After my last Director’s note, I received a couple of feelers from people considering hosting LOEX 2016 or 2017 in their fine city. Both were interested and enthusiastic, but I realized after talking with them, it might help others in their decision making if they knew a little bit more up front about the site selection process. Here are some key items to keep in mind:

- All of the financial risk, and reward, goes to LOEX. If—for some unexpected reason—the conference does poorly, it does not cost the host librarians (or their institutions) one dime; LOEX shoulders all the responsibility. Thus, the local host committee’s required investment in the conference is their time, not their institution’s money.

- There must be at least a couple hotels that are realistic options. In select cities, this might be a big hurdle. Thus, before approaching me, scan Expedia/TripAdvisor/etc and see what hotels have: at least 300 guest rooms; seven meeting rooms for simultaneous sessions (plus a ballroom); and a reasonable room rate. Don’t worry—I get the fun part of negotiating with hotel sales people (e.g., discounts on the room rate) to determine if a particular hotel is truly an option.

- Committees are typically ~seven people and come from a few local institutions; we rarely rely on just one. Also, I work closely with the committee, which (hopefully!) benefits the committee by allowing them to do a lot of work (e.g., picking the theme; evaluating the proposals) with sufficient support and guidance.

There’s a bit more to it, but those are the highlights. So if you are interested in potentially being a host, let me know!

In this Quarterly, we have a TechMatters on websites that can help if you are flipping your classroom, articles on how to keep improving your instruction program and yourself, and a review of a book on how to make better use of the ubiquitous online world. Then, we end with an interview of Sheila Corrall, a leader of an LIS program.

Brad Sietz
Director