

## **Director's Report**

The primary agenda item for our next ODL Board meeting will be consideration of the proposed budget we will submit to the Oklahoma legislature and governor on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The past two years have been ones of budget reductions to services and grants provided by ODL due to revenue received by the State not meeting prior year levels or estimates. When that occurs, the funds available to agencies are reduced. Last year we were able to cushion much of the reductions because of carryover funds that we had available. It was clear to me that the recession would eventually affect Oklahoma's economy so we began to freeze positions and limit discretionary expenses which provided the carryover funds we had to use last year. This belt tightening meant that we did not have to cut state aid to public libraries or furlough or terminate staff last year. Unfortunately we do not have those funds as we start this fiscal year. As a result, state aid, grants to library or community based literacy programs, and construction grants to libraries have all been reduced. What we are proposing in our budget request is to restore those cuts. The economy continues to be volatile but revenue collections are positive at this point and I am hopeful that will continue. The landscape at the Capitol will be a changed one with new leadership in the legislature and the governor's office. We can expect the public library and literacy supporters to be effective advocates for this budget request.

In this time of budgetary limitations, I am amazed at the work accomplished by ODL staff. As you read the division reports following, I believe you will be impressed and inspired by their dedication, talent, and work ethic. In addition to the division reports you will also find a report on the work being accomplished on a grant to ODL from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to assist tribal archives, libraries, and museums. As operating funds shrink and human resources as well, they just keep on keeping on.