



MPLA Board Report
Submitted by Leslie H. Langley

BITTERSWEET ENDING TO 2011-2012 OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

In addition to what was submitted for the MPLA August/September 2012 newsletter, past Oklahoma Library Association Committee Chair Wayne Hanway reports, "At the end of the session, there was good news and problematic news. Good news (under the circumstances) was that the Oklahoma Department of Libraries ended up with a flat budget. A different kind of good news was the quiet defeat of two measures weakening or eliminating school media program requirements. More good news came when a proposed constitutional amendment that would have frozen tax assessments for nearly every senior resident, regardless of income, was not brought up for a vote.

The problematic news included: a bill passed extending the suspension of requirements for school libraries for two more years; another bill passed that allows the creation of a statewide virtual charter school and raising some serious questions about library resources for students (but the bill also contained \$30 million in new revenue for needed public school textbooks, and put some limitations and restrictions on virtual schools that will likely limit enrollment); and a proposed constitutional amendment passed and was sent to be put on the ballot for the November election that would exempt all intangible property from taxation. The potential fiscal impact of this has not been officially reported, but by at least one estimate it could do serious harm to library system revenues. So OLA will work with other impacted organizations to defeat the proposed amendment in the November election."

INFORMATION MATRIX CAMP IS UNDERWAY

OLA and Rose State College are in the midst of the 6th annual joint Information Matrix Camp, a week-long summer camp for 12 to 14 year old teens. This library camp, provided by IMLS funds, is designed to expose young people to the many avenues of librarianship other than the more traditional school and public librarians they are generally exposed to in hopes that they might consider librarianship as a career. 31 campers from across Oklahoma are in attendance and their schedule this year includes visits to academic, law medical, special and museum libraries, to name a few.

RICK LUCE NAMED AS NEW DEAN OF LIBRARIES AT UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Rick Luce, former vice provost and director of libraries at Emory University and previous director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, has been selected to occupy the position the position of dean of University of Oklahoma Libraries upon the retirement of longtime OU library dean Sul Lee. Luce will also hold appointments as the Peggy V. Helmerich Chair and as associate vice president for research on the Norman campus.

OLA TO HOLD 2013 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ARDMORE, OK

The Oklahoma Library Association will hold the 2013 annual conference in Ardmore, OK the week of April 3-5.