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Announcements

The [MLS Annual Meeting](#) will be held Friday, November 9, 2007, 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m., at Roosevelt University. An agenda is available at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar/Flyers/2695.pdf> . Register through the MLS Calendar of Events at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar/> .

MLS announces the Aspirations, Realities, and Opportunities Conference, Friday, November 2, 2007. Explore the changing role of the special librarian today, and how library professionals can navigate the chutes and ladders of their careers, now and in the future. Register at <http://www.dupagels.lib.il.us/calendar/detailpages/1188332814.html> .

Registration is open for the 2007 School Librarians' Holiday Program on Friday, December 7, 2007 at the Field Museum. This year's program focuses on The Curriculum Connection: How Museums Serve School Libraries. Networking, vendors, and refreshments will be available. Register at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar/> .

MLS is pleased to offer library staff a block of tickets to "WICKED," the longest running Broadway musical in Chicago history! Purchase tickets for just \$37.50 for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday performances between now and October 11, 2007. A \$20 savings! Call (312) 902-1400 today or visit www.BroadwayInChicago.com. Use the code "LIBRARY" when ordering. Offer expires September 30.

Don't forget to get the Illinois School Library Media Association's 2007 Fall Conference on your calendar! The theme is Making Powerful Learners Virtually Everywhere, and the workshops and presentations will offer a robust mix of media and formats for enhancing library programs in all types of schools. Register and find all conference and lodging details at www.ISLMA.org. Early bird rate applies until September 29! [[Permalink](#)]

MLS Presents Annual Report and Audit

MLS Links

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At the end of the fiscal year, Metropolitan Library System (MLS) must present an annual report to the Illinois State Library. The document will soon be available online. Read on for a few highlights. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2007/01_17/annualreport.asp

Continuing Education Events

[E-Rate Application Process](#), Joe Natale, Tuesday, October 2, 2007, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Supervisor's Series #4: Team Building](#), Gail Johnson and Pam Parr, Wednesday, October 3, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Teaching Technology to Your Patrons](#), Dawne Tortorella, Wednesday, October 3, 2007, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Gaming in the School Library: Its Impact on Learning](#), Rebecca Butler and Jason Underwood, Thursday, October 4, 2007, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Introduction to Wikis: Practical Tips for Use & Implementation at Your Library](#), Kelly Watson, Friday, October 5, 2007, 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Circulation Forum](#), Kelly Krieg-Sigman, Thursday, October 18, 2007, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Chicago State University

For more info and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar/>. [[Permalink](#)]

Grants

Target awards reading grants of up to \$3,000 to schools and libraries. Applications are available at your local Target store or online.

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-001818>

NEA Foundation announces "Books Across America" grants of \$1,000 to public schools serving economically disadvantaged students to purchase books for school libraries. Deadline for applications is November 12, 2007.

http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/BAA_2007.htm

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and ALA invite public and school (K-12) libraries to apply for a We the People Bookshelf, a collection of classic books for young readers. The theme for the 2007-2008 Bookshelf is "Created Equal." Apply online from September 10, 2007 through January 25, 2008 at <http://www.ala.org/wethepeople/>. [[Permalink](#)]

Library Law: Changes in the Law of Interest to Libraries

Two new Illinois laws will affect both local libraries and library districts. The first new law changes the date of the general primary election; and the second is a law changing the provisions of the Library Records Confidentiality Act. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2007/01_17/librarylaw_09_07.asp

SWAN: Governance Nominations

The SWAN Council self-nomination process closed on Friday, September 14, 2007. Ten candidates submitted their applications for five positions to be elected at large. And the nominees are... [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_17/SWANnominees.asp

MLS Service: Consulting

MLS Consultants have plenty of variety in their work. Whether it's donning a hard hat to visit a new library site or negotiating knowledge management issues, their work with MLS member libraries is always diverse and interesting. [[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_17/mlsconsulting.asp

Member Spotlight: CPS Area Coordinators

The staff of Chicago Public Schools Department of Libraries and Information Services works to help librarians, teachers, administrators, and community members improve their library programs. Two Area Library Coordinators, K.C. Boyd and Dorsey Chambers, have just started their positions this year.

[[Permalink](#)]

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2007/01_17/CPSareacoord.asp



MLS Presents Annual Report and Audit

by Alice Calabrese-Berry and Scott Remmenga, MLS

At the end of the fiscal year, Metropolitan Library System (MLS) must present an annual report to the Illinois State Library. The FY2007 Annual Report will be posted to the MLS website at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/aboutus.asp#annualreport> after it has been submitted to the Illinois State Library on September 28, 2007. Below are a few highlights from Executive Director Alice Calabrese's narrative.

Significant Accomplishments

MLS created a Department of Consulting and Continuing Education. A Director was hired in the last fiscal year. Three professional staff members were hired, all with experience working in multitype libraries. Three support staff members were transferred from other departments within the organization and utilized according to their expertise.

IMPACT: Members are better served with a team of consultants with a variety of library type experience. Site visits increased and three times as many CE events were offered.

The new Consulting and Continuing Education Department created two six-month calendars of CE events meeting the requirement in the System Standards.

IMPACT: The calendar is used as a communication and marketing tool for the CE program.

The new Consulting and Continuing Education Department also created *MLS E-nounce*, an online newsletter which debuted January 24, 2007. *MLS E-nounce* is published twice a month by the Consulting Team.

IMPACT: The online newsletter keeps members informed with information that is current and relevant. The online newsletter was requested by the membership.

A SWAN Governance Study Group (GSG) of five individuals was elected, representing small, medium and large libraries, as well as representative from north of I-55 and south of I-55. The GSG worked to create a new governance model for SWAN Council. The membership voted to accept the new SWAN Governance model. The success is due to a process which required true consensus building, facilitated meetings, support of MLS staff, and communication between the study group and the members of SWAN.

IMPACT: The SWAN membership had input at all levels, achieving buy-in from the stakeholders and a trust in the process.

IMPACT: This new structure should streamline the decision-making process.

IMPACT: Communication to the members of SWAN will be standardized and consistent, with the minutes of the meeting being the agreed form of communication.

Economic Challenges

The budgetary financial crisis at the State has not improved and the System has been told not to expect funding increases. This environment also predates the possibility of funding cuts. In response, the Board has encouraged staff to investigate alternative sources of revenue. Staff has begun to implement cost saving measures in order to continue providing the same level of services now performed.

LIMRiCC (Library Insurance Management and Risk Control Combination) renewals remained below the industry trend on July 1 for health insurance and related programs. In order to keep rate increases down, the membership has committed to make minimum plan changes for the benefit of the majority of the members. An emphasis on growing the size of the health insurance pool to help diminish the impact of large claims and provide more service has been started and will continue in the future.

Technology Challenges

It is difficult for poorly-funded libraries to keep up-to-date technologically; as members of SWAN, their inability to

upgrade equipment, routers, etc. affects decision-making for consortia members. Many of our librarians voice frustration with aging technologies and the inability to afford upgrades.

We see the digital divide increasing within MLS, with a huge financial gap in the public libraries we serve. Some public libraries have been forced to cut service hours, placing a burden on neighboring libraries. In communities where the citizens have little or no access to computers in the home, free public access to computers is essential.

In response, we have encouraged and supported legislation which could bring additional dollars to libraries. In the next fiscal year we will query the membership about their financial state and its effect on their ability to serve the citizens in their communities. Baseline data will be collected and shared with the Illinois State Library and the rest of the state. Once the data has been collected, the Board will discuss with the membership a course of action.

Financial Highlights

In addition to the annual report, MLS performs an annual audit. Results are submitted to the State Library and are available online at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/aboutus.asp#annualreport>. Highlights from the Audit include:

- Assets exceeded liabilities by \$8,087,038 (net assets) at the close of the fiscal year. Of this amount, \$6,879,279 is unrestricted and available to meet ongoing and future obligations.
- The change in total net assets for the System is \$484,026. Governmental activities had an increase of \$132,260 through expenditure containment as overall revenue decreased from prior year. Business-type activities had an increase of \$351,766 primarily due to growing investment income and continued positive claim experience for the year.
- Total governmental funds reported an end of the year fund balance of \$1,553,834. This was an overall increase of \$260,530 and from the credit received on Chicago office rent when signing five-year lease extension on Suite 680, reduced personnel/contractual costs, and increased investment income.
- Governmental funds reported a combined total of \$3,727,315 in revenues and \$3,466,785 in expenditures.
- The General Fund's total revenue of \$3,413,168 was higher than budget by \$83,443. The expenditures in the fund were \$137,087 lower than budgeted which resulted in a net increase of \$260,530 in the fund balance.
- Proprietary LIMRiCC Fund's total revenue of \$2,974,057 was below budget by \$82,793. However, expenses were also significantly below budget resulting in a net asset increase of \$290,298. Net assets for the LIMRiCC Fund as of June 30, 2007 were \$4,349,477.

Published **September 19, 2007** in vol. 1, iss. 17 [[View](#)]





Library Law: Changes in the Law of Interest to Libraries

by Gerard E. Dempsey and Janet N. Petsche

Two new Illinois laws, the first immediately effective, the second effective January 1, 2008, will have an effect on libraries. Each of these laws will affect both local libraries and library districts. Additional legislation -- backed by the Illinois Library Association and affecting only library districts -- was passed by the Illinois Senate 57-0 and the Illinois House by 113-2. This proposed bill was vetoed by the Governor on Friday, August 17th but could become law if his veto is overridden.

The first new law changes the date of the general primary election¹; and the second is a law changing the provisions of the Library Records Confidentiality Act². The vetoed legislation would change the provisions of the Illinois Public Library District Act of 1991³ for establishing, maintaining and abolishing a library district's working cash fund.⁴ This bill will become law only if both the Senate and the House override the veto by a 3/5ths vote. If the override fails, the ILA has indicated that it will attempt to have the Bill re-filed for the next session of the Illinois General Assembly.

General Primary Election Change

As has been widely publicized, the date of Illinois' general primary election has been changed to the first Tuesday in February from the third Tuesday in March. In 2008 this change sets the general primary election date on Tuesday, February 5th.

As one of the two election dates in 2008 on which a public policy question can appear on the ballot, the timing of the general primary will be important to library districts and to municipalities acting for local libraries that wish to include a .02% building and maintenance tax (subject to back door referendum) on the general primary ballot.⁵ The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law ("PTELL")⁶ allows the imposition of this tax in this manner only if it has been imposed at least once within the prior 3 years.⁷

Because an ordinance adopting the .02% tax must be published in the local newspaper within 15 days after its adoption, and objectors must be allowed 30 days in which to submit petitions to place the question of imposing this tax on the ballot,⁸ a date for adoption of such an ordinance must be chosen that will allow sufficient time for a public policy question to be placed on the ballot for an upcoming election.⁹ If the chosen election date is the 2008 general primary election, the adoption of the .02% ordinance should take place no later than October 4, 2007.

Of course, an ordinance imposing the .02% building and maintenance tax may be vacated by action of the board of library trustees of library districts or the corporate authorities of the host municipality of the local library within 7 days of receipt of the petitions, thus eliminating the requirement that the question of the tax be placed on the ballot.

Library Records Confidentiality Act

The amendment to the Library Records Confidentiality Act changes the requirement that a library can release its patrons' circulation and/or registration records only by court order. It provides a library with protection from possible lawsuits for invasion of privacy or breach of confidentiality if it releases the identity of a suspect, witness, or victim of a crime to a sworn law enforcement officer who represents that it is impractical to secure a court order as a result of an emergency where the officer has probable cause to believe there is an imminent danger of physical harm. Under this new law, if there is no court order, the library may not disclose circulation or registration information that includes the materials borrowed, resources reviewed or services used at the library.

The amendment allows the library to require the law enforcement officer to sign a form acknowledging his/her receipt of the information requested, and does not preclude the library from seeking judicial review after the release, to determine if the officer's representations complied with the requirements for making such a request without seeking a court order. In addition, the amendment does not alter any right otherwise permitted by law to

challenge the use or dissemination of patron information.

Working Cash Fund

The Illinois Library Association was able to obtain sponsorship in the current session of the General Assembly of Senate Bill 186, changing the Illinois Public Library District Act's (the "Act") requirements for establishing and maintaining a working cash fund. The amendment would increase the amount of money that may be accumulated in the fund, the use of interest earned on the accumulated amount, and the abolishment and re-establishment of the fund.

Under the existing provisions of the Act, the maximum amount allowed to be accumulated in the working cash fund is 0.2% of the full, fair cash value of all taxable property within the district, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue for the year the fund was established, or, if established after January 1, 1979, then for the year 1978. The amendment would change this provision to allow a working cash fund to accumulate funds to a maximum limit of 0.2% of the **1998** full fair cash value of all taxable property within the district as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue.

The amendment would also allow temporarily idle moneys in the fund to be invested as directed by the board of library trustees, and the interest earned on such investment may be permanently transferred, at the option of the board, to the general corporate fund, or could be held in the fund and temporarily transferred to the operating fund in anticipation of the receipt of property taxes to be used to re-pay the transferred amount. In no case, however, could the accumulation in the fund exceed the maximum limit as described above.

The existing law regarding abolition of the working cash fund requires that if the district wishes to re-establish the fund after it is abolished (by transferring the entire amount accumulated to the operating fund or corporate fund), the district must submit the creation of the new working cash fund to direct referendum. The amendment would delete the requirement for direct referendum and states that the fund may be re-established in the same manner in which it was originally created (by ordinance subject to backdoor referendum.)

If the Bill should become law by override of the Governor's veto, then before any library district decides to abolish its working cash fund and create a new fund, it should consult with a qualified library law attorney regarding whether under the PTELL this re-establishment is a "new rate" subject to direct referendum, despite the change made by this amendment.

Gerard Dempsey and Janet Petsche are partners with the law firm of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, Ltd. which is an Illinois law firm with offices in the Civic Opera Building at 20 North Wacker Drive in Chicago and at 15010 S. Ravinia, Orland Park. The firm concentrates in the representation of local libraries, Library districts and Library systems, as well as other local governmental units.

1 P.A. 95-0006 to be codified at 10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1 (a)

2 P.A. 95-0040 to be codified at 75 ILCS 70/1

3 75 ILCS 16/1-1 et seq.

4 Senate Bill 186

5 75 ILCS 16/35-5 (b) and 25 ILCS 5/3-4

6 35 ILCS 18-185 et seq.

7 35 ILCS 200/19-190 (b) (E).

8 75 ILCS 16/35-5 (b)

9 10 ILCS 28-2 (a)



SWAN Governance Nominations

by Donna Kilmartin, MLS

The SWAN Council self-nomination process closed on Friday, September 14, 2007. Ten candidates submitted their applications for five positions to be elected at large. The SWAN Council election will be held October 1, 2007 to October 14, 2007. An email will go out to SWANcom on October 1, 2007 with a link to the electronic ballot. Authorized representatives from SWAN member libraries will be voting for one representative from group A and two representatives from Groups B & C.

Below are the self-nominees' applications listed by Governance Groups A, B & C.

Group A

Patrick Nevins, Head Librarian, Richton Park Public Library District

Experience: I have been a public library director in M(S)LS since 1976. I have served on SWAN Council for several years. As a head librarian, I have gotten my library into SWAN, and have knowledge of SWAN from both a user's standpoint and from the Council perspective.

Statement of Interest: I feel that the new SWAN Council should have continuity and experience to provide what the membership needs. It also should have someone who can see the operation as a whole, but who also knows how it can affect the operation of a library at the desk, in reference, or in cataloging. I feel that I can offer the best mix of someone who has direct hands-on experience with SWAN, extensive public library administrative experience, experience with the operation of SWAN, and openness to new ideas.

Group B

Rodger Brayden, Director, Forest Park Public Library

Experience: I've been director at Forest Park for a little more than three years, experiencing SWAN both as a patron and in service to patrons at the reference desk. Though not a "techie" by background, I believe I will be able to bring a user perspective and customer service outlook to the world of SWAN.

Statement of Interest: During the past three years, I've heard a lot about what is wrong with SWAN. With previous experience in the north suburbs, where it tends to be "every man for himself," with many more free standing library catalogs and far fewer libraries in consortia than here in MLS, I appreciate the value of cooperative ventures like SWAN, and would like to contribute something to making it run smoothly and for the benefit of our patrons.

Ruth McCrank, Director, Westchester Public Library

Experience: Currently serving 2nd term as SWAN Council member representing Zone 34; public library administrator for 25 years; 5 years Lakeland Library Cooperative, MI, board member and president during ILS migration from Dynix to Innovative ILS; MLS from University of Maryland and continuing education including Miami University, OH, Library Administrator's Leadership Program.

Statement of Interest: SWAN's pending reorganization with empowered board acting on behalf of the membership needs mature judgment and experienced leadership. I have worked previously as a board member and president of the Lakeland (8 county region, 82 libraries) Cooperative in Grand Rapids, MI, which was similarly organized and had the same mission. My directorships have included Kent District Library with an \$11.2M budget and 260 employees, serving 36 governmental units. This experience included establishment of a district library from a previous county library system. The position required consensus building, fiscal responsibility, advocacy, internal reorganization, labor-management

negotiations and decisive action. I believe all my administrative and leadership experience will prove valuable to the SWAN Board.

Detlev Pansch, Director, Frankfort Public Library District

Experience: Director, Frankfort Public Library District: 1998- present. Served four years on SWAN Council (two years as co-chair). Served on ILL contract renewal committee. Experience working with other library consortia. Private sector experience in computing. Public and academic library experience in computing, technical services and reference.

Statement of Interest: Since I have worked at a SWAN member library I have demonstrated my commitment to a strong consortium. I am very interested in seeing SWAN remain a viable service to its members.

Elaine Savage, Administrative Librarian, Palos Heights Public Library

Experience: I have served as zone 7 SWAN representative for two plus terms during governing model switch, vendor selection and conversion as well as serving on a computer fund subcommittee. Between a dilettante and an expert, I am the SWAN resource person for my library.

Statement of Interest: I do not bring any specific agenda to this position. As I have expressed the need for change, one can not just sit back and hope someone else will do it. That and my long interest in SWAN is why I have decided to be active in this new governing model. SWAN is at a definite turning point in its existence and committed individuals such as myself are needed to keep it viable. I only sincerely want to represent this category of library.

Jan Schmudde, Director, Northlake Public Library District

Experience: I have been a SWAN Public Library Director for 21 years. I served four years on SWAN Council from 1999-2003. I was also on the first 3 SWAN Computer Fund Subcommittees. At Northlake Public Library District, I started a consortium of six libraries to share one server to use SAM for internet time and print management.

Statement of Interest: I am interested in serving on the new SWAN Council because I was on the SWAN Governance Study Group and would like to see how the new structure will work. There will be major financial decisions that will need to be made over the next few years, due to the flat state funding for M.L.S., and I believe that I can contribute to the decision making process based on my experience on the SWAN computer fund committees.

Sheri Starr, Assistant Director, Prairie Trails Public Library District

Experience: At PTPLD, I am Assistant Director and in charge of all automation issues. Since 1999 I have been regularly attending the SWAN Administrators Quarterly Meetings. I am very familiar with all aspects of SWAN including patron and staff uses, costs, needs, concerns, current staff and services provided by MLS.

Statement of Interest: Professionally I possess a degree in computer science and a passion for automation service. My interests mirror that of the member libraries which is to make SWAN the best it can be; to make available the functional capabilities that will best serve our patrons, staff members and libraries; and to listen and act on the member libraries' issues. I've attended an IUG conference, served on SWAN committees and attended SWAN presentations. I have the advantage of knowing the Innovative representatives and the SWAN member users, and therefore can hit the ground running in service to our member libraries.

Group C

Jamie Bukovac, Director, Indian Prairie Public Library District

Experience: Director, Indian Prairie Public Library, Jan. 2006 - present Director, Hinsdale Public Library, Oct. 2003 - Dec. 2005 Assistant Director, Downers Grove Public Library, 1989 - 2003 Four years on SWAN Council with two years as Co-Chair Management experience plus keen interest in

technology.

Statement of Interest: I have a real passion for SWAN because it is such an integral and major service to our patrons as well as an important tool for our staff. I'm very excited and interested in the direction technology will take us. But we also face some challenges. There are questions about the level of funding that will be needed. As we know, our membership is diverse with varying needs and interests. There is tension between funding SWAN and moving forward with technology. It will take much study, and creativity, to create a solution that will preserve the consortium and move us forward. I'm energized by challenges and would welcome the opportunity to work with the membership and SWAN staff to find solutions.

James B. Casey, Director, Oak Lawn Public Library

Experience: In addition to active involvement in System affairs since my arrival at Oak Lawn in March 1992, I have served on the SWAN Advisory Committee during 1992-1994, on SLS Advisory Committee during 1996-2000 and on SWAN Administrator's Council since July 2006. I have also been active in ALA and ILA.

Statement of Interest: SWAN needs to operate efficiently, avoid exhausting and/or overextending its limited human and fiscal resources, and to communicate effectively with the Membership in order to build consensus. SWAN is vital to the service mission of all Member Libraries and will not be successful unless the concerns of all Members (regardless of size and location) are given legitimate attention. It is also imperative that SWAN Staff and Council seek out input from the Membership on those areas where operational and technical experience may be valuable as new innovations and approaches are under consideration.

Cindy Rauch, Administrator, Homewood Public Library District

Experience: I am currently serving my fourth term as a SWAN council member. While serving as a council member I have gained a clear understanding of the operation of SWAN, and I fully realize how valuable this resource is to library patrons. I also have 25 years of public library experience.

Statement of Interest: I would like to serve on the newly formed council as I am committed to working toward the continued growth of the SWAN consortium. As the library environment evolves, I believe SWAN is one of the most valuable organizations available to us as we strive to provide patrons with improved access to information. I look forward to the opportunity of collaborating with other directors and discussing consortium issues in a forum comprised of many perspectives. I would strive to regularly communicate with the libraries I represent, thus ensuring that all suggestions and concerns are represented at council discussions. Thank you for your consideration.

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MLS Service: Consulting

by Jeannie Dilger-Hill, MLS

MLS Consultants have plenty of variety in their work. Whether it's donning a hard hat to visit a new library site or negotiating knowledge management issues, their work with MLS member libraries is always diverse and interesting.

The Consulting Team consists of David Seleb, Director of Consulting and Continuing Education, and three Library Services Consultants: Jeannie Dilger-Hill, Gretel Stock-Kupperman, and Christina Stoll. Together with the Continuing Education staff, they make up the Consulting and Continuing Education Department at MLS (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/consulting/>).

Typical (And Not So Typical) Questions

One major function of the Consulting Team is to answer questions for members, serving as "librarians' librarians." Here are some recent questions they've answered:

- . A school librarian was looking to have an event this school year on the topic of cartooning. Christina connected her with the Career Services Coordinator at the American Academy of Art, who has students taking cartoon art classes, who could serve as speakers for the event.
- . A for-profit academic library was looking for a way to connect with colleagues in the Chicago area. Gretel contacted all the for-profit schools in the area and arranged a networking meeting to start the conversation.
- . A new public library director was interested in revitalizing a Friends group. Jeannie found some resources on the FOLUSA (Friends of Libraries USA) website, www.folusa.org, and also mentioned an upcoming CE event on that very topic, presented by FOLUSA Executive Director Sally Reed.
- . A university library was looking for assistance on disaster planning resources. Gretel found a number of disaster planning tools as well as continuing education events to educate the director and staff.
- . CLASS (Children's Librarians Association of the South Suburbs) requested assistance from MLS in securing food coupons as Summer Reading Prizes. Christina touched base with a contact at the Daily Herald, who was able to secure Panera Bread Kids' Meal coupons for this year, and hopes to offer more next year.
- . A community college needed help with revising their copyright policy. Gretel used her experiences writing such policies and research from other institutions to help this college get started.
- . A public library interested in building a parking lot wanted to know if there were any guidelines regarding the number of parking spaces for public libraries. Consulting [Serving Our Public: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries](#), Jeannie found recommendations based on population size and building size.
- . A new museum library was looking for ways to automate their library. Gretel visited to discuss the full scope of their needs, and sent back suggestions after conducting research.
- . A school media specialist wanted figures on recommended per pupil expenditures for library materials, to present to her administration. While there are no statewide or national guidelines, Jeannie was able to refer her to average per pupil expenditure statistics from the National Center for Education Statistics.

Grants

Reviewing grants takes up a good portion of the Consultants' time, especially in late April and early May, when LSTA (Library Services and Technology) grants are due. This year, the Consultants worked with 74 member libraries, and reviewed grants on:

- . career workshops for Spanish-speaking immigrants who have no place to turn for resume and interview skills training,

- . digitization of a key collection of three dimensional objects on American history,
- . a cooperative program to promote school and public library services at neighborhood block parties throughout the summer,
- . a 6 week literacy program for pre-school aged children in a community with no public library.

In addition, this year MLS Consultants worked with Acorn Public Library District, Frankfort Public Library District, Indian Prairie Public Library District, and North Park University Library on a grant to explore the customer experience in the library, with the goal of creating a set of best practices for customer service.

Communication

Another part of the Consulting Team's job is communication with members. Christina, Gretel, and Jeannie rotate responsibility for writing, editing, and publishing *MLS E-nnounce* (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/archives.asp>), which is the system's primary communication tool. This requires finding content, interviewing members and staff, writing articles, turning the articles into web pages, editing, and publishing the newsletter via an email distribution list. Writing the Member Spotlight column helps the Consultants get to know the members, and provides another opportunity for face-to-face communication. Rotating responsibilities helps distribute the workload, and also allows each consultant to meet different members and member organizations. If you'd like your library to be highlighted in our Member Spotlight column, contact the Consultants at consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

Networking

The Consulting Team tries to meet as many members as possible. Organizing and attending networking meetings is one way the consultants accomplish this. The Consultants regularly attend meetings with adult programmers, readers' advisors, reference librarians, museum librarians, public library administrators, and children's librarians, just to name a few. For a complete list of MLS networking groups, see http://www.mls.lib.il.us/networking_groups.asp.

In addition to meeting one-on-one with our members, attending meetings helps the consultants keep abreast of the latest trends and issues that MLS members are facing. Consultants also use this opportunity to gather ideas for workshops and services MLS should offer.

Variety Is the Spice of Life

The Consultants agree that working with MLS members is truly rewarding. Gretel Stock-Kupperman serves as a liaison to academic and special libraries. As a former member, she enjoys being able to offer services to all library types and developing new programs to meet member needs.

Christina Stoll utilizes her expertise to work with special, school and youth librarians. She says the most rewarding part of her job is helping individual librarians and library staff at member libraries by answering their questions, finding resources, or serving as a sounding board.

Jeannie Dilger-Hill, who works primarily with public and school libraries, says the best part of her job is visiting member libraries and getting to know the staff and their needs. She encourages members to invite the Consultants for a visit at any time by calling (630) 734-5130 or emailing consultants@mls.lib.il.us.



Consultants Jeannie Dilger-Hill, Christina Stoll, and Gretel Stock-Kupperman, with Department Director David Seleb.

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Area Library Coordinators Support Chicago Public Schools

by Jeannie Dilger-Hill, MLS

The staff of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Department of Libraries and Information Services (<http://www.cps.k12.il.us/aboutcps/departments/libraries/>) works at both the system level and in individual schools to help librarians, teachers, administrators, and community members to improve their library programs. Their mission is to assist schools in developing and improving library programs that are integral to teaching and learning; and to provide support for effective teaching, curriculum integration, professional development, collection development, library automation, use of online resources, coordination of library technology with other technology in the school, grant applications and implementation, and coordination of school and public library resources and services.

To assist him in accomplishing this mission, Director Paul K. Whitsitt has seven Area Library Coordinators, serving 18 regions of the city. Two Area Library Coordinators, K.C. Boyd and Dorsey Chambers, have just started their positions this year.

Strengthening Library Programs

K.C. Boyd is responsible for assisting librarians in three of Chicago Public Schools' designated areas: 16, 17, and 18. This region encompasses the southernmost end of lakefront, from 71st Street to Altgeld Gardens, and West to Cicero. This includes over 100 elementary and middle schools.

Area Library Coordinators are there to support, not evaluate. They will assist school librarians with collection development, planning ideas, grant writing, and more.

"I want to help them have stronger library program overall," says Boyd, who will visit schools for hands-on observation. She tries to visit 2-3 schools per week, but knows that she probably won't be able to visit all of her schools in one year. While there, she'll make suggestions to help improve the library's appearance and collection. She can also help advocate with the school principal for funding, emphasizing how libraries benefit the school overall, to try to change perceptions.

One way the Department of Libraries and Information Services can help improve collections is through their Matching Grant Program. The Matching Grant Program provides an excellent opportunity for the librarian to develop their collection. If the school agrees to allocate at least \$4000 to the library materials budget, they can receive a grant of \$3000. If they allocate \$5000, they can receive a full match. The funding for the Matching Grant Program comes from Chicago Public Schools' state per capita grant money.

One of the projects Boyd works on is Mayor Daley's Book Club. The program is designed to encourage book clubs and embrace literacy in the schools. Funding has increased this year, so that now grades 7-12 will be able to participate. Each school that wants to participate appoints a facilitator. The facilitator will recruit students who meet once a month, before or after school, to discuss a different book each month. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.cps.k12.il.us/aboutcps/departments/libraries/mdbc.shtml>.

Boyd also works with the Devin Shafron Foundation (<http://www.devinshafronmemorialbookfund.org/>), a memorial program dedicated to Devin Shafron, who was a lover of books. His mother, Dr. Phyllis Shafron, chairs the Foundation, which donates a small collection of award-winning books and recommended reads to CPS elementary school libraries. Since the Foundation began in 2001, most schools have received at least one donation.

Prior to taking this position, Boyd was the school librarian at Ninos Heroes Elementary for 3 ½ years. She has 11 years of experience in CPS schools, and was previously in the Chicago Heights School District. "As a former corporate recruiter, the people skills I brought with me to schools are so important. My experience working with different types of people helps me change perceptions and attitudes about how library programs are important and benefit students in such positive ways."

Working as a Team

Dorsey Chambers is responsible for approximately 90 schools in areas 11, 14, 15, which encompasses much of south central Chicago, reaching from I-290 to as far south as 81st Street, and from the lake shore to as far west as Harlem. Previously, Chambers worked as a school librarian at Cardenas Elementary. She has worked for Chicago Public Schools for 15 years, first as a classroom teacher, then, after receiving her masters' degree in library science at Northeastern Illinois University, as a school librarian. Chambers also teaches children's literature at Loyola University at the undergraduate level.

Like Boyd, Chambers spends much of her time visiting schools. In the first few weeks of school, she has been helping Twain and Deneen Elementaries set up a library. Both schools had large additions added to building this year, with a new space for the school library, as well as \$75,000 worth of materials.

Chambers' biggest project this year is helping to establish a centralized library automation system. Out of 620 Chicago Public Schools, only 60% have automated libraries. CPS allocated federal grant funds for the project. Chambers is the lead on the project, and is in the process of working with a team to read RFPs and select a vendor. Thirty pilot schools will be selected this year to participate. Next year, they will add 100 more schools.

Chambers also enjoys working with Real Men Read (<http://www.realmenread.com/>), a project to provide role models for youth, particularly boys. Real men from the community who love to read visit schools once a month, bring a book, and read aloud to the kids. All students then receive a copy of the book.

When asked about her new position, Chambers says, "I love working with a team. That's my favorite part of the job. Being a school librarian can be very isolating. I'm so thrilled to be working with the other Area Library Coordinators. It's a challenge, and it's fun."

For more information about Chicago Public Schools Department of Libraries and Information Services, visit <http://www.cps.k12.il.us/aboutcps/departments/libraries/>.

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