

**LIBRAS Report**  
**ILA Annual Conference**  
**Transformation: See Tomorrow Today**  
**October 6-9, 2009**

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**Primary Acknowledgement**

Many thanks are due to LIBRAS for allotting registration costs for me to attend this conference. In tougher economic times, funding sources become scarce and opportunities to attend external events can dither. Without this year's LIBRAS support, I am not certain I would have been able to attend the conference.

**Attended Sessions Of Note**

1. Some Dewey, Some Don't
2. ISL Update (With Jesse White)
3. Lincoln's Ten Critical Tasks of Transformational Leadership
4. Strategy for Synergy: Why and How to Apply to Synergy: The Illinois State Library Leadership Initiative
5. Outsourcing a Technical Services Department
6. General Membership Meeting
7. All Vendors

**General Remarks and Report**

This conference was a unique experience for me for a variety of different reasons:

- 1) I have never attended a major conference for just one day. This phenomenon occurred this time around with ILA due to scheduling conflicts with prior commitments at USF. Typically, I feel that I gain more from attending as many conference functions as possible during a set conference date schedule. I, therefore, had a hard time determining what the net result of my experience would be in such a short span of time. I was pleasantly surprised in this case, as I can say that sometimes smaller is better.
- 2) My trip to ILA was multi-faceted in the sense that I was part of the program in more than just the typical "presenter" role. I am an elected member of the ILA Executive Board. This position assigns me a particular set of tasks to accomplish during ILA Annual, and I considered myself "on a mission" to accomplish these goals outside of the Talk Table I co-presented and the conference sessions I had a chance to steal in-between Executive Board activities.
- 3) My primary goal with my day at ILA was to meet with each vendor and thank them for helping to sponsor the event. This was a very intriguing task as I am commonly accustomed to be "sold to" by vendors, but for this particular day, our roles were reversed. I met with vendors for many hours, and then (for 10 distinct vendors) recorded their responses to a series of survey questions for the ILA Exec. Board. The process involved encountering a vendor, and then immediately reversing the sales energy they sent towards me back at them in order to get the insight I needed for the survey. It was a great experience, and I appreciated the opportunity to talk to them about their business models. It gave me insight into how they think of our profession and our organizations.
- 4) My secondary goal was to meet-and-greet during Secretary of State Jesse White's presentation to ILA. This was the first time I met Secretary White and had a chance to listen to him speak on the subject of Illinois libraries. He was very supportive of our cause, and I was impressed with his excitement.
- 5) Lastly, I co-presented a Talk Table on Synergy with Melissa Henderson from Glencoe Public Library. Melissa and I are old friends, and strong Synergy advocates. The table was attended by about 12 librarians, and I was able to help convince most of them to consider applying.

All-in-all, ILA Annual was a very fast experience for me. I did not stay overnight in Peoria. I left early Thursday morning and returned late that same day. Our Head of Public Services, Shannon Pohrte, attended the entire conference and presented as well. We did not run into each other during the conference due to all of the time I spent with vendors. At the end of the day, we had the chance to grab a quick dinner and reflect on the entire event, including her presentation.

My service on the ILA Executive Board has been very eye-opening, and attendance at this conference was another revelation into the richness that can be found in our field. I'm learning many state-wide and national legislative tips and tricks for bettering relationships and service. I am very fortunate to be able to take part in this aspect of our work as librarians.