

# 27th Legislative District: Direct Services to Local Libraries

Washington State Library, Library Development Program

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 **\$17,928** 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

WSL grants require partnerships between libraries or between libraries and community partners; incentive grants reward libraries for cooperating with each other and 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.

## Ensuring Digital Inclusion

Library e-rate discounts pay for people to access high speed connectivity allowing adoption of e-government, e-health & other online services. Digital literacy training comes through local libraries.



## 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 (TLA50).

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

## Return on Investment in the Washington State Library in 2012

---

- For every \$1.00 of Washington State Library funding required for Maintenance of Effort, Washington State receives approximately \$1.77 of federal LSTA funding in return. In 2012, the Washington State Library received \$3,277,624 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to invest in Washington libraries of all types.
- The Washington State Library is partnering with the Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet), Washington's leading nonprofit broadband provider, in two successful U.S. Department of Commerce Broadband grants. As a result, \$138,800,000 has been awarded to NoaNet to enhance broadband capabilities in many parts of the state. Up to 101 public and tribal library buildings will receive enhanced broadband to serve their communities as part of this partnership.
- The Washington State Library has been awarded \$1,500,000 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to use toward public library match requirements in the U.S. Department of Commerce Broadband grants.
- The Washington State Library has been awarded a third grant in the amount of \$310,000 for the National Digital Newspaper project from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This project will digitize an additional 100,000 pages of microfilmed Washington newspapers from 1870 to 1922 and make them available online to the residents of Washington State.

### Selected 2012 Statewide Projects, Programs, and Services

- To benefit Washington State citizens, Washington State Library staff:
  - Have established a working relationship with the Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL) headed by Dr. Bette Hyde. A workplan is being developed that includes an important role for libraries in the Department's early learning work and the national Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant that was awarded to DEL.
  - Are working with the University of Washington Information School through Dr. Eliza Dresang to develop evidence based tools to measure the effectiveness of public library emergent literacy programs on the state's preliterate children. This groundbreaking research shows promising results. The Washington State Library and the University of Washington Information School will continue to work together to further this needed research.
  - Serve the needs of traditionally unserved individuals:
    - The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) provides statewide library services to those who are sight-impaired or who have difficulty using print materials. Patrons of WTBBL range from two years old (assisted by their parents) to 106. In fact, 61 of WTBBL's patrons are 100 years old or older.
    - Washington State Library branches provide service to individuals in state correctional and mental health facilities. Services include activities such as developing and maintaining collections, answering reference questions, developing readers' advisory guides, providing programming such as book discussions, conducting training in the use of libraries and library resources, and support for institution programs with emphasis on recovery and re-entry.



[www.sos.wa.gov/library](http://www.sos.wa.gov/library)



[www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov)

---

For more information, please contact Rand Simmons at 360.570.5585 or via email at [rand.simmons@sos.wa.gov](mailto:rand.simmons@sos.wa.gov)