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Library Services and Construction Act: Reauthorization (1989-1994): Report 06

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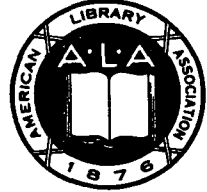
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT

OVERALL PURPOSE: To extend and improve public library services, assist in the construction and renovation of public libraries, promote cooperative library networks among all types of libraries, improve library services to Indian tribes, and support library literacy programs.

PURPOSE OF STATE FORMULA-BASED TITLES:

Title I, Public Library Services: To assist the states in the extension and improvement of public library services.

Title II, Public Library Construction: To assist in building, purchasing, and improving public library buildings.

Title III, Interlibrary Cooperation and Resource Sharing: To assist the states in promoting cooperative networks of libraries which provide for systematic and effective coordination of the resources of school, public, academic, and special libraries and information centers.

GENERAL PROVISIONS: A basic allotment is made to each state library administrative agency (\$200,000 for title I, \$100,000 for title II, and \$40,000 for title III). Remaining funds are distributed proportionately based on state population. Titles I and II funds must be matched (within a 33-66 percent range) on the basis of a ratio of the state's per capita income to the average per capita income of the U. S.

To participate, each state must have a state plan approved by the Secretary of Education, plus a comprehensive three- or five-year plan for state priorities and activities to meet the library and information needs of the people, including a statewide resource sharing plan.

When title I funding exceeds \$60 million, each state with cities of over 100,000 population must reserve up to 50 percent of its share of the funds over \$60 million for major urban resource libraries. States may use up to six percent of their allocations or \$60,000 for administrative costs. Before state allocations are calculated, two percent of the appropriations for titles I, II, and III is reserved for Title IV.

LSCA I, PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

KINDS OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED: The statutory priorities indicate the broad range of activities supported: developing and improving library services to areas

and populations which are disadvantaged because of distance, institutionalization, physical handicap, limited English-speaking proficiency, residence, income, age, or literacy level; assisting libraries to serve as community information and referral centers; providing literacy programs; strengthening state library agencies; and strengthening metropolitan libraries and major urban resource libraries which serve national or regional needs. Priorities may be addressed through statewide services or grants to library entities. Funds may be used for books and other library materials, equipment, salaries, other operating expenses, and statewide planning and evaluation of programs.

<u>FUNDING HISTORY:</u>	FY 1987 Appropriation	\$80,000,000
	FY 1988 Appropriation	78,986,000
	FY 1989 Appropriation	81,009,000
	FY 1990 Authorization	95,000,000
	FY 1990 Budget Request	-0-

EXAMPLES OF USE OF FUNDS:

- o One library in California has developed a program of adult literacy training in Spanish as a bridge to English literacy for Spanish speakers. Another library meets the needs of Vietnamese patrons with Vietnamese reading materials and training for the library staff.
- o A model library information delivery system on AIDS was developed by a regional library system in Connecticut.
- o In Georgia, funds were used to create a homework center for students. New books, flash cards, and workbooks were added to the collection, and volunteers were recruited for a tutorial program.
- o In Iowa, one library has established a Deaf Services project, increasing its collection of deafness-related materials, purchasing a closed caption decoder for patron check-out, purchasing a TDD so hearing impaired patrons may call for reference services, and sign language interpreting selected library events. Another library funded a farm management and accounting training program using computers and agricultural software. In a third community, the library purchased books, periodicals, and videos on small business topics because of a local farming slump and loss of industrial jobs.
- o More than 2,000 patients were served by a hospital outreach program in Massachusetts. The project included upgrading reading materials and training public librarians in working with patients.
- o Services to rural citizens in more than 150 communities were provided in New Mexico by four bookmobiles traveling 80,000 miles and loaning 200,000 books to 7,300 borrowers. The books-by-mail program circulated more than 35,000 items to more than 2,100 registered households.
- o Programs in Oregon include "Reaching for Reading," designed to build links between one county's library and more than 100 day care centers. Services include rotating collections of picture books for the centers, workshops for day care providers on presenting books to children, and a quarterly newsletter for day care staff and parents.

LSCA II, PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

KINDS OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED: LSCA II provides funds for the building of new library structures, and the acquisition, expansion, and remodeling of existing buildings, including renovation to accommodate the handicapped, to conserve energy, to accommodate new technologies, and to convert historic buildings to public libraries. The initial equipment (except books) for public library buildings is also eligible. The federal share of any project cannot exceed one-half the total cost.

<u>FUNDING HISTORY:</u>	FY 1987 Appropriation	\$22,500,000
	FY 1988 Appropriation	22,595,000
	FY 1989 Appropriation	22,324,000
	FY 1990 Authorization	50,000,000
	FY 1990 Budget Request	-0-

EXAMPLES OF USE OF FUNDS:

- o In California, an existing library was newly renovated and enlarged to provide a community meeting room, complete handicapped access, and all new shelving fully equipped with earthquake bracing.
- o LSCA II has been responsible for two new libraries in Kansas in the last four years. One library formerly was housed in a store front, which was too small and inaccessible to the handicapped. The other formerly was located in a courthouse basement, and the children's room was converted from an old jail cell, which no amount of interior decorating could make inviting.
- o An addition to an existing library in Mississippi provided new space for a local history collection on the Choctaw Indians, plus space for job- and career-related information and services for a large number of unemployed residents.
- o In Oregon, during 1985-87, \$617,418 in LSCA funding stimulated \$2,822,545 in local funding.

LSCA III, INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION AND RESOURCE SHARING

KINDS OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED: LSCA III has assisted 49 states to participate in formal multi-state cooperatives. Funding under LSCA III provides the needed impetus for public, academic, school, and special libraries to share library resources widely in the most cost-effective way. Many libraries find it difficult legally to participate in cooperative library agreements which may cross local and state boundaries. Federal aid may provide funding for a central computing facility while local funds buy local terminals.

<u>FUNDING HISTORY:</u>	FY 1987 Appropriation	\$18,000,000
	FY 1988 Appropriation	18,669,000
	FY 1989 Appropriation	19,102,000
	FY 1990 Authorization	30,000,000
	FY 1990 Budget Request	-0-

EXAMPLES OF USE OF FUNDS:

o In Kansas, funds are used in regional systems of multi-type cooperating libraries for services such as interlibrary loan, centralized acquisition, and centralized cataloging.

o Kentucky has used LSCA funds to support the University Library's interlibrary loan program, which provides about 23 percent of the more than 25,000 statewide requests processed by the Kentucky Cooperative Library Information Network.

o In South Carolina, funds are being used to provide ten libraries with telefacsimile equipment to reduce interlibrary document delivery time.

o A recent project in Virginia between a public and school library offered a varied summer program to stimulate reading and encourage children to become familiar with all of the library resources. The project helped maintain reading skills during vacation months and encouraged parental participation in their children's reading experiences.

LSCA IV, LIBRARY SERVICES FOR INDIAN TRIBES

PURPOSE: To promote special efforts to provide Indian tribes and Hawaiian natives with library services.

WHO RECEIVES FUNDING: Of amounts appropriated for LSCA I, II, and III, 1.5 percent is reserved for Indian tribes, and 0.5 percent, for Hawaiian natives. Indian tribes are defined as any Indian tribe, band, nation, organized group or community, or Alaskan Native village, as recognized by the Secretary of the Interior. Indians from California, Oklahoma, and Alaska (who do not live on reservations) are eligible. Funds allotted but not used because of nonapplication or nonqualification are allocated among Indian tribes submitting approved plans for special project grants.

KINDS OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED: Basic allotment or special project funds may be used for training of Indians as library personnel, purchase of library materials, special programs, salaries, construction, transportation of library users, dissemination, needs assessment, and contracts to provide public library services to Indians or for any of the eligible uses. Tribes must maintain effort on public library systems.

Indian tribes often have no access to libraries; they are generally considered separate nations and seldom eligible for direct library allocations from states. For these reasons, Congress allocated LSCA funding directly to Indian tribes. Funding began in 1985 and the need has only begun to be met.

LSCA V, FOREIGN LANGUAGE MATERIALS ACQUISITION

PURPOSE: For the acquisition of foreign language materials.

WHO RECEIVES FUNDING: Discretionary grants up to \$15,000 directly to state and local public libraries on a competitive basis.

FUNDING HISTORY: The authorized level is \$1 million per year. No funds have been appropriated since the program began in FY 1985.

HOW FUNDS MIGHT BE USED: The large numbers of recent immigrants speaking dozens of foreign languages require native language materials geared to both children and adults for recreation, education, and life-coping skills. Businesses increasingly use foreign language sources for information needed to stay competitive. A Japanese auto plant in the U.S., for instance, puts special demands on the local library system for both management and employee needs. In addition, foreign language items often require special effort and extra cost to identify, purchase, and process.

LSCA VI, LIBRARY LITERACY PROGRAMS

PURPOSE: To support literacy programs.

WHO RECEIVES FUNDING: Discretionary grants up to \$25,000 directly to state and local public libraries on a competitive basis.

KINDS OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED: Grants to state libraries to coordinate and plan library literacy programs, and to arrange to train librarians and volunteers. Grants to local public libraries for promoting the use of voluntary services, acquiring materials, and using library facilities for literacy programs.

<u>FUNDING HISTORY:</u>	FY 1987 Appropriation	\$5,000,000
	FY 1988 Appropriation	4,787,000
	FY 1989 Appropriation	4,730,000
	FY 1990 Authorization	5,000,000
	FY 1990 Budget Request	-0-

EXAMPLES OF USE OF FUNDS: In FY 1988, libraries submitted 533 proposals requesting a total of \$11.5 million. Libraries are logical focal points for literacy materials, for training volunteers, and as sites for tutoring adult illiterates. Available in almost every local community, libraries are nonthreatening sites for adults who feel inadequate and embarrassed about their handicap and feel uncomfortable in schools.

o In Iowa, one library has used funds to create a new Learning Center, providing literacy materials, space for tutoring, and information in such areas as career search, job training, health, nutrition, and personal finance.

o In Nevada, funds are supporting library literacy programs in remote rural areas. The library is participating as one element of a cooperative statewide assault on illiteracy that includes schools, businesses, and the state reading council.

o Of the 387,000 people in Wake County, North Carolina, approximately 60,000 adults have not finished high school, are learning English as a second language, or have poor reading skills due to learning disabilities or other problems. Using LSCA funds, the library system is now providing literacy books for these adults.

o One library system in South Carolina used LSCA funds to inform nonreaders and the general public about the library's programs and resources to fight illiteracy. After TV public service announcements, the number of new students interviewing for the literacy tutoring increased 100 percent.

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LSCA AUTHORIZATION: All titles of LSCA are authorized through FY 1989, with the General Education Provisions Act providing for an automatic one-year extension. The program was first enacted in 1956 as the Library Services Act, Public Law 84-597, and amended since by PL 84-896, 86-679, 87-688, 88-269, 89-511, 90-154, 91-600, 93-29, 93-133, 93-380, 95-123, 97-35, 98-480, 99-159, and 100-569.

March 27, 1989