

Oklahoma State Report

January 20, 2016

MPLA Activities

- Attended OLA Monthly Executive Board Meetings on November 13th and December 18th.
- Worked with a committee of past Leadership Institute attendees to evaluate Oklahoma's applicants to MPLA institute.
- The OLA Board is still considering extending member rates to MPLA attendees at all OLA events. I believe the proposal will eventually pass the OLA Board.

Oklahoma Library Association News

- Oklahoma is in the midst of a very severe fiscal crisis, and libraries are poised to take another large financial cut. A revenue failure (income less than projections by more than 5%) has been declared for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30th. This declaration requires immediate cuts to all state agencies. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) received an immediate 3% cut; ODL has been cut a cumulative 28% over the last three years. Municipal public libraries, which are not part of library systems, are the hardest hit by this cut as their state aid has been reduced proportional to the cuts.
- As difficult as a mid-year budget cut can be, the State budget for next fiscal year looks even worse. Due to declining revenues in the oil & gas industry, and decisions on tax policy, Oklahoma is projected to have a hole of at least \$900 million dollars next fiscal year (14% of the total State budget). Legislators will have a very difficult time balancing the budget next year, and will have to cut State agencies that have been held harmless over the last three years of cuts; namely common and higher education. ODL will also receive another cut possibly as large as 10%.
- Attached to this report is a proclamation authored by the Oklahoma Library Association's Legislative Committee. The committee's intent is that library boards, other community partners and library customers will sign this proclamation and it will be delivered to the Legislature on April 12th during the Association's annual Legislative Day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Miller, Oklahoma Representative

Proclamation

*W*HEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries serves the citizens of Oklahoma by providing excellent information services and by creating and preserving unique government information resources; and

*W*HEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries saves the taxpayers of Oklahoma millions each year by consolidating services such as licensing information databases and providing Interlibrary Loan services that many libraries could not otherwise afford; and

*W*HEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries directly and indirectly supports legislative and gubernatorial goals such as Healthy Citizens and Strong Families, Educated Citizens and Exemplary Schools, Safe Citizens and Secure Communities, Prosperous Citizens and Thriving Economy, and Effective Services and Accountable Government by providing free and open access to information in a variety of formats; and

*W*HEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries provides unique, comprehensive, and specialized training education, and professional development to library professionals and para-professionals across the state, thereby assuring quality library and information services to the citizens of Oklahoma; and

*W*HEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries facilitates access to resources through consolidation and coordination of opportunities for funding from the state, federal, philanthropic, private, business, and local sources; and

*W*HEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries provides direct and indirect support to all the citizens of Oklahoma who are working to improve their lives through literacy, citizenship, lifelong learning, career and job preparation or advancement, business or entrepreneurial enterprise, and cultural expression and enrichment; and

*W*HEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries provides specialized services and expertise that are unique to the profession and responsibilities of librarianship;

*N*OW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned, support the goal of the Oklahoma Library Association “to inform and encourage Oklahoma legislators to support the efficient, effective work of the professional staff of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in their efforts to provide cost savings to local communities and tax payers, shared resources, and coordination and oversight of services for all Oklahomans regardless of age, education, location or social circumstance;” and we believe that this organization that provides unique yet ubiquitous service to the citizens of Oklahoma should maintain its administrative and organizational autonomy and receive funding at a level appropriate for providing the quality resources and service the citizens of Oklahoma deserve.