

State Library / Regional Library System Unified Plan of Service for 2011

When federal funds became available for regional library development in 1965, seven regions were established. That year the Kansas Legislature passed a bill which permitted the organization of library systems in seven regions in Kansas. The system law (KSA 75-2548 and following) was amended in 1968 by the Legislature to allow school and academic libraries to participate in regional systems of cooperating libraries. The law permitted the systems to levy a tax on property within the boundaries of the system that is not taxed for the support of a public library. Librarians and trustees in each region meet annually to determine programs and budgets. The systems continuously develop services to meet the needs of their member libraries. The State Library of Kansas and Regional Library Systems cooperate and collaborate to improve library services to all the citizens of Kansas. The State Library and Regional Library System Shared Goals for 2011 are as follows:

Goal #1

Access: Kansans have direct and rapid access to all Kansas library collections.

- Libraries will have an Integrated Library Management (ILS) system that meets the state standards for federated searching (Z39.50) and user authentication (CIP2 and NCIP)
- Libraries will offer self-initiated interlibrary loan or direct borrowing from other libraries
- A statewide courier service will deliver materials among Kansas libraries

Action steps:

1. Each regional library system will review its plan for a system-wide integrated library system by January 1, 2010.
2. Library Service and Technology Act funds will continue. This grant program will be expanded in FY2011 to include other types of libraries with a first priority being given to public libraries for automation grants.
3. Sixty-five percent of public libraries will have an integrated library system that meets state standards by December 31, 2011.
4. Fifty percent of public libraries will provide self-initiated interlibrary loan or direct borrowing from other libraries by December 31, 2011.
5. Kansas libraries will implement a statewide courier service by January 1, 2010. This action step has been completed.

Goal # 2

Continuing Education: Librarians and trustees will have the knowledge and skills to provide excellent library service.

- Deliver instruction in core competencies

Action steps:

1. Each regional library system will identify and anticipate continuing education needs on an annual basis
2. The seven regional library systems will jointly sponsor a continuing education event on an annual basis
3. The cooperative regional library system website will maintain a link to each CE calendar of the RLS and to the State Library CE calendar.
4. The State Library will sponsor an annual statewide core competencies continuing education event.
5. Review of core competencies will be undertaken by the regional library systems' CE coordinators. This review will be disseminated to the library community by June 2011.
6. RLS and the State Library will identify additional CE delivery methods by September 2011 and will implement those appropriate to the Kansas library community on an ongoing basis.

Goal # 3

Advocacy: Libraries will be relevant and visible to Kansans.

- Build advocacy skills in librarians, patrons and trustees
- Engage librarians and trustees in advocacy efforts
- Support and disseminate timely responses to issues that have statewide impact
- Support and promote programs that enhance library visibility
- Publicize statewide services

Action steps:

1. Each regional library system will provide an advocacy training program for librarians, patrons and trustees by December 31, 2010. This action step has been completed and will be repeated as often as needed.
2. Each regional library system will use the cooperative regional library system website to identify model library promotion activities on an annual basis.
3. Each regional library system will use the cooperative regional library system website to publicize statewide services.
4. The State Library will identify model library promotional activities and publicize state services on an ongoing basis.

Goal # 4

On-line Resources: Libraries meet the informational and educational needs of every Kansan through access to a broad array of online library resources.

- Collaborate with the library community in the selection of databases
- Provide training to librarians to use online library resources
- Promote online resources to constituents
- Enhance federated searching
- Provide improved access to online resources

Action steps:

1. Regional library systems will provide input to the Database Task Force. This action step has been completed.
2. The State Library will facilitate training in the use of statewide databases.
3. Each regional library system will provide training in the use and promotion of statewide databases.
4. All regional library consortia will link to the statewide databases.

Goal # 5

Public Library Accreditation: Public libraries will be accredited according to new state standards.

- Review and revise existing standards
- Provide information to librarians and trustees

Action steps:

1. An accreditation program for public libraries will be under development by December 31, 2009.
2. The accreditation program for public libraries will be facilitated by the State Library and regional library systems. Standards have been evaluated from the patron's perspective and work to incorporate additional metrics will be completed by December 2011.