

Executive Director **NLLS REPORT**

May 2019

Staffing:

1. NLLS this year hired 4 summer students.
 - a. Summer reading program – Cari Graus (returning)
 - b. IT – Jacob Drombroski (new)
 - c. 2 for Admin and bib services – Dana Gibson (new) & Sam Pindroch (new)

2. Heather received her MLIS so we were up to 4 MLIS, for a day. Kayla in public services handed in her resignation the following day. Kayla is going to Banff Public Library, and we wish her well.
 - a. Job ads have been posted to Library Partnership Board (across Canada), Foothills Library Association (Alberta), Linked in, Indeed, List serves, the NLLS website and social media. We have also approached the UofA faculty of Information science for new MLIS to try to entice more candidates. New strategy for retaining MLIS professionals is the idea of a work at home scenario to work with the libraries that are closer to the Edmonton area. This position will be under the new PS manager.

 - b. Interviews started the week of the 13th May for both the public services and the bib services. The prospects look good in filling at least one of these positions very soon

Contracts and New Negotiations

1. NLLS has Just signed a contract for Lynda.com, a learning database. This database will be set up by the end of May. We will have 75 concurrent user accounts for a system our size. Patrons can access Lynda from anywhere at anytime and on any device. After 20 minutes of inactivity the patron will automatically be logged off.

3. At ALC I met with several vendors. TRAC is looking at RBDigital amalgamation for their magazines, negotiating 200 titles instead of the 50 for about the same price. With the indigenous funding I am also looking at partnering with a company called whitehots for their popup library service. I am looking at buying

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one of the popups and trying them out in those service areas, if it is successful then we I will have talks with those libraries and gather their thoughts on the device

4. TRAC has also signed a contract for SOLUS: a mobile app that helps with digital literacy and inclusion. It offers patron discovery, full account access and intuitive interface that transcends the physical library into a virtual space. TRAC released the contract with Boopsie over a year ago due to maintenance issues, plus the interface was not very intuitive. Kelly and I saw SOLUS at ALA last year and brought it to the group for discussion, several apps were discussed and SOLUS is what was decided on.

Professional Development and Meetings

1. 3 NLLS staff members, the LMC chair and the 4 board members attended ALC on behalf of NLLS. 3 staff members (technicians) went to the Alberta Library Technicians Association. 1 staff member will be going to Interop. 1 staff member went to Ontario Library Association. 2 staff members – myself and Kelly – and the LMC chair attended the Innovative User Group. I continued on to the Director's Link symposium where Michelle Tombs and myself met with our new iii representative to negotiate a new strategic plan. Both Michelle and I have reservations as to how Innovative will continue to develop Polaris and Leap; therefore, we are starting to meet with other ILS vendors to see what else is out there. That week we met with an OCLC representatives that have a new ILS platform called WISE that has just taken over some Polaris customers.

Presentations

1. Larry and I have presented to 20 council and 1 library board. My team and myself have also visited a library board to help provide solutions for the board and library manager.