

Sample Press Release

For Immediate Release: INSERT DATE HERE

Contact: INSERT CONTACT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER HERE

Libraries Across the State are Open “Virtually” 24 Hours a Day Thanks to the Statewide Database Program

INSERT LOCATION HERE – Even if the library is quiet, dark, and empty for the night, it does not mean that (NAME OF YOUR LIBRARY)’s customers aren’t busy using its services.

Thanks to a statewide pilot project that provides access to over 3,000 periodicals and Washington newspapers through the ProQuest Direct database, users of (NAME OF YOUR LIBRARY) can access information at any hour of the day or night without entering the doors of the library.

A consortium of librarians from non-profit libraries, led by the Washington State Library, selected the ProQuest Company to provide this service to all citizens of the state. The databases are available both at local library workstations and remotely from school, work, or home over the Internet.

To access the databases from home, contact the library to get a password and web address. The databases are available to all residents of Washington—almost 6 million people—through many types of non-profit libraries throughout the state.

The ProQuest Direct database contains articles from journals, newspapers and other sources. A companion database, e-Library Elementary, provides access to children’s materials including magazines, maps, reference books, and more. In most cases, the complete text of the article is available and can be printed, faxed, or emailed to the customer. The database provides an archive for many of the publications that date back to 1980.

The pilot project for the databases is one example of how the power of consortia can save the state’s taxpayers money. Through group purchasing for the entire state, libraries do not have to purchase individually and can negotiate a substantially lower price.

The pilot project has been partially funded by a grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act. The pilot project is set to end June 30, 2002. The Washington State Library has requested the legislature to continue the program through state funding.

For more information, contact (LIBRARY CONTACT NAME HERE!)

For information about the project, visit the SDL website www.statelib.wa.gov/sdl.