

Report of the 2008/2009 Long Range Planning Committee of the Delaware Library Association

The Long Range Planning Committee identified 5 recommendations for the Board's review. None of the recommendations relate directly to the current economic downturn and what that might mean to the association. It is felt that the economic situation is very fluid and that the Board will be evaluating all actions in relation to DLA's budget and the economic situation in the state of Delaware. The recommendations deal with basic long term issues that promote greater value and assistance to DLA's members and that will be important whatever the economic situation.

1) Review of DLA's mission and goals.

DLA should review its mission statement and goals to assess the association's effectiveness and consider revisions so that the DLA can better support the needs of its membership.

2) DLA Initiatives. DLA should augment programming with the development of initiatives that assist Delaware libraries and librarians in their work. The initiatives should be closely linked to supporting DLA's mission and goals. Initiatives should be evaluated to assess their effectiveness

Developing a new Library Directory for Delaware is an excellent example of an initiative that would be a good project for 2009/2010. The directory should provide a lot of information about today's DLA that will assist in the assessment of the association's mission and goals. It has been many years since the Library Directory was updated. A new directory will raise awareness of holdings and services provided by the libraries in Delaware. It will encourage networking and promote interlibrary loan and other forms of library cooperation. The process of putting together the Directory will also provide a good opportunity to ask members what they need in future initiatives.

The Board, the standing committees, divisions and DLA members should also be asked to suggest initiatives.

3) Programming

DLA should continue its emphasis on providing programming at an annual conference held in Delaware. In addition to programming, the annual conference offers an opportunity for librarians state-wide to meet for networking and the exchange of ideas. A conference held in Delaware minimizes the amount of travel necessary for Delaware Librarians to attend a conference offering a range of programming of interest to all types of libraries.

DLA should encourage the development of programming not associated with the annual conference. Some of the divisions already provide programming outside of the annual conference. Divisions could work together to share responsibility for developing programs of interest to different types of libraries. The Long Range Planning, Continuing Education, and Membership Committees could also develop non-conference programs. It would benefit Delaware libraries if additional programming not associated with the annual conference could be developed for all types of libraries.

DLA should endeavor to make members aware of programming being offered regionally by the Delaware Division of Libraries, Lyrasis, other library associations and consortia.

DLA should develop programming that can be made available via the DLA website. One option is to provide a web version of selected programming both from the annual conference and from the programming developed by divisions and committees not associated with the annual conference. This approach maximizes the return from the development time devoted to programming and allows DLA members to return to programs or participate in programs that they were unable to attend.

4) Investigate new technologies for simultaneous meetings.

Low cost technology is being developed that permits effective participation by meeting participants in multiple sites. SKYPE allows meetings to be shared at remote sites through voice, video and instant messaging. DSMLA has experimented with running simultaneous meetings during 2008/2009. The approach could be used for some meetings of the DLA Board. The travel time that is saved would permit more time for agenda and discussion and encourage greater participation.

5) Support intellectual freedom

DLA should continue to support intellectual freedom through programming, discussion and advice. Links to ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom could be made available on the DLA website. Annual conference planners could be encouraged to include intellectual freedom in its conference program each year.

Respectfully submitted:
Long Range Planning Committee
March 10, 2009

Paul Anderson
University of Delaware Library

Annie Norman
Delaware Division of Libraries