

Strategic Plan for Technology and Telecommunications: Action Plan for FY09 (section VI)

Grant funds set aside for use of technology to improve information access via the Illinois library network must be sufficient to make a measurable impact. The ILLINET Network Advisory Council recommends a minimum of 40% of the funding available for competitive Library Services & Technology Act grants be allocated for projects that address this action plan and lead to models that can be replicated in other locales.

Recommended priority areas for FY09 grants are listed below. These suggested areas, which are tied to strategic goals in the *Strategic Plan for Technology and Technology in Illinois Libraries*, are not in prioritized order.

GOAL: Continue to Improve Services to Patrons Through Expanded Information Discovery, Access and Delivery:

Priority Areas in FY09:

- ▶ Implement Library 2.0 initiatives geared towards more participation by library patrons in library services. Examples include, but are not limited to, blogs for patron book discussions, enabling tagging the library online catalog to make it more attractive to library users, and utilizing instant messaging to connect reference service with younger people.
- ▶ Increase information about serial holdings in Illinois libraries through a concerted effort to update and expand local holding records (LHRs) in OCLC WorldCat for print and non-print serials.
- ▶ Digitize valuable unique collections in Illinois that address local and Illinois history and resources. These grants should address the emerging collection development policy for the Illinois State Library's Illinois Digital Archives. Digitized collections should be available through the Illinois Digital Archives or, at a minimum, through Digital Illinois. Funding should be set aside for digitization of key historic state government publications.
- ▶ Develop a digitization center for libraries that prefer to outsource their digitization projects. The U.S. Newspaper Project should be investigated as a possible model.
- ▶ Enhance cooperation and collaboration within and beyond the library community by providing grants to encourage libraries to become library system automation program members.

GOAL: Augmenting Training Opportunities and Outcomes:

Priority Area in FY09:

- ▶ Expand access to and train library staff statewide on effective utilization of virtual meeting and web conferencing/collaboration software such as Horizon WIMBA, WebEx, LiveMeeting, InterWise, OPAL, and ConferenceNow.

**GOALS: Stimulate Research and Development
 Employ Strategic Use of Operational Standards**

Priority Area in FY09:

- ▶ Define and address minimally acceptable connectivity standards for Internet services in libraries anticipating 2.0 advances. Collaborating with other relevant agencies and associations and addressing bandwidth management should be part of the grant projects.

The evaluation plans of the grants funded in these areas should address effective techniques in providing training, demonstrations and access to more information, depending on the nature of the grant project. Grant results and what did not work should also be shared broadly at conferences and via a WebJunction Illinois library wiki on best practices for LSTA technology grants.