

GATHERING IDEAS FOR FUTURE STATEWIDE PROJECTS

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)

Teaching Teachers about Research

Library, group, or person submitting proposal Lesley James

Library Name, if different Douglass-Truth Branch, Seattle Public Library

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

Please see attached.

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

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):

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Gathering Ideas for Future Statewide Projects
Teaching Teachers about Research
Submitted by Lesley James
Douglass-Truth Branch, The Seattle Public Library

1. My idea for the use of LSTA funding is to make it possible for school librarians and public teen services librarians to collaborate on workshops about research resources and skills for middle school and high school teachers. This might be done in the form of opportunities to apply for competitive grants on an annual basis. Funds could be used in any or all of these three ways:

- Paying librarians for extra time spent on developing workshops.
- Paying teachers for their attendance at workshops.
- Either paying librarians for extra time spent on sharing curricula and networking about their experiences or making it possible for them to meet in person.

Because of the many demands on their time, teachers are rarely willing to attend a workshop unless there is some compensation. However, school resources are often funneled towards standards- and testing-based projects, meaning library and research skills are often neglected. At the same time, although public teen services librarians provide outreach to schools, they are not able to pay teachers to attend workshops. LSTA grant funds would allow the teachers to be compensated from a source that doesn't drain the budget of either institution.

Supporting collaborations between school and public libraries helps to highlight the importance of school librarians, who are often seen as "luxuries" when it comes to budgeting. It also serves to remind schools that public librarians are part of their team, thus increasing the relevance of the public library as part of the education system. Workshops created and taught by librarians are a great way to market libraries as more than just repositories for books and computers—they are also staffed by knowledgeable professionals who can help make teachers' jobs easier.

2. Workshops for teachers would be important to the state community because they would address the severe problem of lack of information literacy among Washington students. As a public librarian, I notice on a daily basis that students are unaware of how to navigate the research process, including these steps, to name a few:

- Choosing a successful research topic or question.
- Identifying the type of information resource that will best help them find the information they need.
- Performing an online search (just because they know how to make a myspace site, doesn't mean they know how to choose keywords!).
- Evaluating Web sites for reliability and authority.

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): students and teachers (middle/high school)
(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
 Staff training
 Grants
 Development of best practices
 Demonstration of emerging technology or practices
 Other, please explain:

Considering the outcome desired, how long should the project continue? minimum
(Note that most projects are from one year to four years in length.) one year