Federal funds bring library services to Arkansas

The Library Services & Technology Act, administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is the only Federal grant program specifically for libraries. The Arkansas State Library uses these funds to develop innovative programs and to support statewide initiatives for public, school, academic and special libraries.

Libraries play a key role in workforce education and economic development throughout our state. LSTA funds allow the state's public libraries to take advantage of economies of scale and cooperative activities that benefit all Arkansas residents.

Arkansas Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The Arkansas Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped serves the state with the talking book program. This program is growing and transitioning into a new digital book format. The library provides service to patrons in all 75 counties. Popular books and magazines in special long-playing cassette format and Braille books are mailed to all eligible Arkansans. Currently, the library serves 4,964 patrons and circulates an average of 14,700 items per month.

Early Literacy Stations

The Arkansas State Library provided 203 public libraries with a special colorful Internet-free stand-alone computer loaded with dozens of educational early learning software programs in English and Spanish. The station provides educational content that covers seven curricular areas specifically focused for children from the toddler stage through second grade. It keeps track of usage statistics, which librarians will download and send to the Arkansas State Library for evaluation.

Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program provides program materials and an annual workshop. Arkansas participates in the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a grassroots consortium of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials for children, youth and adults at the lowest cost possible for public libraries. By combining resources and working with a commercial vendor to produce materials designed exclusively for CSLP members, Arkansas public libraries can purchase posters, reading logs, bookmarks, certificates and a variety of reading incentives at significant savings.

One World, Many Stories

The Arkansas State Library provides an annual workshop for school librarians and public library staff, offering sessions on programming for children and young adults with a nationally known children's librarian or author.

More than 45,000 Arkansas children, youth and adults registered for the 2010 Summer Reading Program. Public libraries held more than 3,000 programs conducted by approximately 400 public library staff members with 410 volunteers offering assistance.

Arkansas State Library
900 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 100
Little Rock, AR 72201-3108

Traveler electronic databases

Traveler is the statewide electronic database project. Traveler offers seamless research for students to be able to use the same databases at school, at their local public library, and, through remote access, at home. More than 1,200 public, school, academic and special libraries benefit from this research tool. It would cost each library a minimum of $140,000 to duplicate the Traveler program, whereas the State Library, through the Traveler project, pays approximately $747 per library.

Arkansas Center for the Book

This state affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress exists to encourage reading, writing and literacy in Arkansas. Programs include *If All Arkansas Read the Same Book*, *Letters About Literature* and a lending collection of adult and young adult titles for public library-based book clubs.

ARKANSAS CENTER FOR THE BOOK
AT THE ARKANSAS STATE LIBRARY

Consulting Services for Public Libraries

The Extension Services section of the Arkansas State Library provides consulting services to public libraries statewide. Staff provides guidance on every facet of library management and service, including training for library staff, boards of trustees and friends groups; compiling Arkansas library statistics; adult and young adult programming; children's services; training and assistance in the filing of E-Rate applications and technology.

Government Documents

The Arkansas State Library is officially recognized by the U.S. Government Printing Office as the Regional Depository Library of the state. Federal funds are used to identify, collect, store and provide access to electronic publications published on the Web from state agencies, libraries, archives, museums and other cultural organizations.

Patent and Trademark Depository Library

The Arkansas Patent and Trademark Depository Library is the only Arkansas library designated by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to receive and house copies of U.S. patents and patent and trademark materials, to make them freely available to the public, and to actively disseminate patent and trademark information.

How Arkansans use public libraries

- **In 2010 more than 1.8 million registered patrons checked out 14.2 million items from Arkansas public libraries.**
- **Reference librarians answered 1.7 million questions from library patrons.**
- **Public libraries offered 22,879 programs for 549,656 children aged infant to 12-years-old.**
- **Libraries held 2,038 young adult programs for 29,799 teens.**
- **Arkansas public libraries hosted 5,175 programs for 133,409 adults.**
- **Arkansas library patrons used electronic library resources 3.6 million times. This includes remote access to online databases and in-library use at 2,043 public access computers.**

Source: 2010 annual survey of Arkansas public libraries for the Institute of Museum and Library Services