501(c)3

ILSDO will not be accepting new members and will suspend the acceptance of donations, effective July 1, 2010. Current members can still use the 501(c) 3 number. A memo from ILSDO will go out to all current members next week. ALS is investigating the possibility of taking over this responsibility for ILSDO because we know how important this is to your fundraisings efforts. Stay tuned...

ALS/MITBC Staff

Paul, Kendal and I are totally focused on the staff these days, helping them find a soft place to land be it; retirement, re-training or another job. At this point we have; 4 folks who are retiring, 2 who are considering re-training options, 2 have already found new jobs (there were huge celebrations yesterday over this news!!) and the rest are working on their resumes and actively looking!! We have Careerlink here today and next week will do a series of resume writing and interview skills workshops. Area libraries have been sending us job applications so they can keep track of possible employees down the road. For this we are very grateful.

This is the toughest part...seeing the ALS family hurting and unable to make the pain go away. But, ALS have always been all about team work and a positive attitude...so

why in our last few days together would we change what has made us the best library system in the world!!

On a + note

Many of you have been kindly asking about On a + note. It has been very tempting to stop writing it in these sad days. However, John Richmond said to me a few days ago..."why would you walk away, when folks need you the most"? So, I will still be at the kitchen table Sunday mornings, and Genna will be at her kitchen table as my volunteer editor and Kendal will be pushing it out to now over 7,000 folks every Monday morning.

ALS Board

The Alliance Library Board is still responsible for the operation of the Alliance Library System, in its new form. ALS board meetings will continue and will be supported by Kitty, Paul and Kendal. The board and Kitty will be working with other library systems and the Illinois State Library in the restructuring and development of a new "super system" to serve the whole state. System board workshops on strategic restructuring have been scheduled for May and early June by the Alliance Library System (ALS), the DuPage Library System (DLS), the Metropolitan Library System (MLS), the North Suburban Library System (NSLS), and the Prairie Area Library System (PALS) Boards. Workshops will include reviewing strategic restructuring options and discussing system mergers. As this process works towards a July 2011 starting date, we have much to do. I will be back to you often as we figure out what services one library system in Illinois can support. Stay tuned....

Well, that's all I know as of today, as the situation clarifies and we have more information I will share it with you. In the mean time, thank you so much for your support and kindnesses. In these darks days, every word of encouragement is truly a gift. And, every shred of good news is celebrated with gusto.

ALS is still all about team and a positive attitude.

If there are questions about any program or services not listed, please feel free to contact me at 1-309-694-9200 or kpope@alliancelibrarysystem.com .

Thanks again

Kitty Pope
May 22/2010