

Legal Information Preservation Alliance

Meeting Notes

July 13, 2008

The membership meeting of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance was held in Portland, Oregon, in conjunction with the American Association of Law Libraries meeting. Nearly 70 individuals were in attendance.

Paul George, Chair, welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. He welcomed new library members joining in 2007/08 (American University, Loyola Marymount (Los Angeles), New England School of Law, and Washington University and new members joining for 2008/09 (California Judicial Center Library, Indiana Supreme Court Library, and the Wyoming State Law Library). He thanked outgoing board member Kent McKeever for his four years of service. He announced the election results and introduced returning Board member Janis Johnston and new Board members Keith Ann Stiverson and Judy Meadows. Other continuing Board members are Margaret Leary and Kathleen Vanden Heuvel.

Paul reported that the Board viewed the 2007/08 year as the time for LIPA to take concrete steps in order to make the transition from general goals to specific action items. The first step in this direction was the hiring of an Executive Director. Unfortunately, our initial choice was not a match for our needs, and he left the position after the January 2008 meeting. When we posted the position again, Margie Maes applied and accepted the position starting May 1. Meanwhile, we continued with the Book Retention Project and began our outreach to expand our membership ranks by adding state, court and county law libraries. Letters explaining LIPA and our desire to include them were sent in May and a few libraries have joined as a result.

Paul then introduced Margie Maes, new Executive Director.

Margie reported on what she had done since beginning the half-time job on May 1.

- conducted election with Terry Martin's assistance
- sent recruitment letters to 40+ state law librarians
- worked with attorneys on legal paperwork necessary to follow up on our 2007 incorporation
- worked with Jan Anderson at Georgetown to update the website and add missing meeting minutes
- worked with Jan Anderson to update financial records and budget documents
- initiated contact with OCLC regarding a potential digital archive project
- began working on a program proposal for 2009 highlighting multi-state initiatives to digitize and preserve legislative information

Margie also encouraged members to look at the LIPA website regularly, as content is added all the time. She thanked Jan Anderson for her outstanding work on the website as well as her work in facilitating Georgetown's continuing administrative support for LIPA.

Margie also reported that she had meetings scheduled during the conference with representatives of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries, with the executive directors of NELLCO and LLMC, with representatives of the Hein company, the Chesapeake Project, and the State Law Librarians Round Table.

Jan Anderson distributed the 2007/08 financial report, as of June 30. Our closing balance was \$114,713.19. Invoices for the 2008/09 fiscal year will go out later in July.

Kent McKeever reported on the print retention project, developed to encourage participating institutions to save jointly five or six copies of selected titles in a protected environment for the indefinite future. Active participants in the project are the Diamond Law Library at Columbia and the Harvard Law Library. The Law Library Microform Consortium tracks and records on its website the volumes that are stored through the LIPA project. The law libraries at the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan plan to participate in the print retention project in the future, and Kent hopes to recruit some additional participants over the next year.

Margie Maes reported that little progress had been made on the digital archives collection policy committee since January. The committee has focused its discussion on state primary materials but has not drafted priorities or identified the materials most at risk. Margie suggested that this committee effort might be to be reenergized during the coming year, especially if LIPA wants to move forward with a digital preservation project.

Margie then reported on recent discussions with Judy Cobb of the OCLC Digital Archive. LIPA had approached OCLC almost three years ago about a possible pilot project, but we lost some momentum over the last year. Meanwhile, OCLC has moved from the original Digital Archive model to a new CONTENTdm/dark digital archive system. Previously a library would use the OCLC Connexion browser to capture documents, and the Digital Archive provided both the archive feature and access to documents. Now a library uses a Connexion Client, the Archive is just an archive, and access is provided through CONTENTdm. The new model seems favorable for a consortial project, both in structure and pricing. Margie will send out more detailed information to the membership to see if there are libraries interested in participating in such a project.

The formal agenda was followed by a wide-ranging discussion about possible projects and partnerships. Margie will be working with the Board to formalize goals for the year and will incorporate many of these ideas into the planning.

MKM