

Executive Director's Report

June 9th, 2023.

On Reserve On Settlement Grant

We've met with all participating libraries and sent out the MOUs. We've issued 5 payments to local libraries and are waiting on signed MOUs from Ashmont and Bonnyville. We anticipate all of the funds for local services in the 2023/24 grant year will be dispersed by the end of June. We have not received the government grant yet; however, there is money in the OROS reserves should the government not materialize with funds this year.

Electronic Resources Authentication

We had a surprise surplus in our budget for TRAC services this year. However, the Alberta Library announced that they will no longer provide the software we use to authenticate our electronic resources. This led TRAC to conduct a needs assessment and RFP for authentication services. TRAC has chosen to partner on the software Open Athens. This will largely use up the budget surplus we had. I anticipate we will still be well within budget for TRAC services.

TRAC will roll out Open Athens over the next 2-months. We anticipate better usage statistics and a smoother authentication process for users. Library Managers should not notice any changes.

Contract Services

As mentioned at our last meeting, the departure of our Web Services Specialist has left us with some salary savings. We are postponing the hiring process until 2024. We'll use some of the salary savings for some contract services for server and technical maintenance. The Board will see a budget overage in contract services, but we will be under budget in salaries.

TRAC Advisory Meeting

The TRAC Advisory meeting was held at YRL on May 30th. Our LMC leadership was in attendance, as well as Jessie Morris, Tim Kuleker, and Joanne Knysh from NLLS staff. The meeting was excellent. We heard from our library system provider. They demonstrated new features being developed for the catalogue. We also heard from two of our ebook providers, Overdrive and Cloud Library. Usage of these materials is steadily climbing.

System Director's Meeting

I had the opportunity to meet with the 6 other system directors in the province on June 1st. This was an excellent and productive meeting. We discussed HR matters, operations, policy, and advocacy. We will partner on a library salary survey this year. I have extensive notes from the meeting of items to follow up on and further investigate. Touring the Shortgrass library system was enlightening.