

GATHERING IDEAS FOR FUTURE STATEWIDE PROJECTS 2014

The Library Council of Washington is looking for your help in identifying ideas for the use of federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding to meet statewide library needs and opportunities.

Project name (a short descriptive title) <u>Libraries as Open Education Leaders</u>
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Library, group, or person submitting proposal: College Librarians and Media Specialists (CLAMS) and Library Media Directors Council (LMDC)

Library Name, if different Tacoma Community College Library

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1. Briefly describe your idea for the use of LSTA funding (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

This proposal would fund the first year of a proposed three-year project to facilitate adoption of Open Education Resources (OER) at approximately twenty (20) Washington State community and technical colleges. The project will supply professional development opportunities for library and discipline faculty and funding for community and technical college libraries to facilitate adoption and integrate OER at the course level. The project has been designed to foster sustainability. Participants will create long-term project plans for OER adoption and advocacy tailored to the needs and realities of their institutions. They will have the opportunity to develop lasting relationships both within and outside their institutions through a project which facilitates collaboration between discipline and library faculty.

Why CLAMS, LMDC, and Tacoma Community College are submitting this proposal: According to a recent report (2014), *Fixing the Broken Textbook Market*, by the Student Public Interest Research Groups (Student PIRGs), 65% of students surveyed have not purchased textbooks because of high costs. The College Board (2013) reports that two-year college students pay, on average, \$1,270.00 for textbooks annually. This amount is equal to one-third of the annual cost of tuition, or one full quarter of classes in our state's community and technical college system. Textbook costs present a significant barrier for students when pursuing their college degrees. In

Washington, the legislature and education councils have identified OER as a way to help address rising textbook costs. OER are materials that can be adapted for use in courses, and distributed to students at little or no cost because of open licensing models such as Creative Commons. Even though Washington State has invested time and funds into developing OER (e.g. the Open Course Library project), adoption rates in Washington State colleges remain low. A recent survey, *2013 Faculty Use of Open Educational Resources*, conducted by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) shows that faculty require additional support in order to adapt courses to include OER content. Institutions throughout Washington are seeking methods to increase OER adoption.

This project would support cyclical planning for OER programs and advocacy, create opportunities for librarians to become leaders in open education in Washington State, encourage collaboration between faculty and librarians on OER adoption, and increase the visibility and value of librarians at colleges.

2. Briefly describe why funding of this idea is important to the Washington library community (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

Librarians are natural allies in finding, identifying, accessing and evaluating educational resources. Discipline faculty colleagues widely recognize librarians as leaders in teaching research skills and as experts on selecting materials to support programs. Funding this grant will help librarians continue to build expertise in copyright and in finding and adapting open resources for educational use. The proposal builds on success from *the Library as Instructional Leader* initiative by funding collaboration between librarians and institutional communities to promote OER adoption as a priority at Washington's community and technical colleges. This project will provide resources for librarians to help make college more accessible to underserved students; it will enhance the influence of libraries within institutions and it will build pilots for OER adoption that can be modeled to college libraries internationally.

The Washington legislature, SBCTC, Instructional Council, and the eLearning Council have all discussed or provided funding and staff time to developing OER as a way to control student costs while ensuring quality education. Washington State needs a system-wide, collaborative investment to devote the time and attention necessary to increase OER adoption rates, lower student costs, and enhance learning outcomes at Washington colleges.

3. Briefly describe the outcome that is expected should the idea be funded. In other words, how will we know if the project has been successful and has achieved its goals? (limit your response to approximately ½ page):

There are three overarching goals for the project. Success will be measured for these goals as described below.

Goal 1: Librarians will be leaders and advocates for open education resources.

Librarians from twenty community and technical colleges will participate in a fall workshop to learn about advocacy and planning for open education. The project will fund creation of a course on OER and copyright for librarians. The course will be offered to system librarians in year one. In year two, the course will be released to the general community with an open license so that the international library community can benefit.

Goal 2: Community and technical colleges will develop and pilot courses that adopt OER.

In year one at least ten librarians will collaborate with discipline faculty to design and pilot courses using OER instead of traditionally published textbooks. Funding will be sought in subsequent years to increase the number of collaborative adoption teams. Adoption teams will use student survey data, outcomes assessment, and teacher interviews to assess the success of teaching with OER.

Goal 3: Librarians will create sustainable OER programs tailored to the needs of their institutions.

At twenty libraries, OER program planning and advocacy will be designed to promote sustainability in open education as a strategy for student success and access in Washington State.

Year One Funding Request: estimated \$110,000

General Information

Which library types are intended as the primary beneficiaries of this project? (check all that apply)

Academic (private and public two-year and four-year academic institutions)

Public (libraries organized under RCW 27.12)

School (private and public K-12 schools)

Special (business and industry, law, medical, other government, tribal, other)

If other, specify: _____

The intended beneficiaries of the project? (check the primary beneficiary)

Library staff

Library users or potential library users

A specific group of staff or users, or a potential user group. Name the target

beneficiaries(s): community college students, discipline and library faculty

(e.g., children, adults, disadvantaged, remote access library users, unserved community members, reference staff, IT staff, students)

The activities needed to implement this project are envisioned to include (check all that apply):

User training (discipline faculty)

Staff training (library faculty)

Grants

Development of best practices

Demonstration of emerging technology or practices

Other, please explain:

Considering the outcome desired, how long should the project continue? 3 years total; see addendum for details

(Note that most projects are from one year to four years in length.)

Which Library Council areas of focus support the idea you are submitting (check all that apply)

	1. Advance applied literacy in the state of Washington in areas such as legal research, health information, employment/job searching, and developing civic/voter education resources.
X	2. Enhance libraries relevancy in a democratic society.
X	3. Serve underserved, unserved, and culturally diverse communities and populations.

Supporting references:

S-PIRGs. "[Fixing the Broken Textbook Market](#)." U.S. PIRG Education Fund and the Student PIRGs. *U.S. PIRG*, 2013. Web. 23 February 2014.

Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. "Faculty Use of Open Educational Resources" eLearning SB-CTC study, 2013. Web. 23 February 2014.

College Board. "[Trends in College Pricing 2013](#)." *Trends College Board*. College Board, 2013. Web. 21 February 2014.