

Annual Report 2011-12



south dakota
STATE LIBRARY

Leadership. Innovation. Excellence.

State Library: By the numbers (FY12)

- 2,880 reference transactions
- 338,821 government documents available
- 3,693 library staff trained statewide
- 516 public, school and academic libraries served
- 2 million searches via State Library-provided electronic resources
- 2,172 active Braille & Talking Book patrons registered
- 103,263 Braille & Talking Book items circulated

South Dakota State Library's Strategic Goals

- 1) Encouraging excellence in local libraries
- 2) Providing collections to expand local reach
- 3) Serving special needs populations
- 4) Offering quality services to state agencies



Face of libraries changing, but mission remains the same

There's a lot of change happening in education right now and South Dakota is no exception. Change is coming to our state's public and school libraries as well. Libraries are rapidly adapting to find new ways to deliver 21st century content, services and programming. However, a library's core mission has always been about providing convenient access for their patrons' informational needs. The State Library continues to be committed to supporting local librarians as they navigate through these 21st century transitions. In this economy, libraries continue to be a great value and increased usage reflects our communities' reliance on quality libraries.

School Library Boot Camp debuts

A group of South Dakota educators from across the state attended the first annual School Library Boot Camp in Spearfish, July 22-25. School Library Boot Camp was created to bring together teachers, librarians, administrators and other interested educators to learn about 21st century libraries. Participants discussed how to design contemporary school library facilities and programs around students and their research-based projects and assignments.

The classes, held at Black Hills State University, in cooperation with the South Dakota State Library, were for undergraduate or graduate credit. The theme of this year's camp was, "The Transformation of the 21st Century School Library." National research shows that a well-sourced school library facility staffed with a 21st century school librarian results in higher reading levels and overall greater student achievement.

The training focused on current best practices in the areas of electronic resources, national and state school library standards, Common Core State Standards, information literacy/fluency, the Learning Commons and more. The 34 attendees represented 18 school districts from 17 communities and included certified teacher librarians, certified classroom teachers, technology integrationists and school library paraprofessionals.





State Library rolls out self-assessment for school libraries

A new self-assessment tool will give school administrators and librarians an idea of what they are doing well with their library and in what areas they can improve.

Over the summer the South Dakota Board of Education formally endorsed the self-assessment, based on the South Dakota School Library Guidelines. The guidelines outline the components of an effective 21st century school library and librarian. They describe what is necessary to be exemplary in three specific and distinct areas: Program, Place and Professional.

State Library staff have begun conducting professional development efforts to inform school librarians on how to use the new tool. Through this training, schools will gain more insight and be able to discover their maximum potential through the self-assessment.

The self-assessment tool, along with accompanying instructions and an award application, was developed by a taskforce comprised of both certified and non-certified school librarians, teachers and administrators, as well as representatives from the South Dakota Library Association, the State Library and the Department of Education.

“Emerging 21st century school libraries reflect a major shift nationwide. Today’s school libraries are learning hubs with physical and digital content, led by teacher librarians who work with students, teachers, administrators, curriculum and project-based assignments,” said Daria Bossman, South Dakota’s Acting State Librarian. “As documented in some 60 national studies over the past two decades, school libraries that reflect 21st century best practices are essential to guiding educators’ efforts in meeting the college and career readiness needs of our K-12 student population.”



Partnership expands title selection for visually impaired

South Dakotans unable to read standard print now have access to an expanded selection of local and regional titles in talking book format, thanks to a new partnership between the South Dakota State Library and the Siouxland Libraries in Sioux Falls.

The two organizations opened a recording studio at the Siouxland Libraries Main Branch last fall. The recording studio is used by volunteers of the State Library's Braille and Talking Book Program to produce books in digital format. The books are made available to South Dakota citizens who are unable to read standard print.

The South Dakota Braille and Talking Book Program is a free library service for people who cannot read standard print because of visual, physical or reading disabilities. All equipment and services are free, including return postage.

According to Assistant State Librarian Colleen Kirby, there are currently more than 1,500 books that need to be recorded. The State Library depends on volunteers to narrate and prepare books for users. By donating their time and energy, volunteers make an invaluable contribution to the thousands of South Dakotans who are unable to read standard print.

E-books for download initiative expands to include more libraries

What was a new collaborative a little more than a year ago has now tripled to include 63 libraries. With this expansion, approximately 75 percent of local library patrons across the state can now download audio and e-books directly to their computers or portable entertainment devices.



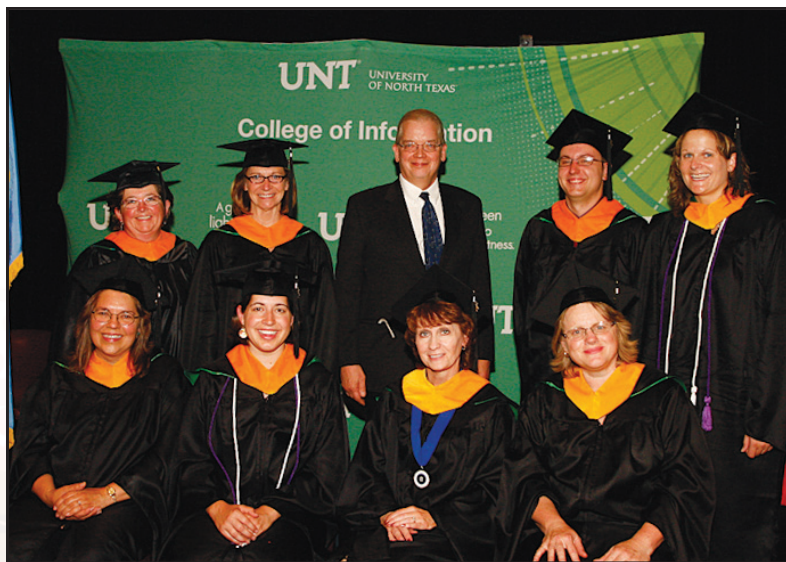
South Dakota Titles to Go was born as a result of negotiations managed by the State Library. Instead of paying higher prices for the same services separately, participating libraries collectively provide the funding for downloadable e-books and audio books, supplied by OverDrive, a digital distributor of e-books, audiobooks, music and video.

South Dakota librarians earn degrees through grant program

Seventeen South Dakota students – twelve in the master’s program through the University of North Texas and five in undergraduate school media programs at Black Hills State University and Montana State University – completed their degrees in the spring and summer of 2012, as part of the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian “SWIM” program.

Almost four years ago, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana partnered on the grant initiative to train librarians who would fill jobs in rural areas. Scholarship recipients agreed to work in one of those four states upon graduation.

With one additional student completing her MLIS in the summer of 2013, South Dakota will have a total of 18 new librarians. These librarians will be a wonderful asset to our state; most students obtained positions before they completed the program.





Streamlining the state publications collection process

Through the change of an outdated law, the South Dakota State Library is able to increase public access to state publications through its digital collections. Senate Bill 5 redefined what constitutes a state publication and changed how they are distributed, allowing the State Library to increase education and outreach efforts through a statewide network of depository libraries.

The previous documents distribution law limited what could be considered a state document by format, and didn't make any provision for digital documents. The previous law also called for state agencies to send the State Library 13 copies of each document.

Now, South Dakota Codified Law designates any public information created under the authority of a state agency, regardless of format to be submitted.

With the new law in place, citizens will have easier access to state publications, and state agencies will save money since they won't have to provide as many print copies for the depository libraries.

Project takes librarians to national best practices conference

For the past three years, the South Dakota State Library has participated in a national initiative called Project Compass, which supports public libraries in facilitating local community discussions and the networking of local resources. In April, three South Dakota librarians along with two State Library staff were invited to attend a Washington, D.C., conference and share ideas to assist public libraries' efforts to meet the urgent, growing needs of communities impacted by economic downturn.

The initiative is sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and South Dakota's specific efforts are referred to as Project Compass-SD. IMLS created a curriculum to show librarians how they could bring together local agency leadership with community leaders to assist in local workforce development.

The South Dakota State Library received scholarships to attend training, and additionally eight public librarians received local training. During those training sessions, State Library staff worked alongside national trainers to inform and educate public librarians and community leaders. They developed plans to help job seekers find employment, receive resumé assistance, learn about specific job-related databases, receive financial/budget planning assistance, and generally deal with unemployment hardships. Additionally, some of the library's statewide databases, such as Learning Express, which offer a rich reserve of business and workforce development resources, were shared with the participants. Local leaders and librarians will share these resources with their constituents and others in the community.

PROJECT COMPASS BY THE NUMBERS:

2009 - year initiative began

21 - number of free programs
presented in South Dakota to date

138 - number of local service
agencies partnering on initiative

State Library Board Members

President Lesta Turchen, Hill City

Vice President Monte Loos, Rapid City

Diane Olson, Mitchell

Carol Rosenthal, Sioux Falls

Judy Trzynka , Watertown

Steve Willard, Belle Fourche

Sam Gingerich, Pierre, Board of Regents Representative



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