

Certification Updates and Recertification Tips

If you're one of hundreds of Ohio librarians eligible for recertification in 2010 or beyond, you may find this list of tips helpful as you prepare your application. Over the years OLC's Library Education Committee–Certification Review Panel (LEC–CRP) has been diligent in responding to inquiries and, as needs in the profession change, modifying the certification program accordingly. Here are both changes and pointers recommended by the LEC–CRP that should prove helpful to those applying for recertification this year.

- ❑ Not all classes are automatically accepted for recertification. If a provider is not listed on the certification document as an "Approved Provider," applicants should check for eligibility with OLC's Director of Professional Development before including course work in their applications.
- ❑ While the certification rules have been modified to allow for up to 20 hours of training provided in house by the applicant's employer/library, that training should be comparable to the caliber of training offered in professional workshops or conferences. Training hours interpreted by the LEC–CRP to be unique to policy or procedure within the applicant's library or skillful use of the library's automated system do not qualify for credit toward recertification.
- ❑ Recognizing that skill sets in the area of technology have changed considerably since OLC adopted its certification program late in 2000, the LEC–CRP will accept up to 10 hours of technology-based training that clearly relates to the applicant's role and job responsibilities at their library of employment. When in doubt, applicants should include documentation to demonstrate the relationship between the tech training and their job responsibilities.
- ❑ Not all events sponsored by approved providers are automatically accepted for recertification. For example, OLC's Expo does not qualify for recertification credit. (Note: In 2006 many of those who applied for recertification listed this event in their documentation; however, in the majority of those applications, applicants had exceeded the 100 hour minimum required so discounting their attendance at Expo did not disqualify them from being recertified.) Events that are social in nature, have no formal program, or are convened only for purposes of exchanging information do not count toward recertification.
- ❑ Remember the name badge you're given whenever you attend an OLC event has verification of attendance on its reverse side that states the hours of credit for the event and can be used as verification of attendance.
- ❑ Finally, remember that whenever in doubt on any issue or question, it is best to contact OLC at 614-410-8092.