



NETNEWS: the newsletter of St. Louis Regional Library Network

May, 2011

'Providing opportunities and forums for librarians to share resources, and to learn together and from each other'

Network Council Announces New Direction for Administrative Services

At the SLRLN Annual Dinner in May, Council President Barb Edwards (Ranken College Library) announced that the Council had voted to contract with Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC), to provide financial and administrative services to the Network. The contract will become effective at the beginning of the July 1 fiscal year, but work is already underway to ensure a smooth transition.

The Network has always employed an administrator to handle its books, coordinate membership, maintain communications, and perform a number of other functions critical to its mission. For the past 23 years Bernyce Christiansen (Ursuline Academy) has handled those duties, but as time has gone on and communication and coordination of an organization such as SLRLN has become more complex, it became apparent that one person could no longer handle all those duties.

Founded in 1981, MLNC is a non-profit organization that provides information, training, and management services to libraries throughout the state. Recently they began providing similar administrative services to the Missouri Library Association. They should be able to provide all the services SLRLN needs for fees well within the Network's budget.

Council President Barb Edwards suggests that this is a good time for all Network members to think about new services, programs or methods of communication that would enhance the value of the Network.

Council Vice-president Chabha Tepe (Logan College of Chiropractic), who will soon replace Barb Edwards as president, said, 'It's a very exciting time to be a part of this organization with the new management as we are transferring to MLNC. It's time for us to look into the past and learn from it, to help us move forward. It's also a time where we need to redefine ourselves, our services, and how we can improve to better serve the community. Thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to working with you for a better SLRLN.'

Capacity Crowd Attends eBook Expo

We fit about as many people as we could into the meeting room at Kirkwood Public Library on April 13th for our eBook Expo. The event, which ran from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

covered aspects of evaluating, purchasing, and circulating e-book content and e-book readers.



A packed crowd in the meeting room at Kirkwood Public Library

During the morning session, representatives from several libraries gave presentations on their experiences with e-books. Stephanie Betts (Fontbonne University) spoke about the ins and outs of circulating e-readers pre-loaded with books. Jim Pakala (Covenant Theological Seminary) gave a talk on using e-journals in an academic library setting. Keri Cascio (St. Charles City/County Library) talked about using electronic resources to augment and replace older print materials in a public library reference room, and Ellen Eliceiri (Webster University) talked about e-books and collection development.

Everyone took advantage of a leisurely lunch break to network with colleagues from a broad spectrum of area libraries.



In the afternoon we heard from representatives with eBrary and Ebsco about the electronic content they provide. A Barnes & Noble

employee told us everything we need to know about using the Nook, and Tracy Byerly from Missouri Library Network Corporation (MLNC) gave a talk about Overdrive download service.

Evaluations collected after the workshop were largely positive, indicating that people had been eager to hear just this sort of information.

Good Food, Good Talk, Good Company— What More Could you Want?

The Network held its annual dinner meeting on May 5th at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. A good crowd of around forty people attended, enjoying a delicious buffet of Greek specialties, including pastitsio, moussaka, dolmades, and spanakopita.

During the annual meeting portion of the evening, SLRLN Council President Barb Edwards presented long-time Network administrator



Bernyce Christiansen v *Bernyce Christiansen and Barb Edwards* and a gift certificate, thanking her for 23 years of service to the Network.



Dr. Kristen Anderson

After dinner we heard a talk from Kristen Anderson, a history professor at Webster University. Addressing the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, she talked about the war in St. Louis and in Missouri in general. 'If I could pick any one place *not to be* during the war,' she told the

audience, 'it would be Missouri.' She spoke of how Missouri, being a slave state that never seceded, endured the war in a state of true civil war, having enough battles that it ranks as the third most fought over state in the nation. There were even competing state governments—the Union government in Jefferson City, and a Confederate 'government in exile' at Marshall, Texas. She described how fiercely anti-slavery German immigrants helped to keep Missouri in the Union. The lively question and answer session following her talk indicated that most of us were eager to learn more.

Member Library News

Cherie LeMay (librarian) and Anna Ahrens (teacher) from **Villa Duchesne High School** presented "Information Containers Rewrapped" at the MASL (Missouri Association of School Librarians) Conference this past April.

St. Louis Regional Library Network is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to helping librarians in the Greater St. Louis Area meet, share and network. The Network has been active since the 1970s and currently has over 100 members, including public, academic, school, special, and corporate libraries. For more information visit our Website at www.slrln.org or e-mail us at bchristiansen@ursulinestl.org.

Covenant Seminary has selected the Relais Interlibrary Loan Hosted Service. This includes the Relais Access web-based pages that allow library users to create and monitor their own ILL requests. Staff can use a new web-based interface and the Relais windows staff client to process ILL requests. The system includes the fully integrated Relais Scanning Module for seamless electronic delivery of items to patrons and to other libraries. Relais International has a partnership with MLNC which provides their members with discounts. Covenant no longer needs Ariel and Odyssey to interact with libraries using those, and Relais also saves extra labor that had resulted from OCLC divesting databases to other vendors. Although OCLC's ILLiad would have provided similar benefits, Covenant found Relais superior to that product.

PART-TIME CIRC DESK/CLERICAL POSITION AVAILABLE:

Richmond Heights Library is looking for reliable, long-term, friendly customer service employees to work 12 hours per week, Sun 1-5, Fri 4-8, Tues 5-9. Computer skills and Customer service skills required. Attention to detail is required. Knowledge of popular fiction desired. Library experience highly desired. Successful candidate must be a team player. High School degree required, some college desirable. EOE. Applications are available at Richmond Heights Memorial Library, 8001 Dale Ave., Richmond Heights, MO 63117. Fax 314-781-3434. No phone calls, please.

(We are always interested in news about member libraries. If you know of innovative programs, new buildings, new hires, retirements, awards, or anything else at a member library, contact Tom Cooper at tcooper@wgpl.org.)

NETNEWS ONLINE!

JOIN THE LISTSERV TO RECEIVE EACH ISSUE!

Several issues ago, we changed the format of NetNews, and we also began distributing it exclusively through the SLRLN listserv. If you would like to make sure you continue to get NetNews and announcements of workshops, dinners, and other events, send an e-mail to:

listserv@mlnclit.mlnc.org

The e-mail should read:

SUBSCRIBE SLRLN-L *your name*