

## Overview

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) requires that LSTA funding is expended in conformance with the Act's broad goals and according to a federally approved Five-Year Plan.

In Washington state, the process for determining how the LSTA program is fashioned and how funding is utilized involves several steps. These steps include the development of plans, requests for submission of proposals, use of project level advisory committees, and solicitation of feedback.

Planning for LSTA involves the development of a broad statewide plan and then the development of a more narrowly focused LSTA five-year plan. Plans are developed in collaboration with the LCW, WSL staff, and the Washington library community. Plans are reviewed and approved by the WSLC which serves as the appointed governing board of the WSL.

Two broad statewide plans have existed during the time period covered by this evaluation. *Designing Our Future, A Statewide Plan for Washington Libraries* was originally adopted in July 1997. This plan was revised and updated during 2000/2001. Adoption of the revision occurred in September 2001. *Designing Our Future* provides the basis for the *Washington State, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), Five-Year Plan*. The LSTA Five-Year Plan utilizes the goals contained within the Statewide Plan but is more narrowly focused to also conform to the goals of LSTA.

The *Washington State, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), Five-Year Plan* was adopted in August 1997, and revised slightly in response to comments from the federal agency that approves plans and oversees the use of LSTA funding, the IMLS. This plan provides three major goals for the use of LSTA funding, sixteen objectives, and sixty actions. The LSTA Five-Year Evaluation report prepared by Matthew L. Saxton of the Information School of the University of Washington, discusses in detail how LSTA funds have been used in Washington state to benefit the Washington library community and the citizens of the state. A revised LSTA Five-Year Plan is currently under development for the period covering federal fiscal years 2003–2007.

The process for determining which goals, objectives, and actions are addressed in a given year has evolved during the evaluation period. Implementation during the first and second years of LSTA included activities that were carried forward from Library Services and Construction Act LSCA and also included other new activities that were proposed directly to the WSLC for approval. All activities that were proposed were in keeping with the goals, objectives, and actions contained within the Five-Year Plan.

The third through fifth years of LSTA implementation utilized a request for proposal process developed by the LCW. The proposal process was designed to solicit ideas and input from the Washington library community within the context of the overall LSTA Five-Year Plan. The LCW made recommendations to the WSLC who formally approved these proposals and allocated funding for their implementation.

Approved proposals were implemented using WSL staff acting either as project manager or as a project liaison. A member of the LCW was also typically assigned to the project. Most proposals were implemented in collaboration with a steering committee composed of members of the proposal sponsor group, other interested members of the library community, and members of community or agency partners.

Although staff has the primary responsibility for the day-to-day implementation and/or monitoring of projects, both the LCW and the WSLC receive regular reports on implementation and monitor progress over time.

Feedback on individual projects, development and implementation of plans, and other concerns or issues resulted from a variety of methods, including direct communication with customers, surveys, and focus groups.