



January 10, 2017

South Dakota Librarian colleague:

Happy New Year! Time rolls by when you are busy and having fun! It is hard to believe we are 17 years into the new century! So many changes as new ideas about the central role of libraries emerge and newer technologies move us along! I wanted to take this opportunity to speak with you about some things that will affect each one of you in the coming years. And as a reminder: April 4 (in Sioux Falls) and April 20 (in Rapid City) have been set aside as times when we would like to hear your ideas concerning the writing of the new IMLS LSTA 5-Year Plan. I have also reserved a conference room here at the State Library in Pierre for Friday, February 17 at 10:30 a.m. Find the date that works for you and come!

Our plan is due later in 2017 and it will take us through 2022! It is important that we hear from a representative cross-section of the librarians within the state. Mark your calendars and please attend one of these dates. Our LSTA 5-Year Evaluation - 2012-2017 report written by Wyoming consultant Lesley Boughton will be discussed as well. An electronic copy of the report will be available prior to the first meeting, but bound print copies will be available at the meeting sites.

The State Library continues to forge ahead to serve the interests and needs of the 500 plus academic, special, public and school libraries within South Dakota. Unlike some states, we do not offer sub-grants of LSTA funds to local libraries. However, we do offer libraries real value in many ways including funding the new *South Dakota Share-It* software paid for with state dollars. This new system runs our new statewide ILL/discovery network as well as supplementing ILL services for those not on the *Share-It* system. We also provide back-up reference and consulting services, as well as trainings (both in person and online) through *Web Junction* and other vendors offering webinars on a multitude of topics 24/7 year-round. The State Library continues to use our LSTA federal dollars to fund the highly successful Public Library Institute (now in its 29th year) and the School Library Boot Camp (now in its 6th year). We also clean your CDs for free if you send them to us and we help you facilitate local Braille and Talking book library services to your community. These services along with our 50 statewide databases and related trainings amount to thousands of dollars of annual support for our individual libraries within the state.

We currently receive (GY2016) just slightly over one million dollars in LSTA funding annually. However, this will dip down considerably in the coming years and unfortunately we need to prepare now for fewer funds. In the near future we will need to make some prudent choices so that we continue to supply the most valuable resources for all our citizens and for our students' research needs.

In fact this spring we are reconvening the Electronic Resources Taskforce for the expressed goal of evaluating with a fresh set of eyes all the statewide databases to which we subscribe. I will ask for the ERTF to give the State Library a recommendation of those databases which should be eliminated based on a number of criteria, but first and foremost on usage. Some of the current "low hanging fruit" (i.e. low usage compared to annual cost) are: *Mango*, *Chilton's Auto* and *Learning Express* (or parts of *Learning Express* like the "Computer Skills" training module.) If a particular database is not widely being used, then it behooves us to spend our money more wisely. Please contact me or Steven Buras, Asst. State Librarian and co-chair of the ERTF committee, if you would like to share your ideas. Our new Digital Resources Coordinator, David Bradford, will also co-chair this important taskforce. At a later time we will announce the taskforce members and share their recommendations.

In the meantime, one of the best strategies for every one of us is to promote and USE your most valued databases! Ask our staff to help you think of ways to promote the databases within your community and to groups that you may not have reached with these valuable services. And with David on board, you now have a SDSL contact with whom you can schedule presentations for your library board, city council or community interest groups.

On other fronts, Alissa Adams, our new School Library Technology Coordinator, will be convening a committee to review School Library Standards and Guidelines next fall. Though they are very well written, these standards were last reviewed in 2009. They need to be aligned with the new English language standards. If you are an experienced school librarian and have an interest in serving on this committee, please contact Alissa as soon as possible.

We always enjoy hearing from each and every one of you. Send us your stories, articles about successful programming and most of all photos of your great events and special occasions. We love to share your success with the rest of your colleagues in our *Cornerstone* newsletter blog. Have a most prosperous and successful 2017. We are here for you. Give us a call!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daria Bossman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Regards," text.

Daria Bossman, State Librarian