WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARY

Washington Secretary of State SAM REED

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Library Services and Technology Act Funding

Services to Washington Libraries 2009

The Washington State Library (WSL) is the only agency in Washington that is specifically designated to assist libraries and to ensure that residents of the entire state have access to library and information services. State Library staff work in partnership with statewide advisory committees to plan and implement programs, provide training, grants, and consulting services aimed at the development, improvement, and enhancement of all public and non-profit libraries in the state. These services are supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Congressional District #8: Direct Services to Local Libraries

Libraries in this district have received $185,758 as a result of Washington State Library services and programs during the past year:

Grants and Subsidies to Individual Libraries or Library Systems

- **Renew Washington** grants provide support for libraries in addressing people's needs for access to employment-related information, resources, and services during this time of economic downturn.
  - King County Library System
  - Pierce County Library System
- **Supporting Student Success** grants support collaborative partnerships between the State's public libraries and school libraries and are designed to improve students' information and research skills. They focus on the students' ability to effectively complete Social Studies Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) requirements.
  - Bellevue School District (Sherwood Forest Elementary School)
  - Franklin Pierce School District (Brookdale Elementary School)
  - Kent School District (Northwood Jr High School)
  - Lake Washington School District (Evergreen Junior High School)
  - Pierce County Library System (South Hill Library)
- **Washington Rural Heritage** grants and technical assistance help small and rural public libraries create online digital collections documenting their community's history. Participating libraries develop long-term sustainable digitization programs through ongoing training and support from the State Library. Collaborative partnerships with neighboring cultural institutions are encouraged.
  - Enumclaw Public Library
- **Continuing Education** grants assist library staff in improving their skills and abilities such that they more effectively serve library customers and the people of the state.
  - City University
  - Pierce County Library System
- **IT Continuing Education** grants help individuals supporting a library's computer hardware, software and networks to keep up with current technology.
  - Forest Ridge School of Sacred Heart

- **Ask-WA** is a state-wide virtual reference cooperative that provides online reference services to library patrons through chat, email, and instant messaging (IM) technologies. The Ask-WA cooperative consists of both academic and public libraries. This statewide network is tied in to a global network through QuestionPoint, providing access to 24/7 online reference services for every participating library. Subsidies reduce the cost of providing this service.
  - Bellevue Community College
  - Green River Community College
  - King County Library System
  - Renton Technical College
- **Online Periodical Database Access** subsidies are used to support the Statewide Database Licensing (SDL) program and provide the ProQuest and eLibrary online database collections to nonprofit K–12 school, public, academic, and special libraries in Washington. Through SDL and their local library, Washington residents have online access to the information contained in more than 3,300 full-text journals and to other sources, including CultureGrams, seven Washington and five national newspapers.
  - Bellevue Community College
  - City University
  - Enumclaw Public Library
  - Green River Community College
  - King County Library System
  - Overlake Hospital Medical Center
  - Pierce County Library System
  - Renton Technical College
  - Non-profit schools also received subsidies through their local Educational Service District
- **Training Provided or Coordinated by the Washington State Library**
  194 individuals received training on subjects including: serving diverse populations and underserved customers; database searching; computer and network maintenance; technology and virtual reference services. Training was delivered in-person and online.

Libraries and library districts may span more than one congressional district. The amount listed reflects the total benefit received by the library regardless of congressional district.

- To benefit Washington State citizens in these economic hard times, Washington State Library staff took the following actions:
  - Launched a spring 2009 Renew Washington grant cycle that helped libraries address the needs of people in their communities who require access to employment-related resources and services.
  - Applied for a $515,000 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant that enabled the Washington State Library to extend Renew Washington grants to seven additional public libraries.
  - Constructed a nationally recognized web portal to connect citizens to resources in the areas of employment and job seeking, housing and homelessness, finances, health and sustenance.
- Served as the lead agency for public libraries in the effort to secure broadband stimulus funds.
  - Provided coordination between the applicant and public library partners. Gathered, scrutinized and disseminated information enabling this very dynamic process to move forward smoothly.
  - Applied for Gates Foundation matching funds which will be awarded pending a successful application for federal Round 2 broadband stimulus monies.
- Through participation in grants, training, and statewide projects, Washington librarians were better able to assist their customers in using libraries and finding online information:
  - Development of long-term sustainable digitization programs as part of the Washington Rural Heritage project (www.washingtonruralheritage.org).
  - Encouraged collaborative partnerships among libraries, learners, and schools as part of the Supporting Student Success project. These partnerships support children in the successful completion of the Social Studies Classroom Based Assessment requirements.
- Washington library staff received training in the following areas: enhancing teen programs and teen brain development; autism awareness in libraries; readers' advisory and reference skills; multicultural communication; and technology and library 2.0 for public computing.
- Librarians statewide participated in the online monthly State Library continuing education program, First Tuesdays, which brought a wide array of training to their desktops.
- Centralized group purchasing coordinated by State Library staff saved the state's libraries thousands of dollars and gave patrons access to quality information in online magazine, newspaper and database resources.
- Libraries were better able to meet the needs of traditionally unserved individuals:
  - The Washington Talking Book and Braille Library provided statewide library services to those who have difficulty using print materials.
  - Service to individuals in state correctional and mental health facilities were provided by branch libraries of the Washington State Library.
- The Connecting the Dots project forged a new partnership between the Washington State Library and the University of Washington's Information School, which will strengthen public libraries' efforts to participate as essential partners in the early learning movement in Washington State.

General Consulting

Washington State Library staff provides in-depth research and advice for libraries, the public, and government in areas such as library law and governance issues, development of policies and services, planning, trustee responsibilities and relationships, and establishing library districts.

Information Technology (IT) Consulting

Washington State Library staff provides specialized IT consulting services for libraries in network infrastructure, computing hardware and software, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), and the federal E-rate program. The IT Consultants assist public libraries in connecting to the statewide, high-speed educational data and video K-20 network and provide centralized Internet filtering for small libraries.

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For more information
www.secstate.wa.gov/library/libraries
www.imls.gov

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