

ALLEGHENY COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Highlights from 2006

- County libraries circulated 6.47 million items (4% increase over 2005). Nonresident use represented 28.1% of total activity.
- The Membership adopted by a 2/3 vote system standards and a new formula in May. Subsequent complications arose due to a state directive requiring specific distribution of state funds. When RAD recommended delaying implementation of the new formula, the membership agreed. At RAD's suggestion, and expense, full study of the formula and process for deriving the formula will be conducted in 2007.
- ACLA hosted its annual Awards Reception in October. Honorees included:
 - ✓ *State Elected Official - John Pippy*
 - ✓ *Trustee - Jennifer Fox Rabold (Whitehall)*
 - ✓ *Volunteer - Benjamin Holmes (Bethel Park)*
 - ✓ *Friends - Friends of the Oakmont Library*
 - ✓ *Media - John Funyaiak (UPN Pittsburgh)*
- Major building improvements &/or renovations:
 - ✓ *Clairton Public Library completed public service renovations.*
 - ✓ *Oakmont Carnegie Library finished renovations and expansion.*
 - ✓ *Penn Hills Library held groundbreaking for new construction.*
 - ✓ *South Park Township Library completed renovations.*
- Mobile Services operations:
 - ✓ *Bookmobiles made 1,420 stops in 2006:*
 - *517 visits to preschool classrooms,*
 - *503 visits to senior facilities, and*
 - *400 community visits.*
 - ✓ *These stops served:*
 - *42 sites (preschool),*
 - *40 sites (senior service), and*
 - *10 sites (general service).*
 - ✓ *This represented 1,398 hours of service on site.*
 - ✓ *Two libraries purchased bookmobile service: Northern Tier and Northland.*
 - ✓ *Bookmobiles delivered service in 53 separate municipalities.*
 - ✓ *Mobile service circulation for 2006 exceeded 85,500 items.*
 - ✓ *Bookmobiles traveled a combined 16,153 miles delivering service.*
- eiNetwork completed several initiatives:
 - ✓ *Completed migration of Upper St. Clair into countywide system.*
 - ✓ *Replaced and upgraded network service at more than 45 sites.*
 - ✓ *Implemented "live" link with Access PA statewide catalog.*

- ✓ *Implemented automatic courtesy notices to alert patrons of items soon to be overdue.*
 - ✓ *Supported access to downloadable audio books.*
 - ✓ *Implemented multi-language capability for public computers.*
 - ✓ *Re-evaluated available filtering software and upgraded filtering software.*
 - ✓ *Improved email functionality and spam filter systems for library staff.*
 - ✓ *Increased training classes for library staff.*
 - ✓ *Assisted libraries with implementing automated materials acquisition system.*
 - ✓ *Initiated printer leasing and printer maintenance programs for libraries.*
 - ✓ *Investigated new technology applications (RFID, tablet PC's, self-check machines).*
- **Funded by monies from the State Department of Labor & Industry, Knowledge Connections:**
 - ✓ *Operated in 13 public housing communities.*
 - ✓ *Received 47,098 visits.*
 - ✓ *Served 10,153 individuals.*
- **“One Book, One Community” was conducted for the fourth year with Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini. This year a companion book for middle school students was also introduced: Fish by L.S. Matthews. More than 155 programs were held in conjunction with this one-month event, and there were 6,149 circulations of the title books from ACLA libraries (almost double the 2005 circulation). The web site, www.onebookonecommunity.org, received 7,206 unique visits. Sponsors and partners included:**
 - ✓ *Allegheny County*
 - ✓ *Allegheny County Department of Human Services via Vintage*
 - ✓ *Barnes & Noble Bookseller*
 - ✓ *Beginning with Books*
 - ✓ *Comcast*
 - ✓ *Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council*
 - ✓ *Highmark PALS Program*
 - ✓ *Oasis*
 - ✓ *University of Pittsburgh*
 - ✓ *UPMC*
 - ✓ *WPIC*
- **Outside grant initiatives included:**
 - ✓ *Board Development program.*
 - ✓ *Leadership Retreat for library directors.*
 - ✓ *Public service survey conducted countywide.*
- **Incentive Grants through State funds were awarded to member libraries to promote increased local government support, collaborative programs and services, and compliance with State standards. These included:**
 - ✓ *Tuition reimbursement to for directors to achieve an MLS.*

- ✓ *Web development assistance for libraries in partnership with the Art Institute of Pittsburgh.*
- ✓ *Shared staffing in the west region (technical services).*
- ✓ *Support for shared teen services position (Moon and Sewickley).*
- ACLA coordinated and underwrote (from State funds):
 - ✓ *Monthly Conversation Salons in 6 member libraries,*
 - ✓ *18 monthly PALS Book clubs,*
 - ✓ *16 arts programs in member libraries,*
 - ✓ *6 classes for the Academy of Lifelong Learning (CMU),*
 - ✓ *41 programs in member libraries in conjunction with One Book, One Community,*
 - ✓ *50 summer reading events in member libraries, and*
 - ✓ *32 programs in member libraries for RADical Days (celebrating the Regional Asset District).*

In addition ACLA provided resources at the National Fatherhood Initiative's Fast Break event for families, the Jewish Health Foundation's Working Hearts event, Oasis' annual event, and Highmark's Childhood Obesity Summit.
- State Aid for system support funded numerous benefits for members, including:
 - ✓ *Countywide continuing education programs,*
 - ✓ *Countywide programming (as detailed above),*
 - ✓ *Public performance rights on videos used in local libraries,*
 - ✓ *Customized reports to extract data from the eiNetwork system on behalf of county libraries and ACLA,*
 - ✓ *Access PA database participation fees for members,*
 - ✓ *Consortium licenses for web site calendars and on-line book discussion groups,*
 - ✓ *Advocacy on behalf of public library services,*
 - ✓ *Countywide marketing campaign highlighting 5 forms of literacy,*
 - ✓ *Grant funds to support the addition of high-demand nonprint items to the countywide reserve pool,*
 - ✓ *The Incentive grant program outlined above, and*
 - ✓ *Administrative support for the system.*
- ACLA was recognized as one of three agencies nation wide for its outstanding service and programs in lifelong learning. This award was granted by the Americans for Libraries Council located in New York.
- The Board implemented several changes in 2006 that improve the nature of reporting going forward.
 - ✓ ACLA's accounting system was converted from standard QuickBooks to QuickBooks for Nonprofits. The entire chart of accounts was revised and updated.
 - ✓ System Services has been segregated as a program base from Administration and subdivided into three program classes to reflect the range of service provided to system members:
 1. Library Development

2. Consortium Services
3. Marketing and Advocacy

These accounting changes will provide greater transparency in reporting, higher level efficiency in segregating revenues and expenditures by program, more precise tracking of grant funds, and increased ability to monitor cash flow.

- A narrative report of progress against the strategic plan is attached.