

trl. today's library

TRL awarded *Renew Washington* grant to help job seekers, small businesses

Timberland Regional Library has been awarded a \$21,257 grant to enhance services to the residents in its five-county public library district during the ongoing economic downturn.

Over a six-month period in 2008, Washington's public libraries have seen a 7.5 percent increase in attendance, an 11 percent hike in circulation of library materials, an almost 14 percent rise in the use of library computers, and a 20 percent increase in visits to libraries via the Internet.

TRL's grant is one of 17 *Renew Washington* grants awarded to public libraries by the Office of the Secretary of State, Washington State Library. Funding support for the grants is provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency.

TRL's grant focuses on selecting up-to-date books, other print materials, and online resources relating to jobs, adult education and small businesses. The grant will help the library make these resources easier for people to find and to use either on their own or with the help of specially trained library staff in each branch.

Library staff will receive training based on models that have been successful in previous TRL projects. The library's existing collections of print materials

and electronic resources will be evaluated and updated as needed in all 27 Timberland libraries. Instructions and classes will teach job seekers the use of specialized tools, such as the WOIS Career Information System, and generalized tools, such as word processing.

To solve possible bottlenecks, such as too few computers or lack of staff time, the library will consider ways to expand the reach of resources and get them to people outside the libraries. Possibilities include downloadables to home computers and memory devices for software that can be checked out.

The *Renew Washington* grant will help TRL and other public library systems meet local communities' needs by helping people learn basic computer skills, find and use job and career resources, locate job opportunities, complete online applications for jobs, retool for new careers by gaining new skills and locating educational opportunities, file for unemployment benefits, improve interviewing skills, prepare resumes and cover letters, and start or grow small businesses.

"Thanks to the Washington State Library and the Gates Foundation and IMLS grants, TRL and other Washington libraries will be able to provide residents with critical services they need to get back on their feet during one of the

toughest times we've faced in decades," said Tim Mallory, TRL's Reference and Adult Services Coordinator and *Renew Washington* project manager.

Specialized grant-funded staff training begins in March. New materials are on order now and online links are being selected. By April 1, the materials will be on the shelves in all 27 Timberland library branches and links to electronic resources will be online. Library staff have already been helping people during these tough times by providing job, unemployment and business-related information. People are encouraged to visit their local libraries for information now.

What you'll find inside

Inside

- Great Reads for winter
- New TRL Foundation Director
- Now: Warm up with Adult Winter Reading
- Coming: The Family Read-Aloud
- Report: Timberland Reads Together
- Update: Fees for printing

Back Cover

- Reference & Information services
- Reference databases: NovelList & Readers' Advisor Online
- Great Internet resources: Books & Literature

SUMMER 2010

In hard times, people turn to their libraries—you can turn to yours

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in April 2010 unemployment was 9.5% nationally and 12% or higher in Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Lewis counties.

Research conducted in January 2010 by OCLC, a nonprofit library service and research organization, found:

- Every day 300,000 Americans get job-seeking help at their public libraries.
- 2.8 million times a month people use resources at public libraries to support their small businesses.
- Every day 14,000 people attend free library computer classes.

Opportunity for All, a major study by the University of Washington published this spring, found that in the last 12 months:

- 40% of library computer users (30 million people) used library resources to help address career and employment needs.
- 42% (32.5 million people) used library resources to help them with their education and training needs.

Your own public libraries—the libraries in the Timberland Regional Library District—offer help and information for job seekers, career changers, entrepreneurs, and people in need of emergency services. Staff in every Timberland library have just completed a refresher course to update their knowledge of specialized local, regional, state and national resources that can help.

Staff brushed up on locating current information to help you:

- Look for jobs
- Improve interviewing skills, prepare résumés and cover letters
- Get an education or retrain for a new career
- Find scholarships and financial aid
- Start or grow your own small business
- File for unemployment
- Apply for housing and rental assistance
- Learn about bankruptcy and foreclosure
- Apply for temporary emergency services for cash, food, bills, and medical needs
- Learn essential computer skills for research, job searches and applications
- Learn how to get a free credit report and how to understand and improve your credit score

Up-to-date books, pamphlets and Internet resources on topics for hard times are available, many of them for checkout, some to be used in the library only.

Libraries have also developed displays of books, brochures and handouts.

Staff training and new library materials were made possible by a *Renew Washington* grant from the Office of the Secretary of State, Washington State Library. The grant was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency.

SPRING 2010

Library program helps job seekers, small businesses

Timberland Regional Library's grant-funded *Hard Times/Renew Washington* initiative is under way. The program provides specialized library services to job seekers, career changers and small startup businesses at libraries throughout the five-county library system to lend a hand during the ongoing economic downturn.

Print materials and electronic resources in library branches have been brought up to date. The following core reference titles are available at every Timberland library. They cannot be checked out so they will be on hand during all open hours.

Core reference titles at every library

*Get Hired in a Tough Market:
A Complete Strategy for Finding and
Landing the Job You Need Now*
*Knock 'Em Dead 2010:
The Ultimate Job Search Guide*
*The Complete Idiot's Guide
to the Perfect Resume*
*Cover Letter Magic: Trade Secrets
of a Professional Resume Writer*

New books on the following topics
are only at some libraries, but can be

placed on hold and delivered to a patron's local Timberland library:

- Resumes
- Cover letters
- Interviewing
- General job search
- Career information
- Career change/reinvention
- Create your own job

At workshops or individual instruction sessions, library staff help job seekers and entrepreneurs get started on learning basic computer skills, finding and using job and career resources, locating job opportunities, completing online applications for jobs, retooling for new careers, filing for unemployment benefits, improving interviewing skills, preparing resumes and cover letters, and starting or growing small businesses.

TRL's grant was awarded by the Office of the Secretary of State, Washington State Library and is being funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency.

SPRING 2009

Internet picks from your librarians Hard Times

More and more people are turning to libraries during these hard economic times to use computers and other resources. Librarians have listed links to web sites on *Job Hunting and Careers* in the *Internet Resources* directory on the Timberland Regional Library web site, www.TRL.org.

The Washington State Library is also compiling job-related online resources to help people look for jobs, develop a resume, practice interview skills, file for unemployment and more. To get started, go to www.secstate.wa.gov/library/libraries/projects/HardTimesLibraryUsers.aspx (A link will soon be on the TRL web site.)

Three sections provide links to the following kinds of information:

- *Employment Resources:*
developing job-finding skills,
finding employment and filing
for unemployment.
- *Economic Information*
including resources for
people facing foreclosure and
information on economic
recovery plans.
- *Technological Resources* for
learning how to use the
computer, from the most basic
skills to learning how to use
programs such as Excel, Word
and Access.