

Conclusion

This report presents an analysis of the impact of the LSTA program in Washington from 1998-2001. During that time period, the LSTA program has primarily provided benefits to the citizens of Washington through the provision of negotiating and subsidizing consortial purchasing of online database products and providing funds to libraries for improving Internet access. Indirectly, citizens have also benefited through the training and education programs aimed at increasing the skills and expertise of library personnel. LSTA has also supported consulting projects aimed at improving library services to traditionally underserved populations throughout the State.

The funding priorities for the LSTA program have been established through a participatory, inclusive planning process that encourages involvement from all regions of the State and all segments of the library community. Likewise, the implementation of the LSTA has been overseen by the Library Council of Washington, a group whose membership includes representatives from all types of libraries.

Projects such as Statewide Database Licensing and Find-It! Consumer provide access to a wealth of online resources for all Washington citizens. Other projects, such as those funded through Connectivity and Continuing Education, improved access and services in numerous local libraries throughout the state. Still others, such as Early Learning and consulting for small and rural libraries, specifically target improving services and collections for traditionally underserved populations. In summary, LSTA funds have helped the people of Washington cope more effectively with today's information environment.