

Statewide Consortium of Ohio County Law Library Resource Boards
June 2013 Executive Director's Report
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As I wind up my term as executive director of the consortium, I want to reflect on all the accomplishments made by this board. I am very proud of the work we have done together and appreciate all the support I received from this board. It has truly been an honor working for and with each of you.

- **Library Visits** – Since September, 2011 I have visited all 88 Ohio County Law Libraries. These visits were very successful in getting information regarding the consortium to the counties, especially the smaller ones where the librarian is usually a local attorney or court employee and not active in consortium meetings and business. On these visits librarians shared with me their gratitude for the Matthew Bender and West handbooks being purchased by the Consortium and ideas for projects they would like to see the Consortium tackle. I also returned to several counties a second time at the request of their boards for various reasons.
- **Online Database Negotiations** – I began speaking to Lexis and West in January, 2012 regarding a statewide online database contract. Both vendors explained that their Government Plan is included is DAS's state bid list and neither vendor was willing to put any additional proposal together for county law libraries beyond what was on that list. However, Patron Access is not part of the state bid list and both vendors met with me regarding how a statewide Patron Access contract might work. In March, 2013 both vendors presented the board with a proposal. The Lexis proposal was contingent upon getting 35 terminals activated statewide by April 26. Unfortunately we were unable to commit 35 terminals. Westlaw also offered a proposal and it remains open until December 31. To date 4 libraries have taken advantage of the offer.
- **Grants** – The Consortium awarded optional grants in the early part of the year when libraries could choose to apply for a grant in one of 5 categories – Technology, Education, Programming, or Cooperation. Twenty-nine county law libraries were awarded grants totaling \$89,155.74. Last year 19 libraries received over \$57,000 in grant money.
- **Cataloging Options** – We were able to secure an online catalog for each Ohio county library from Library World at NO COST for 2013. Three librarians, Teresa Faulhaber from Cuyahoga County, Cyndi Zienta from Sandusky County, and Kim Crowthers from Clermont County are working on populating the catalog. This project is taking longer than originally planned. The board will need to reevaluate status at the end of the year, but I hope this project continues since Library World has committed to a discounted price for 2014.
- **Determine Future of Fund** – The board decided to award refund grants to each library due to unspent funds. Each county law library received an award equaling 33% of their 2012 statutory 2% contribution. Statutory contributions for 2013 are still streaming in. Only a handful of libraries forgot to take their refund grant. We were able to catch the mistakes and fix them. There are still three libraries that have never made any statutory contribution despite several attempts to recover that money. The board will need to determine how to move forward with these counties.

- Consortium Web Site – The dispute with the Department of Administrative Services has finally been resolved, and as a result the Consortium is in the process of creating an official web site. This will be a project for the next executive director to complete.

Again, I want to thank the board, advisory committee, and all the librarians who were patient with me, took advantage of proposals, asked great questions, and offered even better suggestions. Starting a State Agency from the ground up is not something most people get the opportunity to do and I will always be proud to be part of this agency.