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Announcements

On Monday, May 18, 2009, the **Board of Directors** of the Metropolitan Library System, and the **Board of LIMRiCC** will meet. The MLS Board meeting will convene at 3:00 p.m., the Board of LIMRiCC immediately following. Meeting agendas can be found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board>. Both meetings will be held at the MLS Chicago office located at 224 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, Illinois.

On the advice of several of our advisory groups, **MLS is conducting a survey of its membership regarding service priorities**. We have received excellent feedback on our future strategic direction, but faced with the reality of flat budgets and potential cuts, we feel we need information on what the membership values the most from MLS. This survey should be completed by all library staff at all levels. Please complete the survey at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/servicesurvey.asp> by May 22, 2009. Contact Gretel Stock-Kupperman with questions at stockg@mls.lib.il.us or (630) 734-5139.

MLS member library staff and trustees, who are not personal members of ALA, can sign up for a discounted rate **to attend the 2009 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=6189> and register before May 15th, 2009. Pay by credit card or send a check to MLS offices Attn: ALA Pricing. Regular pre-registration rates will be available after March 5th. Questions, contact consultants@mls.lib.il.us.

Nominations for the 2009 MLS Awards will open Monday, May 18, 2009. The purpose of the MLS awards is to recognize MLS member libraries, trustees, MLS staff, and government officials for their contribution to libraries and/or the field of librarianship. The nine awards will be presented at the MLS Annual Meeting on October 21, 2009. For award descriptions and nomination instructions, visit <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/members/awards.asp>.

At a recent ISLAC meeting, Kathy Bloomberg made a **Standards & Rules presentation** describing the purpose, process, and progress of the **System Standards Committee**. The powerpoint is available at

MLS Links

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MLS Services

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http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/whats_new/systemstandardrules.html
under "Presentation to the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee on March 12, 2009."

[[Permalink](#)]

MLS Board Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the April 20, 2009 MLS Board meeting include:

- › The Board voted to accept the application for full membership from Instituto Cervantes of Chicago
- › The Board approved dropping the following from membership in MLS:
Silliker Laboratories Group, Inc., Playboy Enterprises, Inc., Ernst & Young, Native American Educational Services College.
- › Board Elections Update – Electronic voting began April 15, 2009 and will end at noon on June 10, 2009. The ballot can be found on the MLS website at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board>.

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

[[Permalink](#)]

Illinois Library Association Legislative Day

Each year legislative day is sponsored by the Illinois Library Association (ILA). On Thursday, April 23, 2009, 143 directors, staff and trustees from libraries representing different parts of Illinois arrived at Springfield to meet and discuss issues and concerns with their various legislators. ILA Legislation Day provides libraries a chance to promote what they do in their communities, lobby for issues and put a face on libraries for their representatives.

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[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_09/ilalegislativeday.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_09/ilalegislativeday.asp)

Continuing Education Events

[Navigating the ALA Conference for the First Time](#), John Chrastka, Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Navigating the SLA Conference for the First Time](#), Deborah Schwarz, Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Bibliostat Connect Overview](#), Jan Anderson, Friday, June 5, 2009, 1:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Microsoft Access Part I](#), [Microsoft Access Part II](#), [Microsoft Access Part III](#), Richard Flint, Friday, June 5, 19, 26, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Bridging the Gap: Bringing Web 2.0 to Your Community](#), Rudy Leon, Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[When Collection Development Leads to Staff Development](#), Bleue Benton & Sharon Grimm, Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[[Permalink](#)]

Grants & Awards

The Book Wholesalers Inc. and Young Adult Library Services Association Collection Development Grant is open to librarians who are members of both YALSA and ALA, who represent Public Libraries, directly work with young adults, ages 12 to 18. The grant provides \$1000 for Young Adult materials. For additional information visit <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/awardsandgrants/bwi.cfm>

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Technology: Linda Braun on Video and Audio for Youth Services

On March 23, 2009, The Children's Librarians Association of the South Suburbs (C.L.A.S.S.) and Metropolitan Library System hosted technology guru Linda Braun. In her program she presented ways to connect web 2.0 technology and children in the library. She discussed the tools that are becoming more inexpensive and the online services that are available to "turn your library into a media creation center."

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[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2009/03_09/lbraunaudiovideo.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2009/03_09/lbraunaudiovideo.asp)

MLS Service: Resource Sharing Transition Update

MLS Resource Sharing is in the midst of its transition. As of April 15th, Resource Sharing no longer facilitates Interlibrary Loan borrowing and lending requests for the suburban members of MLS. The Resource Sharing office is attempting to complete all borrowing, lending, and photocopying activities by May 29th. As we move forward, MLS Resource Sharing will continue to provide consulting support and continuing education on Interlibrary Loan, Reciprocal Borrowing, and the MLS Union List of Serials.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2009/03_09/resourcesharingupdate.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2009/03_09/resourcesharingupdate.asp)

SWAN

SWAN is very happy to announce that the Bridgeview Public Library has become SWAN's newest member. Bridgeview staff have spent many months planning for the big "go live" day, which occurred on Monday morning, April 27. Library staff were involved in several training sessions with SWAN staff in preparation for using a new automated library system. Bridgeview patrons and staff now have easy access to the vast resources in SWAN. The addition of Bridgeview's collection to SWAN further enhances the breadth and depth of SWAN's holdings. Congratulations, Bridgeview!

[\[Permalink\]](#)

Member Spotlight: Oak Park Transgender Resource Collection

Oak Park Public Library (OPPL) undertook an extensive collection evaluation project in 2005, which included looking at diversity in the collection, and ultimately led to the creation of the first focused transgender resource collection in a public library in the United States. "Transgender" is an umbrella term that applies to people whose identity or behavior falls outside stereotypical gender expectations. With funding from an LSTA grant, they selected, purchased, classified, and processed \$3,000.00 worth of circulating nonfiction books, audiobooks, and DVDs on transgender issues.

[\[Permalink\]](#)

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2009/03_09/oakparktransgendercoll.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2009/03_09/oakparktransgendercoll.asp)

Next Issue

The next issue of *MLS E-nnounce* will appear May 20, 2009. [\[Permalink\]](#)

Illinois Library Association Legislative Day

by Kathy Roegge, MLS

Each year legislative day is sponsored by the Illinois Library Association (ILA) (<http://www.ila.org/>). On Thursday, April 23, 2009, 143 directors, staff and trustees from libraries representing different parts of Illinois arrived at Springfield to meet and discuss issues and concerns with their various legislators. ILA Legislation Day provides libraries a chance to promote what they do in their communities, lobby for issues and put a face on libraries for their representatives.

The evening before, April 22, the Dupage Library System (DLS) (<http://www.dupagels.lib.il.us/>) hosted a dinner to brief attendees on current legislative issues. Kip Kolkmeir, legislative consultant for the ILA, shared the latest information on pending legislation, discussed strategy and answered questions. Censorship was a big issue in past years but this year the focus was on money and the state budget.

Kip encouraged everyone attending to tell legislators how important it was to keep libraries in mind when approving the budget. He gave updates on House and Senate Bills that are moving through the legislative process. A flyer listing different bills and issues of concern to libraries was available for attendees to give to legislators during their visit. One positive note was that there was no bill requiring filtering software in libraries submitted this year.

Folders were handed out to libraries attending from the Metropolitan Library System (MLS) by Alice Calabrese, Executive Director. One had been prepared for each senator and representative from the districts in the area MLS serves. These folders included a Return On Investment (ROI) flyer (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/consulting/pdf/MLSROI2009.pdf>) about the services MLS provides for member libraries, the ILA flyer (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/consulting/pdf/ILAPalmCardApril2009.pdf>) and another ROI (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/consulting/pdf/SystemROI2009.pdf>) that highlighted the value of System Library services for Illinois.

Legislative day began with a breakfast held at the Illinois State Library. Legislators were invited to attend the breakfast to visit with their library constituents. Kathy McSwain from Chicago Ridge Public Library was in charge of the arrangements for the breakfast.

“Library Day for me started at 6AM. I was putting table linens on the tables, and anxiously awaiting the arrival of those attending the breakfast. Greeting the legislative guests and hooking them up with their people is the job of the morning.”

After breakfast the attendees visited their representatives. They walked over to the Capitol and Stratton Buildings armed with folders or bags determined to meet their senators or representatives. One group from MLS included Mary Weimar and Melissa Panio from Orland Park; Ruthann Swanson and Sue Pajor from Alsip; Sheila Sosnicki from Palos Park; Karen Danczak-Lyons from Chicago Public and Kathy McSwain.

Kathy describes their experience “We started our adventure over to the Capitol Building and met up with Senator Viverito who spoke to the group about his feeling on the P-Tell legislation. We then went on our way to meet with Senator Edward Maloney who gave the group a tour of the Senate Chambers. He showed us his desk, computer, and work area and took a group photo.”

The group also toured Secretary of State Jesse White’s office. They then dropped off packets and gifts for Sen. Emil Jones III, Senator Radogno and Senator Maggie Crotty. They tried to visit with Michael Madigan, but had no success. The group traveled to the Stratton Building and stopped in at the offices of Representatives Brosnahan, Joyce, Kosel and McCarthy.

Jeannie Dilger-Hill, La Grange Public Library Director, said this was the most productive legislation day she had attended. “Because House and Senate sessions were scheduled for afternoon this year, legislators were more available for morning meetings. We were able to meet with our senators, Radogno and Viverito, and both our representatives, Zalewski and Durkin.” La Grange Public Library’s Marketing and PR Coordinator, Bridget

Bittman, is Representative Patricia Bellock's niece. "Aunt Patti" invited them to sit in on a Medicaid Reform committee meeting, and took them onto the floor of the House to explain the voting process.

Kim Litland director of the Brookfield Public Library reported "A contingent of librarians, trustees, and library advocates from Brookfield, Stickney-Forest View, LaGrange, and Berwyn traveled the halls of the Capitol and Stratton together to talk with legislators (Representative Zalewski, Representative Biggins, and Senator Viverito) via set appointments. The discussions this year centered on maintaining funding levels for Per Capita and Library System funding despite the state's budgetary woes. We asked legislators to preserve funding and to proactively include libraries in any capital bills that would soon be coming under consideration."

Because many of the Legislators were either in committee meetings or even on their way home early, others did not have similar success with their visits. Alice and Kathy Roegge from MLS along with Board President Janet Kelenson visited legislators without a library attending this year. If the legislators were busy and unable to talk, a folder was left to be read later.

The Annual Legislative day is a good opportunity for members to connect with their representative. As Kathy McSwain states "It is really important for our legislators to know we need help and to present examples".

For more information contact Kathy Roegge at roeggek@mls.lib.il.us.

Published **May 6, 2009** in vol. 3, iss. 9 [[View](#)]

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Linda Braun on Audio and Video for Youth Services

by Diane Colletti, MLS

On March 23, 2009, The Children's Librarians Association of the South Suburbs (C.L.A.S.S.) and Metropolitan Library System hosted technology guru Linda Braun (<http://leonline.com>). In her program she presented ways to connect web 2.0 technology and children in the library. She discussed the tools that are becoming more inexpensive and the online services that are available to "turn your library into a media creation center." To get involved in the process of working with teens and technology, she recommended that librarians "give up some of our seriousness." Other suggestions were that "short is good" and that information and messages should be presented in "mind sized bites."

The tools that Linda suggested were inexpensive or free and require little time to learn. Linda's current favorite tool was the flip video camera (<http://www.theflip.com>). It is easy to use, can take video or still digital photography and has a built in USB port, ending the time spent searching for the right cable. The digital images go directly from the camera to the computer, and can be edited at either location. These inexpensive cameras are being improved all the time and are a necessary tool to use to get teens into creating content to put on the library website or to connect to the community.

Hulu (<http://www.hulu.com>) was the first online service that Linda shared with the group. It is a way to watch TV and movies on your computer screen. This is sponsored by NBC, and teens are watching content at this site. Linda recommended it for the vast amount of programs available and that content from here can be embedded into websites.

Ustream (<http://www.ustream.tv>) was an online tool to produce live broadcasts. The equipment needed to create video is only a webcam and a microphone. Once registered for an account, the site saves broadcasts and creates an archive for future viewing. Linda provided step by step instructions on how to use Hulu and Ustream, as well as for Blip.TV (<http://www.blip.tv>) and Animoto (<http://www.animoto.com>) which is a site where still photographs are put to music selected from the Animoto music library.

Linda also discussed online audio. The service she promoted was Voice Thread (<http://www.voicethread.com>), which is an online site for making interactive slide presentations. Viewers of the presentation can make comments, ask questions and hear questions others have added.

Linda went further into audio by talking about podcasts and offered types of library podcasts that can be done with teens. For creating podcasts, she uses Audacity (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net>) which is free software for recording and editing. Audacity is easy to edit, add content and remove mistakes. Finding music that is licensed through Creative Commons licensing for podcasting can be accessed at IODA Promonet (<http://promonet.iodalliance.com>) and at Podsafe Music Network (<http://music.podshow.com>). Her recommendation for recording was that if there is a built in microphone in the computer, get an external mike to improve the sound quality or use a digital voice recorder which can be uploaded to the computer for inclusion or editing.

Once the podcast is created it needs to be uploaded to a server and distributed to subscribers. Two free web sites for hosting that she recommended were PodServe (<http://www.pod-serve.com>) and PodOmatic (<http://www.podomatic.com>).

Linda Braun's presentation gave the Youth Services librarians useful and inexpensive ways to draw in and engage their teen and tween patrons.

For more information, contact Diane Colletti at collettid@mls.lib.il.us.

Published **May 6, 2009** in vol. 3, iss. 9 [[View](#)]

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MLS Service: Resource Sharing Transition Update

by Kate Boyle, MLS

MLS Resource Sharing is in the midst of its transition. As of April 15th, Resource Sharing no longer facilitates Interlibrary Loan borrowing and lending requests for the suburban members of MLS. Any Interlibrary Loan requests currently in the RS office are still being pursued when possible. Photocopy requests will continue to be accepted using our online forms through May 15th. The Resource Sharing office is attempting to complete all borrowing, lending, and photocopying activities by May 29th. As we move forward, MLS Resource Sharing will continue to provide consulting support and continuing education on Interlibrary Loan, Reciprocal Borrowing, and the MLS Union List of Serials.

Recently, the Resource Sharing web pages were updated to include verification request forms for the use of the membership. (http://www.mls.lib.il.us/resource_sharing/ill/ill-verification.php) These are designed to enable the membership to request verification assistance for items or journal articles they are having trouble either verifying or locating. This service is free of charge.

In addition, a new form for requesting an International loan has been added. http://www.mls.lib.il.us/resource_sharing/ill/int-ill-request.php International borrowing will continue as a Resource Sharing service, however, it will now be performed on a cost recovery basis. Members are asked to indicate the maximum their patrons are willing to pay for the requested International loan.

In the immediate future, verification forms for photocopy assistance and request forms for international photocopies will be added to the MLS Resource Sharing web pages. International photocopies will also be run on a cost recovery basis. However, since the majority of photocopies are supplied electronically they should be available at a reasonable charge.

Remember, MLS Resource Sharing will continue to support both Reciprocal Borrowing and the Union List of Serials projects. Along with providing the suburban members with bookbands and the "Your Public Library" brochures.

An [FAQ](#) addressing a few anticipated questions and concerns has been prepared. Please see the [MLS CE calendar](#) to review our upcoming CE events. Don't hesitate to contact Kate Boyle at boylek@mls.lib.il.us or by phone at 630-734-5160 if you should have any questions and concerns.

Published **May 6, 2009** in vol. 3, iss. 9 [[View](#)]



Member Spotlight: Oak Park P.L. Transgender Resource Collection

by Bleue J. Benton, Oak Park P.L.

Oak Park Public Library (OPPL) undertook an extensive collection evaluation project in 2005, which included looking at diversity in the collection. This effort ultimately led to the creation of the first focused transgender resource collection in a public library in the United States. “Transgender” is an umbrella term that applies to people whose identity or behavior falls outside stereotypical gender expectations. It refers to many types of people, including transsexuals and crossdressers. Transgender people often face widespread and even socially-condoned discrimination, harassment, and violence.

Transgender people constitute a marginalized population not being served, welcomed, or reflected adequately in public libraries. There is a lack of practical information for or about transgender people in most collections found in Illinois libraries. OPPL believes that the open access environment of a public library offers the best venue for raising public awareness and understanding of gender identity and expression issues, and for serving transgender people. Oak Park Public Library believed that an extensive and innovatively-publicized project, with a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, would help to promote public libraries as welcoming and safe places for everyone.

Oak Park Public Library applied for and received an LSTA grant, administered through the Illinois State Library. With this money, they selected, purchased, classified, and processed \$3,000.00 worth of circulating nonfiction books, audiobooks, and DVDs on transgender issues. The library now owns about 150 items, mainly books, which are identified in the catalog as “Transgender Resource Collection.” They also purchased fiction and feature films with their own funds, and identified items already owned. They extensively promoted the collection and partnered with the Chicago Gender Society, enlisting their help in getting the word out to the transgender community.

A unique part of this project was an exhaustive self study, led by OPPL Communications Coordinator, Sharon Grimm. It resulted in changes regarding library collections, training, facilities, communications, employees, and policies. A six-person committee spent four months investigating possible barriers and best practices in serving transgender patrons or employing transgender people in the library, and produced a detailed 19-page report outlining 35 areas of concern.

The report includes very specific recommendations such as calling for many different types of finding tools; noting that the collection might be more prone to loss and damage than other areas of the collection; and that facilities, in particular restrooms, need attention. The committee recommended changing library card applications, and removing email salutations on automated notices. The report also includes less specific recommendations such as considering diversity when creating displays and when using images of people in communications.

In addition, staff were required to attend basic awareness workshops with the goal of ensuring informed and excellent customer service. Shannon Sullivan, Executive Director of the Illinois Safe School Alliance, conducted basic and advanced two-hour workshops. These sessions were followed up with departmental meetings using scenarios designed to encourage deeper conversation about potential interactions in the library setting.

Results of this grant have been very satisfying. The grant project was designated as exemplary by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Oak Park Public Library has been contacted by a number of organizations and has received numerous requests to link to the library’s webpage. A transgender agency in the Canadian Maritimes contacted them for help in compiling a basic list of titles for their area libraries. Two publishers asked to donate books to the collection. Bleue Benton, Collection Development Manager, was a featured speaker and exhibitor at the Be-All, one of the foremost transgender conventions in North America. Members of the Chicago Gender Society shared a very emotional reflection on their joy that a public library is actively welcoming them. For many years their only information sources were found in sleazy adult bookstores, and their only gathering

places were unpleasant bars in dangerous locations. It was with great pride that OPPL was honored with their Community Partner Award for 2008.

There is a tremendous amount of information about the transgender resource collection and related library activities on Oak Park Public Library's website at <http://www.oppl.org/transgender/>. Here you can find a link to materials in the library catalog, reading lists for adults and children, and local and national resources, as well as a link to their library toolkit that includes the full text of the self-study report, staff discussion scenarios, publicity samples, and "The \$200 Transgender Bookshelf" of recommended titles for public libraries. Oak Park Public Library believes that this holistic approach, including awareness workshops and a self study, is an excellent model for collection development in other libraries.

Bleue Benton and Sharon Grimm (Oak Park Public Library Communications Coordinator) will be at MLS Burr Ridge on June 10, 2009 presenting how the new collection led to additional staff training. Register at <http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=5384>.

For more information, contact Bleue Benton at bbenton@oppl.org

Published **May 6, 2009** in vol. 3, iss. 9 [[View](#)]

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