

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 members 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.

Legislative District #5: Direct Services to Local Libraries

Libraries in this district include school libraries and:

- King County Library System – Main, Black Diamond, Fall City, Issaquah, Maple Valley, North Bend, Sammamish, Snoqualmie

Libraries in this district have received \$33,972 as a result of Washington State Library services and programs during the past year:

Grants to Individual Libraries or Library Systems (\$12,969)

- \$12,969 in Virtual Reference Services grants – King County Library System

Online Periodical Databases Access Subsidies (subsidy is matched by the local library) (\$21,003)

- King County Library System
- Non-profit schools also received subsidies through the Washington State Library

Training Provided by or Coordinated by the Washington State Library

- 8 individuals received training on subjects including: monitoring trends and their effect on libraries; understanding and responding to all library customers; developing successful one-book projects; conducting book discussion groups; database searching; computer and network maintenance; technology; Internet social networking tools; web site design and evaluation; and virtual reference services. Training was delivered in-person, online, and via satellite teleconference.

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

2008 Federal Grant-Supported Statewide Projects, Programs, and Services

- Through participation in grants, training, and statewide projects, Washington librarians were better able to assist their customers in using libraries and finding online information.
 - Washington libraries of all types and schools received grants to:
 - Help libraries reach out to their communities and inform people of the wide array of services available at the library or through the library on the Internet.
 - Offer “community reads one book” programming to encourage reading and community literacy.
 - Provide better access to quality information resources and literacy programs
 - Preserve “treasures” in Washington libraries for future generations
 - Provide laptop computer labs to four libraries statewide to increase training opportunities for patrons and staff.
 - Provided training for Washington library staff in the following areas:
 - New technologies that support cutting edge communication techniques with constituents and customers: Blogs, wikis, and social software; wireless technology; podcasting and instant messaging; RSS feeds.
 - Offering digital collections both within the library and using the Internet.
 - Building partnerships with other community organizations in response to community needs.
 - Sustaining public access to computers and online information in rural libraries.
 - Database searching; computer, network maintenance and technology.
 - Used Paul G. Allen Family Foundation funds to:
 - Provide collections of children’s books to fifty-seven rural libraries through partnership with the Libri Foundation.
 - Purchase Native American early reading material for distribution by Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the 2008 Canoe Journey to Native American families.
- Customers of all types of libraries gained access to quality information through online magazine and newspaper databases and received additional benefit because of coordinated group purchasing.
- Library patrons and students throughout Washington State gained access to professional online reference assistance, 24/7, through a statewide cooperative of libraries backed up by an even larger national network.
- Libraries were better able to meeting the needs of traditionally unserved individuals:
 - Library services to the blind (Washington Talking Book and Braille Library).
 - Library materials for state institutional and correctional facilities.
 - Washington State Library joined the Early Learning Public Library Partnership to strengthen the ability of public libraries as full, essential partners in the early learning movement in Washington State.
- Partnered with the Washington Library Media Association in support of quality school library media centers.

General Consulting

Washington State Library staff provides in-depth research and advice for libraries, the public, and government in areas such as: legal 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 qualifying libraries for telecommunications discounts. The State Library's IT consultants take a leadership role in connecting public libraries to the statewide K-20 network, a high-speed data and video network serving educational institutions throughout the state, and centralized Internet filtering for small libraries.