

Director's Report
ODL Board Meeting of August 24, 2007

The summer has flown by for me. It has seemed busier than normal with many meetings and project deadlines but not as tiring as normal because the heat has been less intense. At a recent meeting of public librarians I heard positive comments about the summer reading program attendance. I think much has been accomplished both at ODL and in our public libraries over the summer.

Budget Request. Following Tab D, you will find a list of the funding increases we are proposing to the ODL budget for FY2009. Each of these requests would benefit the customers served by public libraries. The goal of reaching \$2.50 per capita in state aid for public libraries continues to be our top priority. We are also requesting funding for new electronic resources that would be used by all sizes and types of public libraries. It has been our experience that purchasing electronic resources on a statewide level provides tremendous savings for taxpayers and allows access to resources that smaller communities could never afford individually. We plan to demonstrate the electronic resources for you at the Board meeting. The budget request has to be submitted on October 1st.

Library Services and Technology Five Year Plan. One of the major accomplishments of the year was the development of a new five year plan on how Oklahoma will use federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). When we last met, the plan was still being finalized. It was completed and submitted on time. We have just received notice from IMLS that our plan will need to be modified. Although the new five year plan had only minor changes from our previous five year plan, the interpretation of what is allowable appears to be shifting at IMLS which may impact what projects we do. We may need to revise our budget request included in Tab F to continue vital services with state appropriations. We hope to have more information by the time of our Board meeting.

Harlene Wills, new ODL Board Member. Our newest ODL Board member is Harlene Wills who lives in Tahlequah. Harlene visited ODL for her Board orientation and ODL tour in July. Harlene has been an active member of the Oklahoma statewide friends of library organization, FOLIO, and was a school librarian in California for more than twenty years so she brings a good understanding of libraries to her work on the ODL Board. I know you will enjoy meeting and working with her in the coming years.

I look forward to seeing you on August 24th.