

LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT

ALASKA STATE PLAN

2013 – 2017

Prepared by the Alaska State Library

and the

Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries

A State-Federal Program under the
Library Services and Technology Act
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I. Introduction

This plan is prepared in accordance with the Library Services and Technology Act of 1996, as re-authorized in 2003 and 2010 and codified at 20 U.S.C. 9121 – 9151. Its purpose is to comply with 20 U.S.C. 9134 and to show how funds under the Act will be used to advance library services in Alaska for the period October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2017.

The goals in this plan were developed in accordance with the purposes established in Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) law:

1. Expand services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats, in all types of libraries, for individuals of all ages in order to support such individuals' needs for education, lifelong learning, workforce development, and digital literacy skills;
2. Establish or enhance electronic and other linkages and improve coordination among and between all types of libraries for the purpose of improving the quality of and access to library and information services;
3. Provide continuing education, training, and professional development to enhance the skills of the current library workforce and leadership and to recruit future professionals to the field of library and information services;
4. Develop public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations;
5. Target library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to individuals with disabilities and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills;
6. Target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children from families with incomes below the poverty line; and
7. Develop library services that provide all users access to information through local, state, regional, national, and international collaborations and networks.

The following plan presents the mission and structure of the Alaska State Library; describes how needs and critical issues were identified for this state plan; and outlines the goals, objectives, and activities the Alaska State Library intends to carry out with LSTA funds to address these needs and critical issues.

II. Structure and Mission

The Alaska State Library is located in the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums, which is part of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. It is designated as Alaska's State Library Administrative Agency (SLAA) for the receipt of federal LSTA funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The State Library is composed of five units: the Administration office for the entire division; Technical and Imaging Services; Information Services; Alaska Historical Collections; and Library Development, which includes the Talking Book Center. Library Development cooperates with the State Librarian and the Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries to develop, execute, evaluate, and provide leadership for Alaska's LSTA program.

The mission of the Alaska State Library is to:

- promote and coordinate library services to the community of Alaskan libraries,
- serve as the primary research library for state government, and
- collect, preserve, and make accessible Alaska-related materials.

LSTA funds assist the State Library in addressing the first and third goals of its mission statement. The State Library uses LSTA funds to directly support statewide initiatives and services and distributes these funds through sub-grants to academic, public, school, and special libraries and library cooperatives across Alaska. Library Development staff provide leadership, assistance, and expertise to Alaska's libraries to support a cooperative network of strong and vibrant libraries serving Alaska's educational and cultural needs.

III. Needs Assessment

In preparation for writing this current plan, the Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries (GAC) and the Alaska State Library initiated a needs assessment process that consisted of these components:

1. In 2011, the Alaska State Library contracted with Resources and Results Consulting of Haines, Alaska to research, analyze, and produce: *Alaska State Library: Library Services and Technology Act Five Year Evaluation 2008 – 2012*. This evaluation was completed and distributed to the Governor's Advisory Council (GAC) before its January 2012 meeting, which marked the launch of the state plan revision process. See: http://www.library.state.ak.us/pdf/anc/LSTAEvaluationReport_1_22.pdf

The evaluation employed a mixed methods approach to engage stakeholders and gather qualitative and quantitative data regarding the activities, performance, and value of programs funded by LSTA in Alaska. The evaluators collected data through review of program documentation, budgets, and grantee reports provided by the

State Library; in-depth interviews with Library Development staff; and a survey of the Alaska library community.

While the contractors commended the State Library's overall administration of Alaska's LSTA program, the evaluation report recommended that the State Library:

- allocate LSTA funds to train librarians on various grant evaluation methods, including outcome based evaluation;
 - carefully develop benchmarks, collect usage data, and delineate realistic targets and indicators based on these benchmarks and usage data for activities and grants funded with LSTA;
 - decide with the Advisory Council on whether to solicit grants for those state plan activities that have not been candidates for grant funding or to simply delete those activities for which no grants have been awarded; and
 - engage in periodic reappraisals of ongoing costly statewide programs.
2. The Library Development staff prepared a review and analysis of the grants awarded and activities undertaken for each activity in the 2008-2012 state plan for the GAC to review at its January 2012 meeting. This review included grants and activities funded with all federal (IMLS and Department of Commerce), state, and private (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) grant funds. The contractors who prepared the five year evaluation attended this GAC meeting and briefed Council members on their findings and recommendations to improve Alaska's LSTA program.
 3. At its January meeting, the Governor's Advisory Council brainstormed trends and differences they believe libraries will see over the next five years. During February, State Library staff compiled and analyzed the GAC's brainstormed comments, which were grouped into three major goals and 21 objectives. State Library staff reviewed these goals with the GAC and made some minor revisions to the goal language.
 4. The three goals, which parallel three of the five goals in IMLS' strategic plan *Creating a Nation of Learners* (http://www.imls.gov/about/strategic_plan.aspx) include:

Goal 1: Alaska libraries will support lifelong learning opportunities for all Alaskans;
Goal 2: Libraries will provide access to content in current and emerging formats for all Alaskans; and
Goal 3: Alaskan libraries will explore evolving roles as anchor institutions that benefit their communities.
 5. The State Library followed IMLS's example and posted the three goals and 21 proposed, related objectives as campaigns on IdeaScale to gather statewide input on the goals and to solicit new objectives from the public. Staff publicized the Alaska

State Plan campaigns on IdeaScale in February and March 2012 by sending posts to listserves, email lists, and electronic newsletters. Forty users cast 601 votes and posted 42 comments on 25 ideas. Users added four new objectives to the 21 objectives posted by State Library staff.

6. The Alaska Library Association held its 2012 conference in Fairbanks in February. During her annual luncheon speech, Linda Thibodeau, Alaska State Librarian, did a PowerPoint presentation on the three goals that the GAC had developed. Staff distributed a single page form so that attendees could list the activities and grants that they wanted the State Library to fund over the next five years under the three goals. Ninety-three attendees representing 42 Alaskan zip codes submitted 361 ideas for activities and grants they wanted funded under the new state plan. The GAC met immediately after the conference to review the material that had been posted on Idea Scale and the activities attendees had suggested during the luncheon speech.
7. During March and April, staff distributed the same form statewide by asking librarians to make it available to their users in both paper and electronic formats and by sending the form with a cover e-mail to various electronic newsletters and e-mail lists. Fifty-six members of the public from 22 Alaskan zip codes responded with a total of 194 responses listing activities and grants they would like to see in their libraries over the next five years. During April and May, the Governor's Advisory Council and Library Development staff formed three subcommittees to develop the objectives and activities that would be pursued under each of the three major goals.
8. State Library staff wrote the narrative portions of the state plan inserted IMLS Measuring Success focal areas for each activity in May and June. The contractors who did the five year evaluation were contracted again to develop indicators and targets for each of the activities in the new plan. The GAC and public reviewed and commented on the new state plan during June 2012.
9. The Governor's Advisory Council meets annually to review the grants and activities funded with LSTA, state, and private funds under each state plan goal and to make recommendations to the State Library for revisions to the state plan and Alaska's LSTA program. The Council consists of 12 members: 6 members appointed by the Governor, 4 members nominated by the Alaska Library Association to represent each type of library (academic, public, school, and special), the immediate past-president of the Association, and the state librarian in an ex officio capacity. Members broadly represent the library profession, library users, and the economically and culturally disadvantaged. At least 4 council members represent the public and library users.

Goals - Background Discussion

This state plan lays out three major goals of equal importance for the next five years that embody the aspirations of the Alaska library community and its users and encompass current and future service objectives and activities. The State Library will manage activities and award grants to advance each of the goals over each of the five years covered by this state plan, so no timeline of activities can be provided in this state plan.

Two customer groups for the LSTA-funded services and grants of the Alaska State Library have been identified. They are libraries and their staff and the citizens and library users of Alaska. The goals for the Alaska State Plan for 2013 – 2017 are:

1. Alaska libraries will support lifelong learning opportunities for all Alaskans. (Corresponds to LSTA purposes 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, as shown on page 1 of this state plan)
2. Libraries will provide access to content in current and emerging formats for all Alaskans. (Corresponds to LSTA purposes 1, 2, 4, and 7)
3. Alaskan libraries will explore evolving roles as anchor institutions that benefit their communities. (Corresponds to LSTA purposes 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7)

The goals of the state plan have been streamlined into a few major areas, as recommended by the contractors in their five year evaluation. State Library staff and the Governor's Advisory Council believe that this action will make it easier to place grants and services under a single activity, rather than having difficulty deciding where these grants and services should be located, as was often the case under the previous state plan. In addition, State Library staff and the Governor's Advisory Council decided that technology can no longer be viewed as a major goal for the state plan. Instead, technology has become a means to an end and has been dispersed across all three goals.

All of Alaska's LSTA funds will be awarded: to libraries and cooperatives that provide statewide services to other libraries; to libraries of all types and cooperatives for competitive grants that meet the goals, objectives, and activities in this state plan; to libraries to reimburse continuing education grants awarded to library staff; or will be managed by State Library staff for initiatives that target a specific segment of the Alaska library community and their users.

The match and maintenance of effort required under LSTA are met with Alaska state operating funds used for Library Development staff and with those Alaska state grant funds awarded to projects that meet LSTA goals. LSTA funds will be used to administer the LSTA program in accordance with IMLS and LSTA guidelines. Each goal is introduced with a short

background discussion. The objectives and activities under each goal are followed by output or outcome indicators or targets.

Goal 1: Alaska libraries will support lifelong learning opportunities for all Alaskans.

Lifelong learning and inclusion of diverse populations are two long-held values of libraries in Alaska. This goal reflects many of the traditional activities of libraries, but seen in the context of the other two goals of this plan, may find new expressions, means of delivery, and types of resources in the next five years.

Alaska's previous plans declared commitment to lifelong learning in several goals. For example, the last plan recognized the role of expanding access to resources in current and emerging formats to lifelong learning, called for support of learning and literacy projects, and emphasized the importance of developing the capacity of library staff to pursue knowledge and skills to provide high-level service. Likewise, the idea that libraries should have resources and services for all Alaskans ran through several goals of previous plans.

The 2010 census proves again that we have a diverse and changing population with diverse and changing needs. Now, as always, we recognize that library services must be tailored to each library's community of users and that we may have different and varied needs for library services as we traverse our life spans. The idea that "libraries are publicly supported and therefore should provide support for all members of the public, not just those in the majority" rings just as true as we look forward five years as it did in our last plan.

The next five years will undoubtedly see continuing changes in our mobile and widely dispersed populations but a snapshot of Alaska's current demographics shows the richness and diversity of Alaska's population of 710,231 (an increase of 13% over the past decade):

- Almost 10% of Alaskans live below the poverty level with some communities' residents living primarily on a subsistence, low- or no-cash basis.
- 91% are high school graduates and 27% have earned college degrees or higher.
- Almost 15% of Alaskans are Alaska Native and 7.3% report ancestry of two or more races, and 1% are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, all distinctively higher figures than the national averages, .9%, 4.8%, and .2% respectively.
- 67% of the population is described as white, 3.3% black, 5.45% Asian, and 5.5% Hispanic.
- Alaskans are younger than the national profile: 7.6% under 5 years old (6.5% nationally); 26.4% under 18 years old (24% nationally); and only 7.7% over 65 years old (compared with 13 % nationally).
- 3,000 Alaskans are deaf and more than 50,000 are hard of hearing.
- In the last decade, 7,497 Alaskans identified themselves as blind or vision-impaired.
- According to the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, approximately 12,000 Alaskans are considered developmentally disabled.

Literacy and educational support are activities that the public continues to see as key library roles according to public input for this plan. The missions of school and academic libraries hold these as highest values, but public libraries are linked through partnership and practice with these efforts as well. Public libraries offer students support for their formal educational pursuits, but also are key community institutions in serving preschoolers before they enter school and teens and adults after graduation. Community libraries may be the school library for homeschoolers and the prime resource for self-educating adults.

A special challenge in Alaska is how to serve a population that is flung across a huge and challenging landscape. With 80% of Alaska communities off the road system, our state faces challenges of service delivery for libraries that other areas of the country do not know. As a result, strategies to provide cost-effective services to those out of the reach of regular library service and to maintain or increase library service to particular populations are objectives in this first goal, as well as the second goal.

This dispersion of population and the fact that no institution of higher learning in Alaska currently offers paraprofessional or professional training in library services means our plans must include a heavy emphasis on training for the people who provide Alaska with its library services.

Objective: Alaska libraries will target lifelong learning services and programs that include individuals of all ages, of diverse geographic, cultural, or socioeconomic backgrounds, with special needs, and other underserved populations.

Activity 1.1: Assist libraries in determining and meeting the needs of people who are disabled, elderly, or who have special needs through a comprehensive assessment process. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Human services. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.2: Support improved library service and accessibility to cultural and historical programs for and about Alaska Natives and Alaska Native culture. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Human Services. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.3: Assist libraries in determining and meeting the needs of people from various cultures and non-English speaking groups in their communities. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Human Services. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Alaska libraries will support learning and literacy programs for people of all ages.

Activity 1.4: Support reading motivation programs, including the statewide summer reading program, for children, teens, and adults in public and school libraries. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Lifelong Learning. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.5: Develop and publicize the early childhood resource center and train librarians and other service providers who work with children from birth to age 5 in appropriate techniques. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Lifelong Learning. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.6: Encourage and support author visits and cultural programming for people all ages. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Lifelong Learning. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.7: Use in-person, online, and video delivery to provide the public with technology training in digital literacy, including basic computer skills, research, electronic resources, and media creation. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Economic and Employment Development. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.8: Partner with schools, home school organizations, universities, literacy projects, Head Starts, Best Beginnings, museums, and other libraries and agencies to provide educational opportunities in various delivery modes to the public. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Lifelong Learning. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Alaskans in unserved rural communities will receive library services.

Activity 1.9: Offer Books-by-Mail or appropriate alternatives to Alaskans living in areas without public libraries. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.10: Formulate strategies to determine whether local library service is desired and feasible in communities that do not have public libraries and develop and publicize service alternatives. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Institutional Capacity. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.11: Work with school and tribal libraries to design and support library service alternatives in communities without public libraries. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Institutional Capacity. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Alaska librarians will pursue the knowledge and skills necessary to better serve the diverse and dispersed population of Alaska.

Activity 1.12: Offer training for library staff in new technologies, traditional library skills, and specialized service or topics in various delivery modes. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Lifelong Learning. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.13: Award scholarships for professional certification or advanced degrees. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Lifelong Learning. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.14: Provide continuing education grants to public and school libraries to attend state, regional, and national conferences. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Lifelong Learning. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 1.15: Support state, regional, and national leadership development programs for Alaska librarians of all types. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Lifelong Learning. Target or indicator: TBD.

Goal 2: Libraries will provide access to content in current and emerging formats for all Alaskans.

The *Online Etymology Dictionary* traces the development of the word *library* as ‘a place for books,’ developed from the Old French *librairie* as a ‘collection of books.’ Modern libraries continue to provide content for library users as their major reason for being. A goal to deliver content to Alaskans by libraries has been included in every state plan developed since 1996. Library users clearly link content delivery with libraries; the public submitted more than 340 comments on the new state plan concerning all the library materials in different formats they would like to access at their libraries. Efforts to provide access to traditional library formats will be continued over the next five years, along with integration of emerging information technologies in content delivery.

Alaska libraries are proud of their tradition of collaboration across types of libraries and regions of the state in providing library materials and computer technology to users. Building on a history of cooperative collection development and resource sharing in print materials beginning in the 1970s, similar efforts to make electronic resources available statewide began in 1994 with the formation of the State Library Electronic Doorway (SLED), a portal to Alaska online materials, and continued with the 1999 creation of the Digital Pipeline, a statewide collection of licensed databases available at libraries of all types and in Alaskan homes.

The last five year state plan period saw the creation of a near-statewide consortium for Listen Alaska, which provides access to audiobooks and e-books, and more licenses for statewide access to databases, including NoveList for adults and children and Small Engine Repair Reference Center. Over the years, Alaskan libraries have benefitted from participating in three rounds of technology purchasing grants funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Currently, the Online With Libraries (OWL) project, funded in part with Broadband Technology Opportunity Project funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, is bringing enhanced bandwidth, public computing center computers, a videoconferencing network, and IT aides to public libraries across the state.

Five objectives delineate Goal 2. The first objective focuses on providing physical materials to Alaskans within the strictures of LSTA funding, which cannot be used to supplant the operating expenses libraries should incur in buying materials for patrons. The second objective emphasizes access to unique Alaskan materials through cataloging or digitization or through efforts to provide materials in Alaska Native languages. The third objective concerns access to electronic materials through the web, downloads, e-books, databases, audiobooks and other new formats and delivery modes. The last two objectives concern technologies such as mobile library apps, hardware and software for libraries, and enhanced bandwidth to libraries and communities across this sparsely settled state. LSTA funds are

vital in enhancing Alaskans' access to traditional and emerging formats of materials provided through their local libraries.

Objective: Libraries will collect, preserve, and provide physical materials to meet the information needs of their communities.

Activity 2.1: Support reference service through the existing 800# reference and ILL backup service and by exploring new technological means of providing reference. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 2.2: Assist libraries to provide content in formats and languages appropriate to their individual communities. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Human Services. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 2.3: Provide consultation and assistance to libraries in assessing and evaluating local collections for inclusion in OCLC and other databases and catalogs. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 2.4: Publicize LSTA-funded library services and programs to rural and urban Alaskans. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Institutional Capacity. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Alaskan libraries will provide access to the unique resources of Alaska.

Activity 2.5: Assist in local efforts to provide materials in Alaska Native languages. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 2.6: Support creation or digitization of resources that document Alaska's history and its peoples in a culturally responsive and appropriate manner. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Libraries will select, license, and manage e-content to meet the information needs of Alaskans.

Activity 2.7: Support SLED, the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 2.8: Help libraries provide e-content, including e-books, e-magazines, downloadable audio and video, statewide databases, and other emerging options for delivering content. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 2.9: Collaborate with statewide consortiums and groups to expand access to Alaska's online electronic resources and services. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 2.10: Publicize statewide electronic resources and services purchased with LSTA funds to both rural and urban Alaskans. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: TBD. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Libraries will offer current and emerging hardware and software for the public.

Activity 2.11: Foster development of multi-platform apps so people can access libraries on mobile devices. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 2.12: Acquire hardware and software necessary to support public and student access to electronic resources. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Alaskans will have access to low-cost, high-speed telecommunications in rural and urban libraries and communities.

Activity 2.13: Assist libraries and communities in developing strategies to obtain affordable bandwidth that meets local needs. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 2.14: Work with telecommunication providers and other agencies to expand low-cost high-speed access to libraries and communities in rural Alaska. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Institutional Capacity. Target or indicator: TBD.

Goal 3: Alaskan libraries will explore evolving roles as anchor institutions that benefit their communities.

Alaska's libraries have a history of thinking creatively in order to meet the challenges of operating in a large and remote region that lacks basic infrastructure and a steady supply of public funding. In order to meet the challenges posed by the internet and direct delivery of electronic content to users, libraries continue to reinvent themselves to remain relevant to their users. The first two goals in the state plan focus on libraries' traditional roles of providing content and lifelong education to people. This third goal speaks to the evolving roles of libraries in an age in which change is constant.

Urban libraries have always helped entrepreneurs develop small businesses and have assisted job seekers. In the age of the internet, small rural libraries now have access to business and statistical resources to help entrepreneurs and can access Alaska's job bank and other employment information online. The information gap has narrowed so that small libraries can foster economic development almost as easily as large urban libraries. Alaska's libraries will be able to enhance their economic development services through LSTA funding over the next five years.

Government agencies use the internet to efficiently push information and provide online services to the public. As agencies benefit from reduced operating costs for these information products and services, the public has turned to libraries to help them access these resources. Librarians have become the human face of e-government as they guide users to federal government information and services such as tax forms, medicare and social security resources, and citizenship and passport assistance, and to state and local government information and services, such as permanent fund applications, motor vehicle registrations, fishing permits, and local election information. Libraries will use LSTA to try new methods to provide better e-government services.

Humans need 'third places' to convene with other people outside their homes and workspaces. Libraries are becoming the sole brick and mortar places for the public to meet in person for non-commercial uses. Libraries have always provided meeting rooms for local groups, so providing common ground for civic engagement and discourse is a natural extension to that historical role. Libraries nationwide are trying on many different roles in their communities, ranging from media labs, to providing temporary work spaces, to hosting art and music events, and to serving as local disaster centers. While LSTA cannot be used to build or renovate, libraries can use it for pilot projects that ensure the library's ongoing relevance to its users and community.

Libraries continue to create partnerships with organizations with allied goals. Encouraging libraries to reach out and form beneficial relationships with organizations and agencies in

their own community will greatly enhance the image of the library and will present a welcoming face to underserved and other nontraditional patrons and groups. At a time when libraries need to increase their public relations activities, partnerships will help libraries be viewed as valuable assets on the local and national scene. LSTA funds will help libraries to develop partnerships and other cooperative ventures.

Objective: Alaskan libraries will foster economic development in their communities.

Activity 3.1: Become idea incubators for local businesses and entrepreneurs by providing business information, services, and classes on how to start a business, e-commerce, funding sources, marketing, and management. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Economic and Employment Development. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 3.2: Become centers for workforce development by providing assistance with employment searches, vocational education, certification, job hunting, and career management. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Economic and Employment Development. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Alaskan libraries will facilitate participation in e-government and civic engagement.

Activity 3.3: Meet the needs of people to access government information and electronic forms and online services offered by local, state, and federal government. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Civic Engagement. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 3.4: Promote civic engagement and engaged citizenship by offering programs and venues to discuss issues of public concern. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Civic Engagement. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Alaskan libraries will seek partners to transform themselves into local idea laboratories and multi-use spaces for their communities.

Activity 3.5: Support planning for the creation of flexible learning and meeting spaces within libraries. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Institutional Capacity. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 3.6: Provide computers, software and peripheral equipment for collaborative spaces to create and use digital and emerging media. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Information Access. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 3.7: Train staff in community outreach and how to plan events and meetings so they can effectively manage the library for multiple uses. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Institutional Capacity. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 3.8: Help libraries serve as a venue for a broad range of cultural, entertainment and community activities. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Civic Engagement. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 3.9: Work with local and state entities to become disaster response centers with appropriate equipment, supplies and training. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Civic Engagement. Target or indicator: TBD.

Objective: Alaskan libraries will actively participate in networks, partnerships, and collaborative activities to improve library service on the local, regional, and statewide level.

Activity 3.10: Support the Alaska Library Network and other entities as they strengthen Alaska's libraries through effective coordination of cooperative services and programs. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Institutional Capacity. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 3.11: Foster partnerships with community, regional and statewide organizations to meet community needs and improve library services. IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Institutional Capacity. Target or indicator: TBD.

Activity 3.12: Encourage libraries to provide enhanced service by forming partnerships with other libraries or by developing regional, borough, or statewide library services IMLS Measuring Success focal area: Institutional Capacity. Target or indicator: TBD.

IV. Coordination Efforts

The Alaska State Library encourages the development of partnerships and the coordination of resources to provide more effective service delivery. The State Library will continue to work with other state agencies to coordinate resources, programs, and activities. Where appropriate, the State Library will leverage other sources of funding to enhance the federal and state investment in areas such as elementary and secondary education, early childhood education, workforce development and other federal programs and activities that relate to library services.

Currently the Alaska State Library is actively working with state and federal agencies in four areas:

1. Early childhood education;
2. Elementary and secondary education;
3. Broadband; and
4. Library renovation and construction.

The State Library has been using LSTA since 2006 to support early childhood education through the grant-funded Ready to Read Resource Center, located at the Anchorage Public Library. This program provides tubs of age-appropriate reading materials to families, day care centers, and libraries statewide. The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development acknowledged the value of this effort when he reviewed these tubs of reading materials prior to testifying before the Alaska Legislature about the need to fund early childhood education statewide in 2012.

The State Library is a unit of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, so its activities must support the mission of that agency. The State Library uses State operating funds and LSTA to support elementary and secondary education. State operating funds pay for the school library media coordinator position in Library Development. This librarian works with schools and school librarians to develop and enhance local school libraries which support education statewide. The State Library funds a third of the licensing costs for the statewide databases with LSTA; the University of Alaska funds the remaining two thirds of these annual contracts. A steering committee composed of academic, public, school and special librarians work with the University and the State Library to manage these contracts that benefit library users of all ages. LSTA funds have been used to pay for Live Homework Help from Tutor.com and will be used to fund Brain Pop, a new resource that teachers are eager to have in their classrooms.

The State Library was awarded a Broadband Technology Opportunity Program grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce; this grant was supplemented with funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rasmuson Foundation, and State of Alaska grant funds. This grant is funding public computing centers and a videoconferencing network in Alaska's

public libraries; paying for information technology aides in these libraries; and is heavily subsidizing bandwidth costs for the duration of this project in these public libraries. The Alaska OWL (Online With Libraries) Project is a shared state/federal/private project that benefits Alaskans across the state.

The State Library assists the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development as the Department manages the Library Construction and Major Expansion Program. The State Library worked with public librarians for the passage of the law setting up this program, helped the Division of Community and Regional Affairs write the regulations for this program, and annually provides information regarding this program as librarians convince the Legislature to fund public library construction and renovation projects. The Legislature has awarded nearly \$53 million in capital funding to 14 public libraries since this program was approved in 2010.

V. Evaluation Plan

The Alaska State Library will follow IMLS guidelines for the evaluation of this plan. Based on the five-year evaluation for 2008 -2012, the State Library will improve evaluation of individual activities carried out under the new plan by improving instructions for LSTA subgrant applicants, more aggressively pursuing reports of subrecipients' in-kind matches in order to provide a better picture of local and state funds leveraged by LSTA grant projects, measuring continuing education grants against 21st century skills for librarians, and improving evaluation of some long-term statewide projects. The State Library contracted their evaluators to offer suggestions for these improvements and intends to implement their suggestions. Following federal guidelines, all grants and grant activities will be subject to evaluation. The Alaska State Library will share evaluative information concerning LSTA-funded grants with the Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries during its annual meeting.

Data sources will include:

- Surveys, performance measures, and/or benchmarks to measure needs and the changes which have occurred;
- Annual review of the state's LSTA Five-Year Plan as compiled for the LSTA annual reporting process;
- Assessments or surveys that are part of workshops and training programs;
- Anecdotal evidence; and
- Evaluation of grants to libraries, including the impact of the project and the extent to which project objectives were met.

VI. Stakeholder Involvement

The Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries (GAC) remains the primary mechanism used to involve library users throughout the state in design of Alaska's state plan for 2013-2017. In 2012, the Council reviewed the five-year evaluation report, planned the process by which it

would revise the state plan, and brainstormed trends and issues facing libraries through 2017. The GAC analyzed the input and ideas the State Library solicited from the statewide library community, then incorporated their insights into the new goals, priorities, and activities for this state plan.

The Governor's Advisory Council consists of 11 voting members who broadly represent the library profession and all library users within Alaska. The Council's membership consists of: one public library representative, one special library representative, one academic library representative, one school library representative, and the immediate past president of the Alaska Library Association. Members are selected by their peers in the manner set forth in the Association's *Handbook of Procedures and Policies*. In addition, the Council includes six voting members chosen by the Governor: one handicapped user representative, one rural library user representative, one public library user representative, one public library trustee representative, and two library user representatives. The State Librarian serves in an ex officio and non-voting capacity.

The Council's ongoing duty is to advise the Alaska State Library on the LSTA plan and the development and evaluation of library services in Alaska. The Council assists the State Library in evaluating the effectiveness of programs and services paid for with LSTA funds. All meetings of the Council are open to the public and are advertised through online public notices and e-mail lists.

The final draft of the *Alaska State Plan 2013 - 2017* was widely disseminated in print, web, and electronic formats during the public comment period in June 2012. Comments were solicited from the following groups:

- The Executive Council and membership of the Alaska Library Association
- The Executive Board and membership of the Alaska Association of School Librarians
- The Advisory Board of the Alaska Library Network
- The Research and Resource Library Directors group, which includes library directors from the public libraries and the University of Alaska campus libraries in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau
- DIRLEAD, the directors of the 20 largest public libraries in Alaska
- Public library directors and school librarians through e-mail lists maintained by Library development staff
- Tribal librarians who participated in the Alaska Native Libraries, Archives, and Museum Summit (ANLAMS) in 2011
- Library Development staff of the Alaska State Library
- Subscribers to the State Librarian's *Friday Bulletin* and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's *Info Exchange* (electronic newsletters)
- Members of the Governor's Advisory Council were asked to distribute the draft plan to their constituents via email or any other pertinent transmission process

Library Development staff are well-known to librarians statewide because Alaska lacks the intermediary structure of regional consortiums and cooperatives that are prevalent in other states. When a local librarian has a question, he/she is encouraged to call the State Library directly. Staff will also use these methods to gather input from library stakeholders:

- Postings and discussion threads on the Alaska Library Association listserv
- Postings to email lists of public and school librarians
- Feedback to the State Library's *Friday Bulletin* electronic newsletter
- Conversations at the State Library booth at the Alaska Library Association conference
- Library Development staff participation in a broad range of meetings and workshops held in-person and on the OWL videoconference network
- Library Development staff participation in statewide and local chapter activities of the Alaska Library Association and Alaska Association of School Librarians
- Surveys of stakeholders designed to gather information before embarking on new projects or initiatives
- Casual exchanges in many venues; Alaska's librarians are casual and such communication is actively encouraged
- Gathering input via site visits at libraries for special events and review of their operations and grant-funded projects

VII. Communication and Public Availability

Announcements concerning the availability of the finished plan will be sent to newsletters and email lists that serve the library and educational communities. Printed copies will be made available to the public upon request. Electronic versions of the state plan will be sent directly to the Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries. State Library staff will post the plan on the Alaska State Library's web site and will post it on Facebook and Twitter.

Information pertaining to the ongoing LSTA program will be disseminated as follows:

- Major announcements pertaining to the LSTA program and process will be publicized on the Alaska Library Association's listserv and in the following newsletters: *Newspoke*; *Puffin*; *Friday Bulletin*; and *Info Exchange*.
- Current versions of the state plan and key LSTA program documents will be posted on the State Library's web site and printed copies will be available to the public upon request.
- Documentation pertaining to the administration and evaluation of the LSTA program will be available to the public upon request.
- Results of program evaluations presented in the Library Services and Technology Act

Annual Reports and those conducted by the Library Development staff will be disseminated to and reviewed by the Governor's Advisory Council; copies will be available to the public upon request.

VIII. Monitoring

Monitoring the implementation of the plan and libraries' success in meeting the goals listed in the plan will be the responsibility of both the Alaska State Library and the Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries. The following methods will be used to monitor, evaluate and report on the services and grants projects supported by LSTA funds:

- All proposals submitted by libraries and accepted for funding will include an evaluation plan utilizing input, output or outcome measures or targets based on the objectives of the proposal.
- The State Library will require proposals for statewide services and those requiring significant funds to design and apply outcome-based measures to demonstrate their impact on intended user groups.
- At the six month mark of the annual grant cycle, State Library staff will contact grantees to: monitor progress on the grant project activities; make sure that the grant funds are on track to be fully spent; and to offer any assistance the grantee needs to successfully complete the grant project.
- Library Development staff will review the effectiveness and impact of LSTA funded projects and programs in addressing the goals, objectives, activities, and output and outcome measures of the state plan at the conclusion of every calendar year after submission of the annual LSTA State Programs Report to IMLS.
- The Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries will review overall LSTA plan progress and grant program outputs and outcomes annually and may recommend amendments to the goals, objectives, activities, and evaluation measures contained in the state plan.

IX. Certifications and Assurances

The required signed certifications and assurances are hereby submitted with the original plan to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, State Programs, 1800 M Street NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC, 20036-5802. The certifications and assurances include:

- Statement of Program Assurances for 2013 Grant Award
- Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters Certification;

- Drug-Free Workplace Requirements Certification;
- Lobbying Certification;
- Federal Debt Status Certification;
- Nondiscrimination Certification;
- Assurances of Non-Construction Programs;
- State Legal Officer's Certification of Authorized Certifying Official;
- Reporting Sub-awards and Executive Compensation;
- Assurance of compliance with the Internet Safety requirements; and
- Compliance with the Trafficking in Persons requirement.

Appendix: 2012 Governor’s Advisory Council (GAC) Members & LSTA Program Staff

Name	Representative	Location
Nancy Bertels	Public Library Representative appointed by Alaska Library Association	Sutton
Cathy Boutin	Library User Representative appointed by Governor Parnell	Juneau
Page Brannon	Academic Library Representative appointed by Alaska Library Association	Anchorage
Margaret E. Holm	Library Trustee and Rural Representative appointed by Governor Parnell	Kodiak
Donna P. Huguelet	Library User Representative appointed by Governor Parnell	Kenai
Aldean Kilbourn	Library User Representative appointed by Governor Parnell	Fairbanks
Kathryn J. Martin-Albright GAC Chair	Public Library Representative appointed by Governor Parnell	Wasilla
Michael Robinson	Alaska Library Association Past President	Anchorage
Wendy Stout	School Library Representative appointed by Alaska Library Association	Palmer
Arthur L. Walters	Disabled Representative appointed by Governor Parnell	Seward
Teressa B. Williams	Special Library Representative appointed by Alaska Library Association	Anchorage
Linda Thibodeau	Alaska State Librarian Ex-Officio	Juneau
Sue Sherif	Alaska State Library LSTA Coordinator	Anchorage
Patience Frederiksen	Alaska State Library Grants Administrator	Anchorage