

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 #27: Direct Services to Local Libraries

Libraries in this district include school libraries and:

- Bates Technical College
- Faith Evangelical Seminary
- MultiCare Health System
- St. Joseph Medical Center Library
- Tacoma Public Library – Main, King, Kobetich, Mottet, Swan Creek, Wheelock
- University of Puget Sound
- University of Washington Libraries

Libraries in this district have received \$44,223 as a result of Washington State Library services and programs during the past year:

Grants to Individual Libraries or Library Systems (\$37,139)

- \$9,639 in Continuing Education grants – Tacoma School District, University of Washington Libraries
- \$20,000 in Preservation grants – University of Washington Libraries
- \$7,500 in Statewide Outreach Training grants – Tacoma Campus Library

Online Periodical Databases Access Subsidies (subsidy is matched by the local library) (\$7,084)

- Bates Technical College, Faith Evangelical Seminary, MultiCare Health System, Tacoma Public Library, University of Puget Sound
- Non-profit schools also received subsidies through the Washington State Library

Training Provided by or Coordinated by the Washington State Library

- 48 individuals were trained in early literacy, serving diverse populations, marketing principles, advocacy and media relations, preservation techniques, disaster planning, database searching, computer and network maintenance, technology, Internet social networking tools, and evaluation. 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.

2007 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 public reading and literacy.
 - Prepare children to read upon entering school (largely funded by a grant to the Washington State Library from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation).
 - Provide better access to quality information resources and literacy programs.
 - Preserve “treasures” in Washington libraries for future generations.
 - Upgrade computer hardware for public access to online information (largely funded by a grant to the Washington State Library from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation).
- Washington library staff received training in the following areas:
 - Exploring new technologies that support leading edge communication techniques: Blogs, wikis, and social software; Wireless; Podcasting and instant messaging; RSS feeds.
 - Offering digital collections both within the library and through the Internet.
 - Building partnerships with other organizations to serve community needs.
 - Sustaining public access to computers and online information in rural libraries.
 - Helping parents prepare children to be ready to read upon entering school (in cooperation with the OSPI Indian Education Office and the Washington State Migrant Council).
- Customers of all types of libraries gained access to quality information through online magazine and newspaper resources.
 - Libraries were able to provide these resources through centralized group purchasing coordinated by Washington State Library staff.
- Libraries were better able to meet the needs of traditionally unserved individuals:
 - Library services to the blind (Washington Talking Book and Braille Library).
 - Library materials for individuals in state correctional facilities.
- Read to Your Baby booklets were distributed in six languages to libraries and community partners.
 - The booklets are an early learning and child development resource for parents with young children.
- Partnered with the Washington Library Media Association in support of quality school library media centers.

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.

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.

For more information, please contact Rand Simmons at 360.570.5585, or via email at rsimmons@secstate.wa.gov