

Director's Report

New look at ODL. We have begun work to physically separate the staff and the public areas in the Allen Wright Memorial Library building. When the building was constructed, it was planned as a flexible space built to support library materials on the west side of the building with staff areas on the east side. The separation in the spaces was implied with flooring and other visual cues. State agencies and the Capitol have moved into a more controlled access for staff spaces in recent years and it was time for ODL to do so as well. While still in progress, it is easier to see how it will look when completed. All ODL staff has been issued security badges for exterior doors and badge readers on the interior doors will eventually be installed as well. Since the building is being retrofitted for this, there are a few spaces such as the computer lab where we are developing workarounds to having the public in the staff areas. Visits to staff areas will need to be pre-arranged rather than spontaneous so it will require more coordination than at present. We expect that all the work will be completed in the next four to six weeks.

New staff at ODL In addition to a new look in the main ODL building, we also have some new faces in new places. Several ODL staff have accepted positions in other parts of the agency. As slots become available, they are announced first to existing staff and given first opportunity to apply. This can set up a domino effect where a number of staff shift positions. It's a win for all involved. ODL gets to hire known and experienced staff that have been successful in prior agency positions and existing staff get to expand their expertise and learn new skills. We also have a person new to the agency in our Archives division. We plan to introduce our new hires at the next Board meeting.

We are currently recruiting for additional new employees as well. The vacancies in important customer service areas have impacted our ability to maintain valued services. We hope to fill these vacancies by our December Board meeting and will be introducing these staff to you then. ODL staff make it possible for us to do the work of the agency. Time is our scarcest resource. Technology has allowed us to work smarter and leaner but we still need people to deliver the services our customers need.