Services to Libraries: 15th Legislative District

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 projects to improve libraries, consulting services, grants, subsidies and training to libraries.

Examples of services include support for digital literacy programming, Microsoft Office training and industryrecognized certification, early literacy programming, professional grants, specialized training for library administration, circulating STEM kits, group cost-sharing for online databases, and 24/7 online reference support for college students and Washington residents.



Office of the Secretary of State

Washington State Library

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SERVICE

Impact of LSTA Library Funding: 15th District



Keeping our state's library workers trained in 21st century skills is a priority of the State Library. Today many library materials have moved to digital access. In a rural area to be able to access an audio or e-book from the comfort of your home is a huge benefit to library patrons, who often live many miles from their local library. But in order to help their patrons use these resources, librarians themselves needed digital training. A Digital Skills grant from the State Library allowed the Yakima Valley Library System to purchase a wide variety of tablets and e-readers. This "Tech Petting Zoo" traveled around the district, allowing the librarians to acquire new skills and knowledge about these tools so that they are able to help their patrons use their mobile devices to access library materials and to gain more comfort in using digital devices in their daily lives.



"The State Library is so important for small and rural libraries with a disadvantaged patron base. The federal funding we receive via the State Library makes it possible to provide services that we wouldn't be able to on our own, such as online databases and online e-media. As a former ILS librarian, I know firsthand the power of information for those residents in state-run facilities; many of whom did not receive the benefits of education prior to incarceration."