

Director's Report

Legislative Session Opens. The 2008 Oklahoma legislative session began in late December with presentations to the Senate Education committee on ODL's performance in 2007. We also made a presentation to the House Education Committee in late January on our budget request. I am including a copy of a handout that we provided to legislators during these hearings for you following this report.

The feedback from both committees was positive and interested. There were many questions regarding the database licenses for genealogy and audio books which indicated an interest on the part of members which was gratifying. I also attended meetings arranged by the Public Library Directors Council with key legislative members over the state aid request. Again, the meetings were positive and cordial.

Good news on the grants front. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries has recently been notified of two successful grant applications. I wish to recognize the good work of Susan Feller, ODL development officer, for her success highlighted below.

The first grant is from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission which is part of the National Archives to protect and foster the proper care of historical records that are related to Oklahoma's Native heritage.

Entitled the Oklahoma Tribal Heritage Project, the project will allow ODL to grant a total of \$150,000 to archives, museums, libraries, historical societies, tribal entities, educational institutions, and non-profit associations.

Grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. It also will fund up to \$39,000 in scholarships (not to exceed \$1,500 per organization) for one staff member from each recipient organization to attend workshops and institutes at the 2008 National Institutes for Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums that will take place at the Cherokee Resort and Casino in Tulsa metro area.

ODL has also been awarded a statewide planning grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grants will be used to create conservation plans for collections held in libraries, museums, and archives. The Statewide Planning Grants are a multi-year, multi-faceted national plan to raise public awareness and inspire action on collections care. There will be six public forums held throughout the state that will provide input for the statewide plan. Following the successful completion of our planning grant we will be eligible to apply for up to \$250,000 in additional funding that will allow us to implement the plan. The planning grant is for \$40,000.