

Director's Report
April 2011

SCLS is now live on Koha. This was a long time coming. SCLS has not migrated to new software for its library catalog in over 17 years. PTFS/Liblime sent two employees to work on site at SCLS headquarters for the entire week to help with the Go Live activities. SCLS staff members visited every library that uses the SCLS catalog on Sunday, April 17 and Monday, April 18 when the switch from Dynix occurred. On Sunday I visited Reedsburg, DeForest, McFarland, Monona, and Sun Prairie libraries. On Monday, I visited Waunakee, Monticello, Monroe, and Brodhead libraries. While in Brodhead I attended the Green County Library Board meeting with all the Green County Library directors and Cheryl Becker. Work will continue for some time adjusting to the new software and fixing bugs that surface through the implementation process. Another change with the migration to Koha is that the responsibility for hosting the hardware is borne by PTFS/Liblime using the Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud. Just to make sure that we were on our toes, Thursday, April 21 Amazon lost connectivity in part of their "cloud." This resulted in the SCLS catalog going down for the day. The cloud design worked as intended in a worst case scenario. The cloud zone in which our Koha services were hosted went down due to an unprecedented disaster in the cloud platform itself, but a live redundancy system kept all our data safe elsewhere in real time. The catalog was back up on Friday.

After the rush of Go Live, I thought I needed to slow down so I was a judge at the Deerfield Library's Annual Worm Race. I was wrong about slowing down because the worms were fast and the audience was loud. It was great fun.

I attended my first LSTA meeting over a 2 day period in Madison. Like local and state budgets, the federal budget to libraries was reduced. These cuts will affect SCLS customers. Bruce Smith from SCLS Delivery testified before the LSTA Advisory Council. He outlined the negative impacts to all Wisconsin customers if funding for delivery is reduced.

Approximately 30 library directors from around the SCLS attended a retreat at the DeForest Library to discuss the issue of library relevancy in today's world. The retreat was an event initiated by Pam Bosben of the Cross Plains Library and Jan Berg of the DeForest Library.

Shawn Brommer returned to work April 18 from family leave. I and several staff members will be attending the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries conference May 5-6. It is being held in Madison. The Koha users group "Kudos" will be meeting May 2-3 in Madison also. Vicki Teal Lovely has been instrumental in organizing the event. It has been a very busy month and it looks to continue that way for the summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Van Pelt