

PREFACE

The 36th annual LOEX conference continued LOEX's tradition of bringing the latest in library instruction and information literacy to its participants. For this 2008 offering, we were fortunate that more people than ever registered to attend – 350 people. LOEX has frequently been a hot ticket, selling out within days (if not hours), but the goal of LOEX conference is not to prevent people from attending. The challenge is to balance the goals of opening it up to all those interested, while keeping LOEX's guiding principle of maintaining an intimate (i.e., not too big) and friendly conference that doesn't overwhelm. At this conference in suburban Chicago, we were able to achieve this balance, by having 50 more people attend, while still keeping all activities in a single hotel. This year's attendees included a small number of spots (10) reserved for non-members, as we know not everyone can be a member of a LOEX institution.

This record number of participants attended 45 breakout and interactive sessions, and viewed the posters of 10 LIS graduate students. The conference was kicked off on Friday with a keynote address from Laurel Ofstein (Assistant Director of The Center for Creativity and Innovation at DePaul), followed by Saturday's keynote panel, which included Annette Haggray (Dean, Academic Alternatives & Instructional Support, College of DuPage), Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, (Head, Undergraduate Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Christopher Stewart (Dean of Libraries, Illinois Institute of Technology). The inimitable Rick Kogan and Charles Osgood (not that Charles Osgood), of the Chicago Tribune gave a rollicking dinner speech to give participants a taste of Chicago.

To successfully pull off this big endeavor required the dedication and hard work of the LOEX 2008 Planning Committee, led by co-chairs Leslie Warren (Moraine Valley Community College) and Rosemary Henders (North Central College). Their able team included Peg Cook (Elmhurst College), Barbara Evans (National Louis University), Meg Frazier (Bradley University), Jennifer Hootman (MINITEX Library Information Network), Lydia Jackson (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville), Chad Kahl (Illinois State University), Christine Kickels (College of DuPage), Aimee Sayles (University of St. Francis) and Terry Taylor (DePaul University). As you can see, it took the coordination and volunteer work of people across a range of institutions, and I am deeply thankful for their efforts.

Thanks again to everyone, from presenters to committee members to attendees for helping make the LOEX 2008 Conference in Oak Brook, IL such a success. Please enjoy reading this latest set of proceedings from the 36th annual LOEX Conference: *Librarian as Architect: Planning, Building, & Renewing*.

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