



Lincoln Trail Libraries System

Lincoln Trail Trustee Connection

2009 no. 2

Dear LTLS,

As you know President Obama has signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) into law. There are many possibilities for your library to benefit from this law to improve services and facilities. This issue of the Trustee Connection will highlight some of the issues and point you to web sites where you can track additional information as it becomes available. Implementation of ARRA will likely be a complex process but we want to be sure that libraries in East Central Illinois have the best possible opportunity to make their needs known to receive some of this funding.

Jan Ison
Executive Director

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The ARRA and Libraries

The American Library Association's Washington office has identified the following areas that could help libraries.

- \$7.2 billion to increase broadband access and usage in unserved and underserved areas of the nation, including \$200 million in competitive grants for expanding public-computer capacity at public libraries and community colleges. This includes \$650 million for DTV, \$90 million of which may be used by organizations, including libraries, for education and outreach to vulnerable populations;
- \$53.6 billion for the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, including \$39.5 billion to local school districts using existing funding formulas; among the permissible uses is school modernization, which could benefit school libraries; \$5 billion to states as bonus grants for meeting key performance measures in education; and \$8.8 billion to states for high-priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include public libraries and the modernization, renovation, and repairs of the facilities of public schools and institutions of higher education;
- \$120 million for the Senior Community Service Program to provide community service jobs at nonprofit and public facilities, including

Stimulus Input From Libraries

When federal stimulus funding is released, each state will have to identify fundable projects that can be started quickly. The Illinois Library Association (ILA) asked libraries across the state to identify local "shovel-ready" projects and has compiled a [list of library projects](#) for consideration by Governor Quinn. The list describes library construction and renovation needs across the state that are at an advanced planning stage and could begin quickly if funding is available. ILA has sent the list to members of the Illinois congressional delegation, the Governor, Secretary of State and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for consideration.

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libraries, to 24,000 older Americans;

- \$130 million for the Rural Community Facilities Program to provide loans and grants for rural community facilities, including libraries.

Washington Office Executive Director Emily Sheketoff says that librarians "need to start talking to their governors to make sure the governors know to direct funds to libraries."

ALA President Jim Rettig said that he believes "we now have a responsibility to reach out to our governors and state officials to highlight the funding available to libraries through this bill and to advocate that investing that funding in libraries is a wise and efficient use of taxpayer dollars during this difficult economic time."

Why Libraries are Important to Economic Recovery

The best way to answer this is to post the text of a letter that Jeffrey Scherer, board chair for Libraries for the Future in New York and architect at Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle in Minneapolis wrote. The letter is short but we hope it motivates you and your fellow board members to write one of your own to your local paper. Here is the text:

"America's public libraries are at the center of one of the most radical changes of information dissemination, use, and importance in our history. In many communities, they are the only source for individuals to connect to the World Wide Web, get reading materials and information essential to their rapidly changing lives-including employment and education materials. In these troubled economic times, they are even more critical as our citizen's purchasing power has evaporated."

If you would like assistance from the LTLS Consultants in writing a letter just send an email to jison@lincolntrail.info and we are ready and willing to help.

ARRA Resources Webliography

[ALA](#)

A collection of Recovery Act resources from ALA

[White House](#)

The federal web site that tracks how the money is being spent

[State of Illinois](#)

A web site created to help Illinois libraries share and suggest projects that qualify for Recovery Act funding.

[American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#)

A printable copy of the Recovery Act

[LTLS Features February 2009](#)

Our feature articles on "The Role of Libraries In Tough Economic Times"

[District Dispatch](#) If you want to know what's going on in Washington from the library perspective, this is the one page you need to bookmark.

Return on Investment to Communities

Public Libraries make many contributions to the community but it is important to make the case that they provide a huge Return on Investment (ROI). A [2001 study](#) by Glen Holt, then Director of St. Louis Public Library, showed that for every \$1.00 spent on it's public library a community received [\\$4.00 in return](#). In 2006 the Cortez Public Library in southwest Colorado reported a ROI of [\\$31 for every \\$1.00](#) investment. Today the numbers are higher and there are several calculators available for your library to use to demonstrate the great value you are providing to your community. The North Suburban Library System in Deerfield, Illinois has developed an online [ROI calculator](#) that can be used to calculate the library's ROI for the community as well as an individual's ROI from the library.

For further information the following Weblibliography updated by George Needham, Vice President of Member Services has a lot of great information on this topic.

ROI and Advocacy Resources

Compiled by Don Reynolds, Past President of the [Association of Rural and Small Libraries](#), and Director, [Nolichucky Regional Library](#), Morristown, Tennessee

Updated February 20, 2009

[Public Library Benefits Valuation Study](#). St. Louis Public Library, April 2001.

[Library's Contribution to Your Community](#). Illinois Regional Library Systems, 2002/3.

[Libraries: How they stack up](#). An OCLC Report. OCLC, 2003.

[Value of Public Library Services](#). Massachusetts Library Association, October 2003. Also available: "[Estimated retail value and Values explained](#)" and [Calculator work sheet](#)

[The Economic Impact of Public Libraries on South Carolina](#). January 2005.

[Taxpayer Return-on-Investment \(ROI\) in Pennsylvania Public Libraries](#). Pennsylvania Library Association, September 2006.

[Value for Money: Southwestern Ohio's Return from Investment in Public Libraries](#). November 2006. [Report Summary](#)

[Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development](#). Urban Libraries Council, January 2007.

[Worth Their Weight - An Assessment of the Evolving Field of Library Valuation](#). Americans for Libraries Council (Libraries for the Future), May 2007. Two notes:

- 1.) This report summarizes all the various valuation projects from around the country.
- 2.) I was having some trouble getting this to download, but was told by Libraries for the Future that the website issue is being addressed.

[Vermont Library Association's Library Use Value Calculator - What is your library worth to you?](#) August 2007. (Note: Follows Massachusetts model.)

[Return on Investment for Public Libraries](#). Library Research Service (Colorado), 2007/8. Note: This site also includes numerous case studies of individual libraries. [Individual ROI Calculator](#).

[Return on Investment \(ROI\)](#). North Suburban Library System (Illinois), 2008. (Note: Two calculators are available here, one for a library's return on investment to the community, one for the ROI for an individual.)

[Maine State Library's Library Use Value Calculator](#). Updated 2008. Note: This approach also follows Massachusetts model.

[New York Libraries: How They Stack Up!](#) Revised October 2008. [Printable brochure version](#), also revised October 2008

[Library Value Calculator](#) For every \$1.00 in taxes you spend on the Denver Public Library, how much do you receive in return?

It's Your Turn

Use our [online input form](#) to tell us what topics you would like us to cover in the next issue.

For More Information

You can get more information about topics covered in this issue by contacting any [LTLS Consultant](#).

Links in Articles

For your convenience, LTLS has bookmarked all the links in this issue on our Delicious.com shared bookmarks page at <http://delicious.com/lincolntrail/trusteenews2009-2>.

Lincoln Trail Trustee Connection

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