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Announcements

On Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. the **MLS Finance Committee** will meet at the MLS Burr Ridge office located at 125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. The committee will be discussing the FY2010 Budget.

Are you interested in serving on the **MLS Board of Directors? A Nominations Committee** has been appointed by the MLS Board President to develop a slate of candidates for the four seats that are up for election: (3 public trustees and 1 academic). Please visit <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board/elections> for more information and to submit an application to the Nominations Committee. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 6, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

Check out the new "**Especially for...**" section of the home page of the MLS web site (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us>), with links targeted towards our members by type and subject area. By clicking one of the links, (Academic, Public, School, Special, Reference, or Youth Services), library staff will find information and resources for their particular area.

Congratulations to MLS Member **Moraine Valley Community College**, winner of an ACRL award recognizing them for "creating an environment that fosters numerous relationships with partners outside those traditionally associated with libraries." Moraine will be the host of the 2009 Information Literacy Summit Information Literacy: By Any Other Name: Teaching & Learning in EVERY Library, taking place March 31, 2009. For complete event information and to register visit www.morainevalley.edu/infolitsummit.

The **MLS School Advisory Group** is hosting an Open House for all MLS School Library members on Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the MLS Burr Ridge Office. Learn more about the role of School Advisory, hear from MLS staff about system services available to school libraries, and come join in the discussion of forming a School Librarians Networking Group. Register at <http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=5027>.

MLS Links

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MLS member library staff and trustees, who are not personal members of ALA, can sign up for a **discounted rate to attend the ALA National Conference** in Chicago. Save 15% off the non-member registration rate when using this special MLS discount. For early bird registration pricing, visit <http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=5943> and register before March 5th, 2009. Pay by credit card or send a check to MLS offices Attn: ALA Pricing. Regular pre-registration rates will also be available after March 5th, and will be announced at a later date. Questions contact consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

MLS Board Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the February 9, 2009 MLS Board meeting include:

- › Approved an agreement for full SWAN participation with the Oak Park Public Library.
- › Approved the MLS Strategic Plan for FY2010-FY2012.
- › Accepted the bid from Rendel's Inc. for the purchase of a 2009 GMC Delivery Van in the amount of \$25,625.00
- › Two library members were dropped: Nuveen Investments and Burson-Marsteller. The Ford Heights Public Library's membership was suspended.

Complete board information can be found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board>.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

Serving on the MLS Board: Yes You Can!

As our 44th president said: *"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility"*. As library members of the Metropolitan Library System, you have the responsibility and the opportunity to serve on the MLS Board. What does serving on the board really mean and what does a board member really do? Read stories about and testimonials from current and past board members on how their experience of serving on the MLS Board has shaped their lives as library leaders.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2009/03_04/serveonmlsboard.asp

Continuing Education Events

*A report on registrations of library staff is now available to library directors on the L2 calendar. The **Library Registration report** provides total counts and registration details for an organization by date. Directors or library staff with the ability to register their colleagues for events can access the report through the "My Events" tab, click on the "Library Registrations" link in the action box on the right. As a reminder, any staff can view their own registrations by clicking on "My Events."* Please contact consultants@mls.lib.il.us or riley@mls.lib.il.us with questions.

[Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Creative Ideas for Presenting Your Library to Your School Board](#), Joan Herron, Monday, March 2, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

Take Action On Behalf of Your Library, Halle Cox and Denise Zielinski, Tuesday, March 3, 2009, [2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.](#), MLS Burr Ridge. Program repeated for Trustees, [7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.](#), same day and location.

[North Suburban Adult Programmers Meeting](#), Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Forest Park Public Library

[Make Room for Teens](#), Kim Bolan, Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
Tinley Park Public Library

[Demystifying & Integrating Web 2.0 at the Museum](#), Jennie Pu and Deborah Vincelli,
Thursday, March 19, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Middle Managers Networking Group](#), Friday, February 20, 2009, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00
p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

For more information and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar at

<http://www.librarylearning.info>.

[Permalink]

Grants & Awards

The **ALA NMRT Essay Contest** awards a New Member Round Table (NMRT) members tickets to attend the Newbery/Caldecott/Wilder Banquet during the ALA conference in Chicago this July 2009. The Exhibitor Contact & Relations Committee is sponsoring an essay contest to select the tickets winners. All current NMRT members can enter by submitting a 200 words or less essay on why they want to attend and how it would be beneficial to them. Essays should be emailed to the chair of the Marshall Cavendish Award Committee, Laura Carscaddon at carscaddonl@u.library.arizona.edu. For more information visit

<http://librarygrants.blogspot.com/2009/01/ala-nmrt-essay-contestwin-tickets-to.html>.

[Permalink]

Library Law: Working Cash Fund Legislation

Senate Bill 186 changed the Illinois Public Library District Act's (the "Act") requirements for establishing and maintaining a working cash fund. This legislation became law on October 11, 2007 when the General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto. This new law is Public Act 95-0659, and it (a) increases the amount of money that may be accumulated in a public library district's working cash fund, (b) broadens the scope of permitted use of the interest earned on the accumulated monies in the working cash fund, and (c) expressly permits the abolition and re-establishment of the working cash fund.

[Permalink]

Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2009/03_04/librarylaw_02_09.asp

MLS Service: CE Behind the Curtain

Have you ever wondered how a MLS workshop comes to be? This new series within the MLS Service section of the newsletter focuses on how our services happen and the staff behind each service. The first service to be highlighted is our Continuing Education Workshops.

[Permalink]

Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2009/03_04/cebehindcurtain.asp

Member Spotlight: Leather Archives & Museum

Located in the Roger's Park neighborhood, the Leather Archives & Museum is a library, museum, and archives pertaining to Leather and alternative sexual practices. A non-lending library, patrons range from undergraduate and graduate students conducting research, to organizations, and individuals seeking information on alternative sexual cultures. The Archives and Museum houses several galleries and exhibit spaces, an oral history lounge, a 164-seat auditorium, gift shop, and a brand new media space opening this spring.

[Permalink]

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_04/leathermuseum.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_04/leathermuseum.asp)

Next Issue

The next issue of *MLS E-nounce* will appear March, 4, 2009. [[Permalink](#)]

Serving on the MLS Board: Yes You Can!

by Christina Stoll, MLS

To quote our 44th President, Barack Obama, from his inaugural speech on January 20, 2009:

“What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility -- a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world; duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.”

As library members of the Metropolitan Library System, you have the responsibility and the opportunity to serve on the MLS Board. Nominations for the MLS Board Term 2009 – 2012 are open. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 6, 2009 at 12:00 p.m., which can be submitted at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board/elections>.

The complete roles and responsibilities of an MLS Board member are on the MLS Web site at http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board/MLS_board_responsibilities_additional.pdf and http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board/MLS_board_responsibilities.pdf.

What Does Serving On The Board Really Mean?

The mission of the Metropolitan Library System is “*provides services to our multi-type member libraries and facilitates the sharing of resources for the benefit of all.*”

All types of libraries need representation on the MLS Board to ensure that each library type has a voice.

“It’s a great way to get educated on so many things pertaining to libraries - the inner workings of MLS, the Illinois Library Systems, as well as about other types of libraries. It’s a great opportunity to expand your library network and meet people who work in different types of libraries than you. On the flip side, it’s great to contribute to our library system. I enjoy the opportunity to represent the special librarians and make sure we have a voice in library system issues.” says current board member Crystal Megaridis, Manager for Library Services at Praxair Library Services, and Trustee at Indian Prairie Public Library District.

Serving on the MLS Board provides the unique opportunity to come to a table with other library types, similar and different than your own, to put aside your own individual agenda and to think of the community as a whole.

Serving on the board provides the opportunity for growth within your own leadership. Alice has seen board members from their experience on the MLS board gain knowledge and a broader understanding, enabling them to become stronger leaders within their own library or community.

MLS Board member since 2006, Sylvia Jenkins, Ph.D., the Dean for Academic Development and Learning Resources at the Moraine Valley Community College sees her time on the board as an:

“opportunity to frame the direction our system should be taking in future. Having worked in libraries for the past 30 years, being a Board member has allowed me to share my knowledge and also learn from others with different perspectives. This is one of the best professional development opportunities I have had, and I believe having a broader understanding of the system and statewide issues makes me a better Library Director.”

Serving on the MLS board opens the door for you to become more involved in state-wide activities or on library advocacy issues such is the example with current board president Janet Kelenson, who shared her grass roots efforts to save one of the library branches in her local library community in a past *MLS E-announce* article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/announce/2007/01_19/mlsboardpresident.asp.

To those considering running for an upcoming seat, Janet adds how her time on the MLS board has personally and professionally impacted her. *“I am a public library trustee in a community of just over 50,000 people. By joining the MLS board, I am now part of an organization that serves literally millions of people. I see firsthand how different types of libraries work together to provide resources and save money for all of our members. By*

...serving on the MLS board, I've learned more about your library, my own library, and what we can accomplish together."

What Does A Board Member Really Do?

As a MLS Board member you contribute your individual expertise and front-line library experience to the larger organization and library community MLS serves.

Alice shares a story involving former board member, Sharon Hogan, from the University of Illinois at Chicago, with whom she applied with and was funded together an LSTA grant in the 1990's. The grant funding allowed the development of the first internet training room in the city, in which 3,000 to 4,000 librarians were trained on how to use the internet. The efforts by this one board member opened library doors to librarians and students and gave back to its community.

The MLS Board also serves as a check and balance for the MLS Executive staff. Situations and opportunities are brought to the board in which Alice and the MLS staff seek the board's opinion and collective expertise. The outcome is a synergized solution by all parties.

A great example of this is when in 2008 Alice brought before the board the situation of the MLS Delivery Department experiencing a high rate of injuries and overtime due to large volume of items being delivered. The MLS Delivery Department Supervisor created several scenarios of possible solutions which were each explored and discussed by the board. A trial solution of staffing the trucks with two staff members three days a week on the heaviest days was put into place. In addition, the board contributed the suggestions of training the delivery personnel on how to best lift items, and to investigate better shoes and gloves for this type of work. It was the combined expertise of board members as front-line library staff and MLS Staff that lead to the eventual solution.

MLS Board members provide input on the future direction of the system. As a board member you have the ability to contribute to the growth and shape of new service areas with MLS, providing input to the discussion around if a particular area is important enough to sustain and providing MLS staff with direction around should staff time and energy put given to new areas of growth.

Crystal Megaridis, who is also a member of the Board's Planning Committee, shares her thoughts on how her leadership contributes to the board *"The process MLS has followed to ensure all members of the library system have an opportunity contribute their ideas has been impressive. I feel confident that the plan for the next few years truly represents the needs of the library system's membership."*

It's the synergy that occurs at the MLS Board meetings that Alice gets most excited about. The mixture of backgrounds and perspectives of the individuals at the table who come together in collaborative way to serve one library community as a whole. Being witness to these lovers of libraries, individuals who are so dedicated to the profession that they volunteer their time to serve on their library system's board is what Alice speaks most strongly to as the reason enough to be a board member.

Our vision is *"to be a dynamic and responsive center of communication, collaboration, and education for member libraries. Our success will be measured by the health and achievements of our members"*

Join the future success of the Metropolitan Library System by submitting your nomination to become a MLS Board member today!

Questions about this article can be sent to consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

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Library Law: Working Cash Legislation

by Gerard E. Dempsey and Kathleen T. Henn

The purpose of a public library district working cash fund is to enable the public library district to have in its treasury at all times sufficient moneys to meet the demands for ordinary and necessary library expenses. Because library revenue is not always received according to schedule, the public library district working cash fund provides the public library district with a source for internal borrowing to meet short-term needs and to reduce the need to borrow from outside sources that generate interest costs to the public library district. Monies lent from the public library district working cash fund must be repaid upon collection of property taxes levied for the borrowing fund of the public library district.

Senate Bill 186 changed the Illinois Public Library District Act's (the "Act") requirements for establishing and maintaining a working cash fund. This legislation became law on October 11, 2007 when the General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto. This new law is Public Act 95-0659, and it (a) increases the amount of money that may be accumulated in a public library district's working cash fund, (b) broadens the scope of permitted use of the interest earned on the accumulated monies in the working cash fund, and (c) expressly permits the abolition and re-establishment of the working cash fund.

Under the prior provisions of the Act, the maximum amount allowed to be accumulated in the working cash fund was 0.2% of the full, fair cash value of all taxable property within the public library 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 changes this limitation 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 also allows temporarily idle moneys in the fund to be invested as directed by the board of library trustees, and it expressly permits the interest earned on such investment to be permanently transferred to the general corporate fund, or, at the option of the board, to be held in the working cash fund and temporarily transferred to the general corporate fund in anticipation of the receipt of property taxes to be used to re-pay the transferred amount. In no case, however, may the accumulation in the working cash fund exceed the increased maximum limit described above.

The prior law regarding abolition of the working cash fund required that if a public library district intended to reestablish the working cash fund after it was abolished (by transferring the entire amount accumulated in the working cash fund to the general corporate fund), the public library district had to submit the question of whether to create a new working cash fund to direct referendum. The new law deletes this requirement for direct referendum and states that the working cash fund may be reestablished in the same manner in which it was originally created (by an ordinance that is subject to a backdoor referendum.)

Upon abolition of the working cash fund, the balance in the working cash fund, including any interest that has accrued, is to be transferred to the general library fund at the close of the fiscal year. If the public library district were to transfer the working cash fund monies to any other fund of the public library district, e.g., the IMRF fund or the audit fund, it is likely that such transfer of monies would generate a tax rate objection.

Presumably, upon abolition of a public library district working cash fund any outstanding loans made by that working cash fund must be paid back to the general library fund at the close of that fiscal year, and any outstanding working cash fund taxes of the public library district thereafter collected must be paid into the public library district's general library fund.

Because the amendment did *not* change the provision in 75 ILCS 16/35-35(c) limiting the working cash fund tax levy to 4 years (not necessarily consecutive years), before any library district decides to abolish its working cash fund and create a new working cash fund, it should consult with a qualified library law attorney regarding whether under the Illinois Property Tax Extension Limitation Law ("PTELL") (35 ILCS 200/18-190), this reestablishment constitutes a "new rate" that is subject to direct referendum under the PTELL, despite the amendment's elimination of a direct referendum requirement for the creation of a new working cash fund.

Gerard Dempsey and Kathleen Henn 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.

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MLS Service: CE Behind the Curtain

by Christina Stoll, MLS

A new series within the MLS Service section of the newsletter focuses on how our services happen and the staff behind each service. We're entitling this our "*Behind the Curtain*" series. The first service to be highlighted is our Continuing Education Workshops.

As a library staff member attending one of the 200 instructional, online, or webinar workshops offered through MLS each year, have you ever wondered how that workshop came to be? You'd be surprised to learn how much planning goes into setting up each workshop, and how much influence you as a library member have over our CE process.

Managed by 7 staff members in the CE & Consulting Department, the MLS CE workshop cycle runs year round on a two 6-month calendar, from October to March and April to September.

This cycle is kicked off by the deadline of our 6-month print calendar, which is due to press one month prior to the March 1st and September 1st distribution dates. Working backwards CE staff meet 3 months prior to brainstorm potential workshops topics.

Identifying Workshop Topics and Speakers

Ideas for workshops come from a variety of sources. Feedback from the online CE evaluations, which are emailed out to attendees after the workshop occurs plays a huge role in shaping future workshops. Suggestions are also gathered from the member advisory groups (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/members/advisory.asp>), and members at large. Externally, the consultants collect workshop ideas and speakers from library conferences or other events they attend, as well as from professional journals, online sources, and other colleagues within the profession.

The range of topics sought is a balance between training that members want and training that the MLS staff feel members need to remain relevant and vital in the profession. MLS has 12 CE categories ranging from Advocacy and Marketing, to Customer Service, to Leadership and Management, with which they seek to fill with workshops.

Once topics are identified, potential speakers are added, and the list of workshops is divided up among the CE department, with each staff member responsible for around 15 workshops. For the next two months, the CE staff will research their assigned workshop which involves:

- identifying the speaker
- establishing that the content of the workshop is relevant
- verifying the fees and training needs of the speaker can be met under a break even budget

Once a workshop and the speaker have been identified, the initial information captured is then forwarded to Yvonne Riley, CE Manager for MLS, who confirms final logistics of date, time, workshop location and then opens registration for the events on the MLS L2 Calendar <https://www.librarylearning.info/?LibSys=MLS>.

Not all of the original workshops targeted at the start of the CE planning cycle are fulfilled, usually due to lack of a qualified or affordable speaker. These topics are either put on hold for the next planning cycle or removed from the process.

Promoting a Workshop

Once a workshop has been placed on the MLS L2 calendar and registration is open, the CE staff focus their attention to promotion.

Working under a cost recovery budget, each workshop during its development is assigned a break even cost that determines how many registrations are required for the event to happen. A workshop's direct costs, usually

the speaker's fee and occasional travel costs need to be covered at least 75% by attendance registration. Since the budget breaks even over all programs, some can be fun at a loss.

MLS's cancellation date is 14 dates out from the date of a workshop, meaning we have to have met the break-even cost number of attendees 14 working days prior to the date of a workshop. The main reason for this is a speaker needs time to prepare for their workshop, as well as if any travel arrangements need to be set up. If a workshop is close to being canceled, MLS staff will post to the related mailing lists informing members of this. The best way to guarantee a workshop is not canceled - Register Early.

Promotion of the MLS workshops happens in several ways:

- A 6 month print calendar is mailed to all members in September, and to Academic, Public, and Special each March.
- 3 to 4 workshops are promoted in each MLS newsletter issue.
- Flyers are emailed to targeted groups as well as housed in both system offices, and brought to member meetings by MLS staff.
- Targeted workshops are posted to the member mailings lists and the CE Mailing list, which anyone can subscribed to at <http://mls.lib.il.us/mailman/listinfo/mlsce>.

Evaluating our Workshops

Once a workshop has taken place, the CE planning cycle has one final step. The data collected from each online evaluation is analyzed quarterly and annually. This information is reviewed at the start of the CE planning cycle, as it informs the CE staff if the workshops they are planning are meeting the needs of the membership as well as provides ideas for future workshop topics.

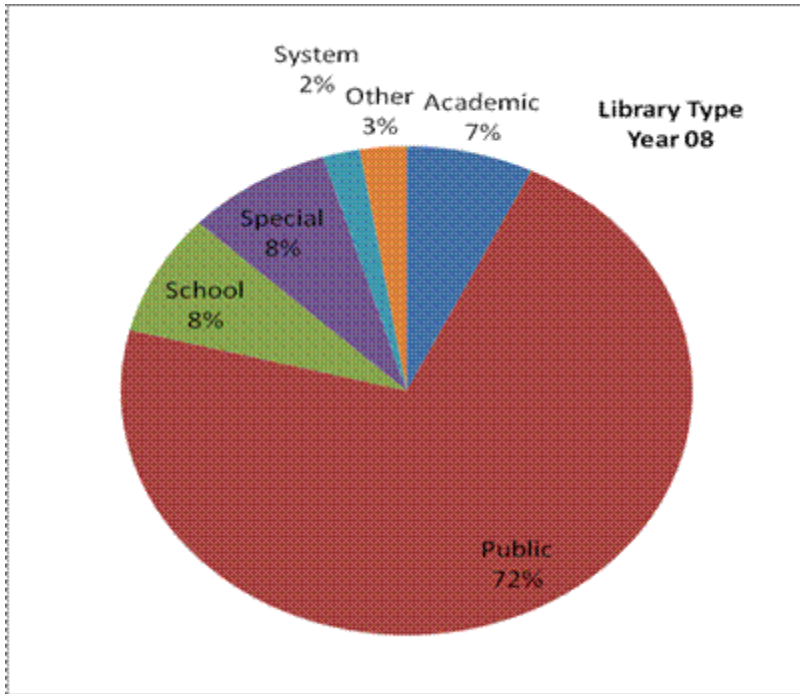
A quarterly and yearly report is also generated by the CE staff from the evaluation data and is included in their department's monthly report, which is included in the MLS Board packet.

Highlights from the 2008 CE Evaluations

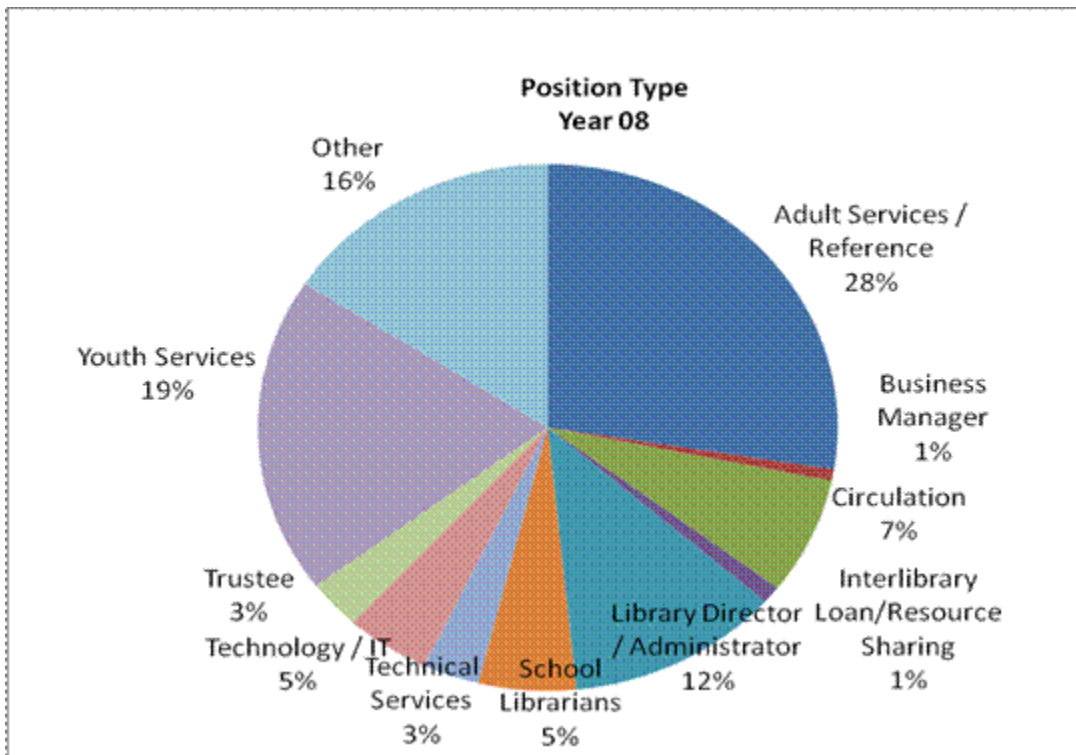
MLS conducted 80 face-to-face traditional training workshops in either its suburban or city office and off-site member libraries. Over 1,400 individuals attended these workshops with the evaluation response rate averaging at 39%.

The quality, content, and overall rating of our workshops were consistently rated a 4 out of 5, with speaker knowledge and overall rating also averaging for the year a 4 out of 5, with 4 being a rating of Very Good.

Workshop attendance was dominated by library staff from public libraries:



Attendance by library position saw Adult Services and Reference as the largest attendee.



The Spring and Fall months saw the highest registration numbers with the Summer months being the lowest. The evaluation data provide CE staff with the ability to see trends, enabling them to plan workshops that better match library member's training needs.

For example registration for both Youth Services and School library staff was lowest during the summer months, when they are either on summer break or involved in summer reading. From this we've learned not to plan as many workshops targeted towards this library type for those workshops may not be as successful during this time of the year.

Besides learning who is attending our workshops, the CE evaluations also inform us about the best time of the day and week work workshop attendance, which we can compare to when we offer workshops to see if we are meeting our member's needs. Morning is requested as the best time of the day for a workshop, and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday being the most requested days of the week for workshops.

We also ask attendees how they heard about the workshops they attended. *MLS E-announce* and your own library colleagues tied for the number one way people hear about MLS workshops, followed by our online calendar and targeted emails to member mailing lists.

All of this information enables the CE staff to plan its workshops more effectively and efficiently, saving the system staff time and money, and providing service that members inform us they want and need. Going forward MLS staff will be able to use this information to track training trends among the membership to anticipate changes to our workshops, ensuring that this core system service is preparing our members libraries for the future.

Have questions about this article? Want to suggest a CE workshop topic or speaker? Contact us at consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

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Member Spotlight: Leather Archives & Museum

by Christina Stoll, MLS

The Leather Archives, Museum, and Library (LA&M) was established in the 1980's when its founder Chuck Renslow needed a home for his partner's art work, artist Dom Orejudos, known as Etienne (<http://www.leatherarchives.org/collections/art/etienne/etienne.htm>). A grass roots effort was taken up by his partner, friends, and community members to house Etienne's art work and others, which originally took shape as a store front in 1996. These efforts eventually lead to the incorporation of the organization in 1991, and then its move to a permanent location in 1999. LA&M now includes a library, archives, and museum including gallery and exhibit space.

Located on the north side of the city in the Roger's Park neighborhood, the LA&M is a library, museum and archives pertaining to Leather and alternative sexual practices. The global collection includes all sexual orientations and genders. The library collection contains published books, magazines, scholarly publications, films and electronic resources. The museum collection contains original erotic art and artifacts from alternative sex organizations and individuals. The archival collection contains unpublished papers and records from notable activists, artists, businesses and organizations.

LA&M is managed by a board and offers membership to the museum starting from a student level to a voting membership and up to Organization and Corporate memberships. Complete costs and membership information can be found at <http://www.leatherarchives.org/involved/membership/member.htm>.

Museum & Library hours of operation are Thursday & Friday 11:00 a.m. – 7 p.m. and weekend hours 11:00 - 5:00 p.m. Admission is free to museum members or \$5.00 for non-members. Access to the archival collections is by appointment only. Additional information about LA&M can be found on their web site at <http://www.leatherarchives.org>.

Teri Rose Library

The Teri Rose Library is a non-lending library at the LA&M run by staff headed by Executive Director Rick Storer. Rick, originally a volunteer at LA&M, came to be the Director when the former Director was announcing his retirement and encouraged Rick to go to library school. A graduate of Dominican's library science program, Rick has been overseeing the LA&M since 2002.

The collection contains over 4,000 books, 11,000 magazines, 100 journals, and over 5,000 films, which can be search remotely at <http://24.43.241.163/leatherarchives>.

Typical library patrons range from both undergraduate and graduate students researching their doctoral thesis or needing information for a sexuality class, to organizations and sex clubs across the county and even around the world seeking information, to individuals exploring their own sexuality.

Working with a zero dollar acquisitions budget, the library houses an impressive collection of books and periodicals donated from individuals. One of the biggest challenges for the library is that given many of the collection's periodicals are no longer in circulation they have no indexing system, something Rick hopes to develop in the future. Information about donating to LA&M's collection can be found on their web site at <http://www.leatherarchives.org/involved/donate/contribute.htm>.

Archives

Established in 1991, the archives at LA&M are dedicated to the preservation of and access to alternative sex culture. Its collections span the world and document individuals, organizations and subjects from the Marquis de Sade to the contemporary fetish scene.

Within its archives and museum collections, you can find archival papers and records, art works, photographs, uniforms, artifacts and more. An example collection within the archives is the works of Jim Kane, who during his life was at the center of the leather and SM scene in San Francisco and Denver. Another collection within the

archives is that of leather vests worn by contestants at various competitions, such as International Mr. Leather.

Library School students from Dominican frequent the LA&M archives as part of their archival class work, and have the opportunity for hands on archival experience with the archive's unique collections.

Oral Histories

LA&M has an impressive oral history collection, the project which interviews participants or important individuals within the leather community. This collection can be listened to within the museum at its oral history lounge. Established guidelines for how an oral history is conducted were developed by staff and are available at <http://www.leatherarchives.org/oral/index.htm>.

Gallery & Exhibits

LA&M has several exhibit spaces, the Etienne Auditorium, which displays murals from the Gold Coast bar, one of the first leather bars in the world. The auditorium seats up to 164 and is available for rent by outside organizations.

There is also the John Larsen Gallery with 7,500 sq feet displays the history of alternative sexual cultures; the Grauman Gallery; the Leather Bar Exhibit with art work, posters and artifacts from bars around the world; and the main gallery which houses the Leather History Timeline, Guest Artist Gallery, and the Museum store.

The Guest Artist Gallery rotates a visiting artist's work twice a year for a 3-month exhibit, and then annually for a 6-month exhibit. The current guest artist on display is Kate Tastrophe; her work entitled *Beauties Service*, runs through April 10, 2009.

A new media space is opening this spring to show films and provide space for research using the LA&M's film and electronic media collections.

Questions about this article or the LA&M can be sent to archives@leatherarchives.org.





The Teri Rose Library and Etienne Auditorium.





The Leather Archives and a section of the Leather History Timeline in the Museum.



A 1,200 T-shirt collection representing various events throughout the country over the last 50 years.

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