Director's Report
November 2011

On December 7, 1971, Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey signed legislation allocating $1.6 million dollars to form regional library systems in Wisconsin. The pen he used and other artifacts are on display in the SCLS meeting rooms. During the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) conference in Milwaukee, they were displayed in a place of honor for their 40th anniversary at the entrance of the exhibit hall.

Several SCLS staff members attended the WLA conference. I attended a SRLAAW meeting on Tuesday afternoon prior to the conference's opening. Staff met with various vendors and negotiated lower pricing on future projects including a mobile app for LINKcat. Jon Mark Bolthouse, Joanna Messer, Amy Gannaway, Jean Anderson and others, including member librarians, presented programs at the conference. The keynote speaker, Stephen Abram of Cengage, kicked off the conference with a jolt. He is an innovator in the library field and feels this is the best time to be a librarian. His points included:
> The book isn't dead or dying. It is evolving.
> Our users are improving.
> Technology is going social and can support social acts.
> The PC isn't dead; it is evolving and becoming more mobile.
> We know more about our customers than ever before.
> Talent, insight, community have social value.
> Opportunities always exist more in times of change.

The public survey of the new Koha LINKcat was closed in mid-November. The survey gathered 3,434 responses. The statistics and comments are being collated and analyzed by outside researchers. The results should be available in January.

SCLS staff is working on completing Koha projects and features that were postponed from the Go-Live date in April.   These need to be finished and in production before the final contract payment can be paid. In addition SCLS staff along with a team of member librarians is testing 4 new developments. The developments involve last patron borrowed, holds management by circulation staff, new hold message for customer use and having the 3 letter agency code appear instead of the complete library name.   The testing process was streamlined and uses Google documents. Testers are finding the new process more efficient and collaborative. As these developments and postponed projects are approved, they will be incorporated into a system upgrade planned for December. The E-Commerce work group met for a product demonstration by the vendor Envisionware.

Delivery finished compiling their 2011 delivery volume sample data. The overall SCLS delivery volume dropped 4.1% from 2010 to 2011. Non-LINK libraries dropped 5.3%, with Portage County volume alone dropping 5.4%. This is interesting since it reflects that members on and off Koha have lower numbers. Because the non-LINK volume is so low compared to ILS libraries' volume, the drop in delivery volume at ILS libraries stays at -4.1% even when the non-LINK libraries are removed. Delivery will continue to monitor its volume to better project future department needs.

The advertisements to fill the Public Library Administration Consultant position were posted on-line and placed in the Sunday edition of the Wisconsin State Journal. The advertisement closes December 9.

The Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning (DLTCL) recently announced that the BadgerNet contract has finally been signed, which means that AT&T and the various telecommunications companies that provide network access over the BadgerNet Converged Network (BCN) have reached an agreement. The contract between the telcos and the Department of Administration has been extended for another five years.

The good news is that SCLS now can move forward with bandwidth increases at libraries that need it

most. We also can start the process of bringing BadgerNet lines to those libraries that do not currently have connectivity through BCN. SCLS will be actively working with TEACH, and hopefully they will be able to meet their goal of having the increases in place by the first quarter of 2012, as indicated previously by DLTCL.

The bad news is that the signed contract does not subsidize the cost of BadgerNet at the level we were hoping. Currently, we spend $100 /month or $1,200 a year on each BadgerNet connection under 10 Mbps, and were under the impression that TEACH would continue to subsidize bandwidth increases at that same financial level in 2012. However, under the current contract, any increase of bandwidth speeds to 5 Mbps or more will result in a cost increase of $150 per month, or $1,800 a year, bringing the total cost to $3,000 per site per year for those sites needing increased bandwidth. The TEACH subsidies correlate with the number of Public (Patron) PCs at any given library:

> If a library has less than 10 patron PCs, TEACH will subsidize up to 5 Mbps of bandwidth.
> If a library has between 10 and 30 patron PCs, TEACH will subsidize up to 10 Mbps of bandwidth.
> If a library has over 30 patron PCs, TEACH will subsidize up to 20 Mbps of bandwidth.

SCLS staff will be attending a BCN meeting in early December at DPI to discuss options for providing connections to its members. We are looking at our 2012 budget and LSTA funding to see if any help can be found for our members in 2012.

The Kilbourn Public Library in Wisconsin Dells, the Madison Public Library, and the North Freedom Public Library are the three SCLS member libraries recently recognized by Library Journal as 2011 Star Libraries. Wisconsin has five libraries in this year's ranking. Library Journal named 262 Star Libraries. To be included, the libraries must meet the Institute of Museum and Library Services' definition of a public library:

> Have annual operating expenditures of at least $10,000.
> Have a legal service area population of at least 1,000.
> Report all four per capita service measures on which the index score is based (circulation, visits, program attendance, and public Internet terminal uses).

The per capita rankings for each library, and their overall scores, are:

> Kilbourn Public Library -- Circulation 18.8, Visits 17.7, Program Attendance 0.8, Public Internet Terminal Uses 11.4, Total Score 1,580
> Madison Public Library -- Circulation 8.8, Visits 18.2, Program Attendance 0.3, Public Internet Terminal Uses 2.1, Total Score 753
> North Freedom Public Library -- Circulation 6.9, Visits 14.8, Program Attendance 0.4, Public Internet Terminal Uses 5.3, Total Score 1,307

A reminder that applications to attend the National Legislative Day in April 2012 are due December 12.

I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank the SCLS Foundation Chair Linda Davis-Brown for her wonderful work with moving the Foundation forward. She has announced her resignation from the foundation.

Respectfully submitted by,

Martha Van Pelt