

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 #37: Direct Services to Local Libraries***

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**Libraries in this district include school libraries and:**

- King County Library System
- Seattle Public Library
- Seattle Community College District
- Seattle Public Schools

**Libraries in this district have received \$150,337 as a result of Washington State Library services and programs during the past year:**

Grants to Individual Libraries or Library Systems (\$104,000)

- \$100,000 in Renew Washington grants – King County Library System; Seattle Public Library
- \$4,000 in Supporting Student Success grants – Seattle Public Schools

Online Periodical Databases Access Subsidies (subsidy is matched by the local library) (\$33,128)

- King County Library System
- Seattle Public Library
- Seattle Community College District
- Non-profit schools also received subsidies through the Washington State Library

Online reference support provided by the Ask-WA project (\$13,209)

- King County Library System
- Seattle Public Library
- Seattle Community College District

Training Provided by or Coordinated by the Washington State Library

- 111 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.

*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.*

## 2009 Washington State Library (WSL) Statewide Projects, Programs, and Services

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- To benefit Washington State citizens in these economic hard times WSL 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 information, resources and services.
  - Received a \$515, 000 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant that enabled the Washington State Library to extend Renew Washington grants to an additional seven communities.
  - 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.
  - Disseminated the information to public libraries.
  - Invited by Gates Foundation to apply for matching funds required by the federal broadband stimulus funding program contingent upon receiving federal broadband stimulus funding.
- 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](http://www.washingtonruralheritage.org)).
  - Funds provided by the Supporting Student Success project encouraged collaborative partnerships among libraries, learners, and schools in order to support children in the successful completion of their Social Studies Classroom Based Assessments.
- 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.
- Libraries statewide participated in the online monthly continuing education program, First Tuesdays, which brought training to their desktops. This program was produced by State Library staff.
- Centralized group purchasing coordinated by Washington State Library staff saved the state's libraries thousands of dollars and enabled customers from all types of libraries access to quality information in online magazine, newspaper and database resources.
- Libraries were better able to meet the needs of traditionally unserved individuals:
  - Library services to those who have difficulty using print materials were provided statewide by the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library.
  - Service to individuals in state correctional and mental health facilities were provided by branch libraries of the Washington State Library.
- Washington State Library forged a new partnership with the University of Washington's Information School which will strengthen the ability of public libraries to participate as full, essential partners in the early learning movement in Washington State. This is part of the Connecting the Dots project.

### 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.