10th Congressional District: Services to Local Libraries

Washington State Library | October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012

The Washington State Library (WSL) is the only agency in Washington that is specifically designated by law to assist libraries and to ensure that residents of the entire state have access to library and information services. WSL achieves these goals using federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds, offering numerous projects aimed at improving libraries, providing consulting services on a variety of topics, and providing grants, subsidies, and training to libraries. Libraries within this district have received **$106,245** as a result of Washington State Library services and programs during the past year.

Access to Information and History

WSL provides access to online magazines, journals, newspapers, audio- & e-books, and online information assistance through local libraries. Local library and museum staff digitize historic treasures & digital images are hosted at WSL.

Developing Community Partnerships

Many WSL grants require partnerships between libraries or between libraries and community partners; these grants encourage libraries to cooperate with each other. Libraries offer their collections through one online catalog.

Enhancing Local Library Staff Knowledge and Skills

The Washington State Library trains local library staff as well as providing Continuing Education (CE) grants which help local library and IT staff attend professional development trainings and conferences. In FY2012, 270 staff were trained.

Ensuring Digital Inclusion

Library e-rate discounts allow people to access high speed connectivity and e-government, e-health & other online services. Digital literacy training to meet the needs of community members is provided through the local library.

Support for Education and Life-Long Learning

Local libraries support the educational and lifelong learning needs of the people in their communities. Their staffs participate in WSL projects including Early Learning, Summer Reading, and Transforming Life After 50 for older adults.

Library systems may span more than one district. The amounts listed reflect the total benefit received by the library system regardless of district.

Services to Local Libraries and the Residents of Washington State

Examples of projects funded with LSTA and NEH funding follow:

Access to Information and History

The Washington Rural Heritage project helps rural public libraries create online digital collections documenting their community's history. Washington State Library staff use LSTA funding to develop long-term sustainable digitization programs, providing local training in digitization methods, hosting a central repository for images, and providing grants that allow the purchase of equipment and allow work with neighboring cultural institutions.

The Washington State Library was awarded funding for the National Digital Newspaper Project from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This project has digitized 200,000 newspaper pages for access online and is starting a third phase which will digitize an additional 100,000 pages of microfilmed Washington newspapers from 1836 to 1922 All of these pages are posted online for the benefit of Washington residents and others who need access.

Developing Community Partnerships

The Washington State Library (WSL) facilitates Washington libraries working together to make group purchases. This results in considerable cost savings to all who participate. For example, it was estimated that group licensing through Proquest saved libraries $22 million dollars statewide (2006). LSTA funding makes bringing libraries together possible.

Enhancing Local Library Staff Knowledge and Skills

In these difficult economic times, many libraries forgo staff training in order to continue to provide a basic level of service to their communities. With LSTA funding, the Washington State Library is able to continue to offer training to enhance the skills of library staff so that they may increase the quality of service to the communities they serve.

In 2012, library staff occupied 1,387 seats of training in both digital and face-to-face environments. With access to digital online training resources, library staff no longer need to travel saving both time and expense. LSTA funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services has allowed the Washington State Library to work to address this need.

Ensuring Digital Inclusion

The Washington State Library is partnering with the Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet) in two U.S. Department of Commerce Broadband grants. NoaNet is working to enhance broadband in rural parts of the State previously unserved or underserved. Up to 101 library buildings will receive enhanced broadband to serve their communities. LSTA funding provided staff time to develop the partnerships between NoaNet, WSL and public libraries across the state.

Support for Education and Life-Long Learning

The Washington State Library uses LSTA funding to support Summer Reading in public and tribal libraries throughout Washington. Summer Reading is important in reducing the fall off in reading skills students experience over this extended break. Recently we have been in discussions which would partner the Governor's Office and the state K-12 schools office (OSPI) in supporting the existing Summer Reading program in libraries rather than create their own. LSTA provides the opportunity to work in common for the benefits of early learning, students, and adults statewide.

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