

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)

WASHINGTON PRESERVATION INITIATIVE II: COLLECTIVELY PRESERVING WASHINGTON'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

Library, group, or person submitting proposal

WASHINGTON PRESERVATION INITIATIVE ADVISORY GROUP

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

The Washington Preservation Initiative from 2002-2006 helped Washington libraries in their efforts to safeguard our cultural heritage. A Preservation Needs Assessment Survey of the State's libraries was completed in 2004. A total of 43 grants were awarded to the State's libraries to fund a wide range of preservation projects including individual library assessments, environmental monitoring, microfilming, deacidification, and the preservation of materials in a wide variety of formats including maps, scrapbooks, diaries and photographs. Thirty-six workshops with over 900 registrants were held on a variety of preservation topics. Heritage Preservation's publications on disaster response were distributed to libraries in the State and book repair kits distributed to very small libraries.

WASHINGTON PRESERVATION INITIATIVE II would continue these efforts by providing funding for preservation grant projects.

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

The 2004 WPI survey documented the need for preservation funding for the State's library's collections. Respondents to the survey identified six types of materials that were in especially poor condition. According to a majority of the respondents to the survey, photographs (80%), graphic/paper (79%), scrapbooks (79%), ephemera (73%), manuscripts (68%), cartographic materials (61%), and sound recordings (52%) in their collections were in fair or poor condition. Ongoing state support for preservation grants to individual libraries was noted as a need by 46% of the respondents. In addition to the mail survey, a targeted series of telephone interviews was conducted. Funding was the largest state-wide preservation concern noted by this group.

Through the widespread participation in WPI preservation workshops and the collection survey evaluations, staff members in Washington's libraries have a better understanding of the preservation needs of their collections and what they can do to better preserve those collections.

An assessment of WPI's programs completed by Tom Claeson in October 2006 noted that "the level of satisfaction with the program is extremely high and the impact of the program has been high as well" (p.1). WPI was recognized by one respondent for 'going beyond library types and geographic boundaries seen in many statewide programs' (p.6). The need for ongoing funding for preservation projects was documented in the Claeson report. One respondent noted that 'before WPI, our library had some money for preservation supplies and small projects, but we could not have been able to do the larger, very necessary projects' without the WPI Competitive Grants (p.4). "Other institutional representatives called the WPI's efforts "hugely helpful" in moving preservation forward for their library" (p.4). "A tribal library used their preservation survey/assessment report to successfully apply to their Tribal Council for an improved storage site for their materials. And, to take the usefulness of WPI programmatic offerings in leveraging additional preservation funding a step further, one institution reported that WPI educational information and consulting reports had helped it to secure two federal preservation grants" (p.4). "One respondent noted the imminent arrival of a large donated collection and her concern about its condition and preservation needs." The Library Council of Washington has recognized the ongoing need for preservation funding by designating \$100,000 for another round of preservation grants in 2007.

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):

Preservation of library collections through **WASHINGTON PRESERVATION INITIATIVE II** funding will assure that important materials will be available for use today and will not be lost to future researchers. The final reports for the 31 competitive WPI grants document how the grants helped to preserve significant collections in libraries of all sizes and kinds in the State. Here are a few quotes from the WPI grant final reports:

"Due to this project, our patrons now have easier access to various documents relating to..." "The microfilming...has provided greater access to not only the campus community but also local residents." "We printed 136 previously unknown photographs..." Through this funding...has been able to survey a collection that is vital to an understanding of the evolution of the aviation industry world-wide." "It was also clear that the maps needed to be physically protected from the increased use anticipated by collecting all the local history maps together." "The preservation survey that resulted is essential to further work, particularly prioritization of resources and funding requests." "...staff working on this effort learned a good deal about managing a grant project without the benefit of additional staff..." The project "brought together a group of institutions with the common goal of caring for their film collections and pooling resources in order to preserve selected films and create access for researchers." "...this grant has helped us provide better service to our customers. This preservation process has been an important first step in creating better access to the library's collection of historic newspapers." "A final desired outcome was the sharing of this project with others in the library community." "The library has been able to provide better customer service with regard to the use of photographs." "The images preserved through this grant allow...to better serve the public." The library "has been sitting on a treasure of information for more than 20 years,

much of which we were not even aware of. Now that this project is completed the public has access via microfilm to 1500 pictures and 1800 obituaries." "...preserved a set of delicate, one-of-a-kind scrapbooks that document the shipping industry throughout Washington State." "We discovered that the photos we printed were new to our collection and mostly likely do not exist anywhere else." "The assessment and planning documents created have brought clarity of purpose and direction, outlined priorities of tasks, and the means with which to achieve them." "The collection assessment and preservation plan created during this project will support our commitment to balance the sometimes competing objectives of access to collections and the preservation of fragile materials." "We are certain that this grant is helping to provide better service to our customers."

The benefits of the **WASHINGTON PRESERVATION INITIATIVE II** grants will also be documented by the recipient libraries through their final reports.

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

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

Ideally funding should continue for another four years. As Tom Claeson states in his 2006 assessment report, one respondent's "comment summarized the feelings of the majority of the respondents to this survey: 'Preservation needs continue, and there is a continued need for a structure like the Washington Preservation Initiative to meet those needs' (p.11)".