



Academic Libraries of Indiana's Plans for the Coming Year

The Academic Libraries of Indiana Board of Directors met August 9, 2006 at Indiana University Kokomo, hosted by John C. Stachacz, Director of Library Services. This was the first meeting since the Annual Meeting in May.

Here's a brief synopsis of our plans for ALI for this year:

Database Licensing. Dan Bowell (Taylor University) is chair of the Database Licensing Committee. The committee is in the process of issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for managing ALI licenses. Dan and Lewis Miller will represent ALI on the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC).

Distance Education. Last year this task force, chaired by Susan Mannan (IVY Tech Community College Indianapolis), surveyed libraries regarding support for distance education courses and students. This year the committee plans to survey faculty to determine what issues need to be addressed. The committee will then establish the role that ALI can play to enhance the distance learning experience.

Government Documents. A committee of ALI members, along with personnel from the Indiana State Library, has been formed to investigate establishing a shared federal documents collection for Indiana. The committee, led by Pat Steele (Indiana University), Jim Mullins (Purdue University), and Jennifer Younger (University of Notre Dame), is sponsoring a meeting of the federal depository librarians and their directors on Thursday, August 31, 2006 in preparation for a meeting with the U.S. Superintendent of Documents on September 14. The committee will also address concerns about Indiana documents.

Public Relations. One of our major activities this year will be to improve ALI's visibility by emphasizing the role of academic libraries in teaching, learning, research, and as economic drivers. Committee persons are chair Arthur Hafner (Ball State University) who is responsible for the ALI Web site, and Bill Darr (Grace College) who will work with Arthur to help populate the Website with current news of Indiana's academic libraries.

Remote Storage. ALI is exploring funding options for a shared storage/shared collections facility. Pat Steel (Indiana University Bloomington) continues to lead these efforts and is chair of the committee. Other members are Arthur Hafner (Ball State University), Lynn Hufford (Indiana University Bloomington), Jim Mullins (Purdue University), Jennifer Younger (University of Notre Dame), and Sheridan Stormes (Butler University).

Resource Sharing. ALI hopes to expand member participation in the Direct Request Project initiated last year through INCat. Training options will be announced later. ALI will also pursue 5-day Wheels delivery through INCOLSA. Robert Roethemeyer (Concordia Theological Seminary) chairs this task force and he is also a member of the INCOLSA Resource Sharing Task Force.

Re-design of ALI's Reciprocal Borrowing Brochure is underway, a project undertaken by Arthur Hafner and Susan Akers (Ball State University). The Reciprocal Borrowing Program is a popular service that students and faculty at many institutions have found useful. Currently, only one ALI member does not participate in the on-site program. I am happy to announce that ALI has 100% member participation in the no-charge (for returnables only) inter-library loan program.

Strategic Planning. The activities of all of ALI's committees support ALI Strategic Plan. Jim Mullins (Purdue University) is ALI's Vice-President, and he has agreed to lead a committee to review the present plan and establish a planning and reporting process within ALI. Everyone's participation in helping to strengthen ALI is important.

Call for ALI Members to Attend INCOLSA's Regional Forums 2006. These regional forums provide INCOLSA members an opportunity to share their ideas about ways to improve the INCOLSA network. Members of INCOLSA's executive committee and staff attend these forums. Find the date and location of when the forum for your region will be held at www.incolsa.net/inside/regforums06.html.

Call for ALI Members to Attend "Library as Place" Program. Plan to attend the Indiana Academic Library Association's fall conference on the Library as Place, Friday, September 8, 2006 at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis. For more information, view the PDF of the program announcement at www.ilfonline.org/Units/Associations/IALA/IALA_2006.pdf. The featured speaker is Jim Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University. In the afternoon, ALI's David Lewis (IUPUI) speaks about "Innovation, Place, and Space" where he addresses how libraries handle change especially in relation to technology and user needs. The Academic Libraries of Indiana is a proud conference sponsor.

As you can see, this academic year is going to be very busy and exciting for all members of the Academic Libraries of Indiana. As you know, ALI is an all-volunteer organization. In a relatively short period, our membership has improved the availability of resources for teaching, learning, and service. Through your membership in ALI and your participation on committees, task forces, and working groups, you are key in helping to strengthen and embolden the role that ALI for promoting collaboration, innovation, preservation, and resource sharing.

[Submitted by Judie L. Violette, ALI President 08-31-2006]