Utah State Library Services Executive Summary

Mission:  Develop, Promote and Advance Library Services and Access to Information

See Strategic Plan for the Utah State Library 2005-2009 for complete program and the USL website (http://library.utah.gov) for more information.

Services to the Blind and Disabled
These services are available to Utah residents of all ages who are blind, visually impaired, physically disabled, or learning disabled. Materials are available free in Braille, on tape, and in large-type books. Patrons are also eligible for the Radio Reading Service. The Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired of the State Office of Education is located in the same building, and cooperates with USL in providing needed resources to those with no or low vision. In addition, USL contracts with 20 states to provide Braille materials, and with the Library of Congress’ National Library Service to provide Braille and audio materials to all states west of the Mississippi. USL received $699,800 from these contracts in FY2005. Fifty-one thousand volunteer hours (valued at $879,509) play a major role in making these services work.

Bookmobile Service to Rural Utah
USL provides quality library service to 221,988 Utahns in 20 counties through 15 Bookmobiles. These counties contract with USL to provide a level of library service comparable to those areas with locally run fixed-site libraries, including Interlibrary Loan and access to the Public Pioneer databases. Bookmobiles provide essential support for inadequate school libraries serve Ojato, Teasdale, Eureka, Bicknell, Vernon, Dutch John, Manila, East Carbon, Enoch, Benjamin, Goshen, Perry, Naf, Mona, Fielding, Grantsville, and many other towns and byways across the state.

Support for Utah’s Smaller Public Libraries
Utah’s smaller public libraries, primarily located in rural areas of the state, struggle to meet the same demands imposed by citizens on larger public library systems. USL provides help in meeting those demands. Material Request (Interlibrary Loan) gives library patrons access to a wide variety of materials not available at their local library. Reference Service is available to respond to requests for information from these libraries as well as from users of the State Search Engine (http://search.utah.gov). Cataloging Assistance is available through the CatExpress project that allows small libraries to catalog materials with the same quality as that of larger libraries. Training is provided on all these services (see separate training section). Summer Reading Programs are coordinated by USL to provide public libraries with a valuable tool to encourage improved literacy among students. The Spanish Language Outreach Project provides training and funding for library services to Spanish-speaking communities.

FY2005
Material Requests Filled 13,895
Reference Questions Answered 1,904
Records Cataloged via CatExpress 36,178
Summer Reading Program participants 59,052

State Publications & Government Information
USL is required by statute to collect, preserve and disseminate government information and manage the state’s Depository Library System. Traditionally, this has meant print publications, but increasingly these publications take the form of electronic documents. USL is now developing a Digital Library for providing permanent online access to state publications. USL assists DTS in evaluating and improving the State Search Engine (http://search.utah.gov) and provides the Live Help reference service to its users. USL trains state agencies to make their online information more retrievable using search engines, and it trains agencies on submitting publications electronically. (See separate training section.)

FY2005
State Publications Collected / Distributed 530

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Online Information Resources

USL is the home for Public Pioneer (http://pioneer.utah.gov) a resource for all of Utah’s citizens, providing information not available on the “free” Internet, including full-text magazines and newspapers, business resources, genealogy information, even auto repair, in addition to other resources. USL partners with the Utah Education Network, the State Office of Education and Utah Academic Library Consortium to provide additional resources statewide. Training is provided for library staff members and government entities including the Utah Legislature in the use of these databases (see separate training section).

FY2005
Articles Retrieved from Magazine / Newspaper databases on Public Pioneer 633,412
Visitors to Public Pioneer website 273,484

Library Services for State Agency and other Government Libraries

USL’s online catalog facilities are primarily used to provide materials to smaller public libraries (see above) but are also shared with other agencies, to provide their libraries with an online interface and easily accessible and retrievable materials. This service, provided at cost to the agencies, provides efficiencies of scale and increases access to their materials. Currently USL have cooperative agreements with the State Law Library, the Department of Transportation and State History.

Training

USL provides a slate of training opportunities ranging from computer applications to instruction on the Pioneer databases, from how to work with Utah’s Spanish speaking community to grant writing. UPLIFT Workshops provide professional library development training to help staff and directors at smaller libraries maintain and upgrade their library skills. Library Board Workshops provide instruction on how to be an effective board member. New Director Orientation provides new library directors, particularly those from small libraries, a chance to learn the ropes and find out about USL services.

FY2005
Training Provided 46 887

Grants and Funding

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Competitive Grant Program supports information technology services, digitization, and services for underserved populations. This federal program is only available in states with state libraries. In FY2005, $418,092 have been awarded to 28 public libraries, eight academic libraries, five public elementary and secondary school library-media centers in five different school districts, and two institutional libraries. LSTA also provides funding for statewide services such as Public Pioneer (see above). In addition, USL provides Public Library Development Grants (state funds) to enhance services in libraries across the state. (The 2005 Legislature appropriated an additional $200,000 for development grants in FY 2006).

FY2005
LSTA Grants Awarded $418,092
Local Funds expended (Match) $74,756
Public Library Development Grants $347,000

Consulting Services

USL provides advice and assistance for public library directors and staff across the state in the following areas: technology development, grants and funding (including E-Rate, the federal program to provide discounts for internet services), library legal issues, collection development, library governance, training, and other issues. USL’s Certification Program provides a set of benchmarks of library standards of service for those libraries that wish to receive state and federal grants. USL annually collects and disseminates library management data for 72 local governments, equipping librarians, library board members, and local officials to effectively plan and evaluate their library services.