

Director's Report

As usual, the time flies between our Board meetings. There are many accomplishments by ODL staff to read about in the division reports which follow. I know you will be pleased to see how well the agency serves the people of Oklahoma.

Tribal Conference. One of the major accomplishments was the hosting of the national tribal archive, library, and museum conference in October. More than 500 individuals attended the conference representing 42 states and more than 200 tribes. The conference programs were well received and many compliments were made to ODL staff. Susan Feller, ODL Development Director, and Jan Davis of the ODL Archives and Records Division were the lead planners for the conference. Also involved in the local arrangements were Susan Gilley, Gary Harrington, Kitty Pittman, and Vicki Sullivan. It was a tremendous amount of work but it provided us with an opportunity to make new connections with an underserved community in Oklahoma as well as showcasing Oklahoma to a national audience.

State Aid. One of the major items of business at our upcoming Board meeting will be state aid to public libraries. Background information on state aid is provided to help you put the issue in context. The additional state aid funding received during last legislative session means that we were able to increase funding in most cases. In addition all communities eligible met the qualifications for state aid so it is good news all around.

Staff retirement. Gary Harrington, head of the ODL Archives and Records Division, retires on December 1st after 28 years at ODL. Gary was a colleague with an easy going personality who specialized in disaster recovery and preservation of materials. I appreciate his contributions to our agency and wish him well in the next stage of his life and career.