

**ODL Director's Report  
for the November 1, 2002 Board Meeting**

**Budget.** The revenue situation in state government continues to be my major focus over the last two months. After our last Board meeting at the end of August, ODL was notified in mid-September that our budget would be reduced another 4.75%. Thanks to our discussions at the last Board meeting, we had prepared our plans for how to deal with the situation. We notified all public libraries of the reduction in state aid and public library construction grants immediately so they would have as much time as possible to plan for the reductions. Our total reduction in the current fiscal year is \$690,048 from last year's beginning appropriation.

Although no one likes to contemplate further cuts, it is our unhappy duty to plan for the worst and hope for the best. In our budget request for FY04 submitted on October 1<sup>st</sup>, ODL was asked to identify how we would take an additional 5% reduction in next year's appropriations. Another 5% reduction would be \$328,204. The following economies were identified for the budget office and the legislative fiscal staff:

<b>State Aid</b>	<b>-\$85,836</b>
(This would be in addition to the current year's cut & would amount to \$176,668 or 11%)	
<b>Public Library Construction</b>	<b>-\$ 7,796</b>
(This would be in addition to the current year's cut & would amount to \$16,046 or 11%)	
<b>Literacy Grants</b>	<b>-\$27,500</b>
(This would be an 11% reduction. Due to the award cycle these grants had already been awarded when the 4.75% reduction was required so literacy grants have not been reduced before)	
<b>Library Books &amp; Materials</b>	<b>-\$28,751</b>
(This would be in addition to the current year's cut & would amount to \$59,175 or 11%)	
<b>15 Employee Furlough Days</b>	<b>-\$178,321</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>-\$328, 204</b>

If further budget reductions are required this year, however, the options will be fewer. The next step will be employee furloughs. The maximum allowable number of employee furlough days under state law is 23. We received word that the revenue collections in September were again below revenue estimates but no further budget reductions were ordered. I expect the state budget situation will dominate the attention of state officials and state agencies this year.

**On the road again.** On a more pleasant note, I did have the opportunity to get out to libraries in the last two months. Trustee workshops in Ardmore, Beaver, Elk City, Stillwater, and Warner were held in September. I was pleased with the turnout and the quality of the program we provided. I attended all five programs to alert the trustees to the revenue problems and the possibility and later certainty of cuts to state aid. In addition, I attended the grand opening of the Mustang Public Library and presented a program at the Tulsa City-County Library System's staff development day. All of these events are wonderful opportunities to connect to our customers in public libraries.

**Literary Landmark.** Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) presented the state's second Literary Landmark in honor of Ralph Ellison on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Ralph Ellison Branch of the Metropolitan Library System. Literary Landmark Plaques will also be located at Douglas High School and at Deep Deuce recognizing this Oklahoma author.

**Gates Foundation Application.** The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have provided another group of funding opportunities to state libraries. There are four grant categories being offered to public libraries: public access computers, broadband connectivity, training, and technical support. ODL had to submit an application with our plans for when we would apply and for which categories. All these grants require a match. We have been notified by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that our application has been accepted and we will have until January 2004 to submit the individual category grants.

**OU Poll.** I have met with staff from the OU Poll to discuss our questions on citizen support of libraries. We are going to be able to piggyback on a quarterly poll funded by another group that will allow us to ask 12 to 15 questions rather than 4 or 5. The quarterly poll will be done in late December or January. The results will be available two weeks after the poll is conducted so the information will be very timely for the legislative session.

**Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma.** This is the new name of the One Book/One State project that ODL is helping to develop. We have had two meetings of the group since the last ODL Board meeting and it is shaping up. A preliminary list of one hundred books with Oklahoma themes by Oklahoma authors or others is underway. ODL staff involvement includes Kitty Pittman from the Oklahoma Collection, Glenda Carlile from the Center for the Book, Bill Young from Public Information, Donna Skvarla from Library Development, and myself. I'm pleased that we're working with some new partners on this project.