

The CONNector

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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The State Librarian's Column

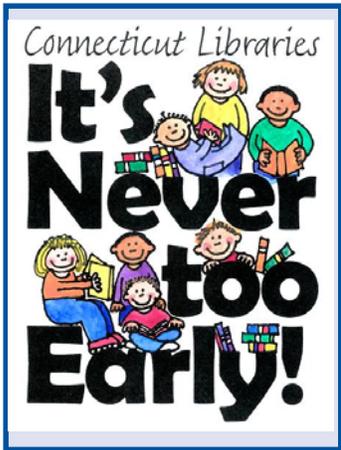
Kendall F. Wigin
Connecticut State Librarian



Without a lot of fanfare one of the most important Connecticut library studies in years was unveiled on December 3, 2005, at the Legislative Office Building. The Direct Costs of Filling: Findings of a Study Conducted For the Connecticut State Library determined for the first time a cost basis for reimbursement under the Connecticard Program. For more than 30 years there has been no basis for the amount appropriated each year for the program. Mary E. Jackson, Principal Investigator and Director of Collections and Access Programs for the Association of Research Libraries in Washington, D.C., found that the median, or midpoint, unit cost of a circulation transaction for the 27 Connecticard libraries participating in this study was \$1.05. Currently the average reimbursement is 14 cents per transaction. With over 4.5 million Connecticard transactions per year, the challenge for the library community will be securing the substantial increase in funding that is needed to adequately reimburse participating libraries. With the fiscal problems facing the state this will not be easy. But we must start now to present the case for the increase in funding. In a state where there are no regional or county library systems, Connecticard has provided the citizens of the state with cost effective resource sharing. In fact, the study found that the current circulation based system saves between \$5.5 and \$25 million annually over user-initiated or mediated interlibrary loan. The program makes great fiscal sense and has stood the test of time. But, in a time of constricted budgets and competing priorities, library users and librarians alike will have to bring this message to legislators. Our goal is clear. How long it takes to reach it rests largely in our willingness to put great energy into fighting the good fight.

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Connecticut Libraries: It's Never Too Early
Susan Cormier, Director, Willimantic Library Service Center



The Connecticut State Library has begun an important initiative to communicate the critical role public libraries play in emerging literacy. The initiative provides research-based training, program support, statewide publicity, and grant opportunities for early literacy activities in public libraries.

The State Library launched this initiative with research-based training for Children's Services librarians. Designed by Dr. Anne Fowler, Senior Scientist at Haskins Laboratory, the workshop, *A Research-based Approach to Supporting Preschool Language and Literacy in Public Libraries*, has the following goals:

- To identify what preschoolers need to know to become successful readers;
- To develop and monitor research-based strategies for story hour;
- To model early literacy strategies to parents and care-givers; and
- To communicate the value of library preschool programs to administrators, town officials, and educators.

Children's librarians from across the state attended this training.

The next step in the initiative was the production of publicity materials to draw attention to the emergent literacy resources and programs that public libraries provide for young families. The State Library worked with Miranda Creative of Norwich to create attractive materials aimed at parents and literacy partners. Miranda Creative also presented workshops for library staff on how to develop strategies to keep this message on the minds of patrons and professional peers (teachers, board members, town officials, early childhood educators, etc.) and learn creative ways to use the items in the PR kit.

In February 2005 the State Library will offer training from the Public Library Association to train librarians on how to bring the 'best practices' techniques for early literacy to parents and caregivers. For additional information contact Susan Cormier at scormier@cslib.org or 1-800-253-7944. This project is supported with funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and independent Federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities.

The CONNector Editorial Board
Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian

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ConnectiCard Cost Study Completed

Sharon Brettschneider, Director, Division of Library Development



In the Fall of 2003, the Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development (ACLPD), in cooperation with the Connecticut Library Association, appointed a Connecticard Task Force to examine the ConnectiCard statutes, regulations and funding levels, and to evaluate the mission of Connecticut's statewide public library reciprocal borrowing grant program which has existed for 30 years. A major goal of this review was to analyze the impact on both net lending and net borrowing libraries and the library patron.

Among the recommendations of the Task Force was to undertake a study of the unit cost to a library of loaning material to non-residents. The study would be “undertaken to determine the true cost or impact of a Connecticard loan for the purpose of establishing a defensible request for additional funding.” The full Connecticard Task Force preliminary report may be accessed at: <http://ct.webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=6027>

The Task Force contracted with the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) to conduct the cost study. The results of that study were reported to the library community on December 3rd at the Legislative Office Building. The meeting was televised on the Connecticut Network. An archive of the presentation may be viewed at: <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ondemand.asp?dir=C>

What the study found:

The median, or midpoint, unit cost of a circulation transaction for the 27 Connecticard libraries participating in this study was \$1.05. The average unit cost is \$1.27. Unit costs for the 27 participants ranged from \$0.71 to \$4.26.

Staff costs account for	92%
Equipment costs	4%
Network costs	2%
Supplies	2 %

The 27 participants expended a total of \$1,679,231 in providing services to non-residents and were reimbursed just over \$244,000 or \$1.4 million less than their costs. In other words, these participants were reimbursed for just 15% of their expenses in filling transactions to non-residents.

In 2003-04, 168 Connecticut libraries filled 4,651,057 Connecticard loans. These 168 libraries incurred direct costs of \$4.9 million in providing services to residents of other localities. Using the median unit cost of \$1.05, Connecticard libraries are investing \$4.2 million annually to provide services to residents from other communities.

Governor John Rowland's Records

Mark H. Jones, State Archivist



Archivist Paul Baran examines boxes of former Governor Rowland's records

For several decades the Connecticut State Library has served as the official archival repository for records of the Office of the Governor. At the end of a Governor's last term subject files are boxed and outgoing clerks prepare container lists of file folder titles and labels. These are shipped to the State Archives. The events leading to the resignation of former Governor John Rowland and inauguration of Governor M. Jodi Weill compelled the State Archives to ensure that the Rowland files will join

those of his predecessors. Shortly before the resignation and changeover in staff in the Office of the Governor, the State Librarian, Public Records Administrator, and State Archivist met with the Chief of Staff and other attorneys to discuss the Public Records Law and the customary acquisition of gubernatorial records by the State Archives. The group also met with one of Lt. Governor Rell's staff to discuss the same topics. After Governor Rowland's resignation and Governor Rell's inauguration, a staff member in the new governor's office contacted the Public Records Administrator to offer boxes of records to the State Archives.

The State Archives has received approximately 400 boxes of files primarily from Constituent Services, Communications, Legal Counsel, and other parts of the Governor's Office. Governor Rowland's tenure spanned almost ten years, so State Archives staff anticipated a large amount of records. New technologies employed during that period resulted in greater amounts of electronically generated records. For the first time the State Archives has acquired several boxes of videos of television appearances of a governor. Newspaper clipping files contain photocopies of clippings and copies of articles downloaded from newspaper Internet web sites.

In order to gain physical and intellectual control over these gubernatorial records, the State Library has hired an archivist, Paul Baran. It will be his job to survey what has come in and what will be received and to develop strategies for making the records, videos, etc. available to researchers. The latter should not expect to look at these records soon. Paul will be busy for several months. Moreover, the State Archives is expecting to receive additional records such as subject files of former Governor Rowland's chiefs of staff after they are released. Governor Rell's office is holding them pending potential litigation.

As former Governor Rowland's records become available, the State Archives will make announcements in the *CONNector*.

Institute of Museum and Library Services Awards \$2,100,240 to Support Library Service in Connecticut

Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian

Dr. Robert Martin, Director of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), announced grants totaling over \$160 million to state library agencies. “Libraries help connect us to our communities and to each other. They address our many information needs and encourage us to be lifelong learners,” said Director Martin. “These grants play an important role in building the capacity of libraries to help communities address their changing educational, economic, and social needs.”

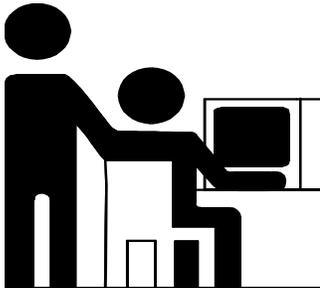
The grants are awarded under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and are made to each state according to a population-based formula; the state’s library agency administers the funds. Connecticut will receive \$2,100,240 to be administered by the Connecticut State Library. States must provide at least \$1.00 for every \$2.00 of federal support.

IMLS Library Services and Technology Act funds help state library agencies make library resources and services, which can be prohibitively expensive to the individual, readily available to an entire community. Examples of how the Connecticut State Library has used these funds to benefit the residents of the Connecticut include:

- The Connecticut Digital Library, iCONN, provides students, faculty, and residents with online access to essential library and information resources. Through the Digital Library core information resources—including secured access to licensed databases, a statewide library catalog, a statewide interlibrary loan system, and the electronic and physical delivery of resources—are made available to every citizen in Connecticut. In addition, specialized research information is available to college students and faculty. This project, funded with \$345,168, used statewide purchasing power to acquire statewide licenses to databases and licenses for specific communities of users (e.g., academic only, public/school only). The result was an estimated annual savings of close to \$21 million.
- In its Outreach Programs for Non-English Speaking Persons, the **Danbury Public Library** established a partnership with Chamber of Commerce businesses to offer English as a second language instruction. At least 150 Spanish speaking employees attended 20 classes that were conducted in the library’s language lab. The program had a positive impact on the community. The **Hartford Public Library’s** “Anytime, Anywhere, Learning to Write” provided ESOL Students the use of portable keyboards to write English. An LSTA grant enabled the Hartford Public Library to outfit the Library’s American Place with sixty AlphaSmart keyboards and carrying cases, as well as training videos and related materials.
- In order to enrich the lives of Ledyard’s rapidly growing patron base of aged 65 and older, the **Bill Library** and the **Gales Ferry Library** developed a project

featuring large print books, books on cassette and CD, a selection of videocassettes, four portable cassette players, and four portable CD players. The libraries made these available for loan at the local senior center and provided delivery to homebound patrons.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners. The Institute fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning by supporting the nation's 15,000 museums and 122,000 libraries. The Institute also encourages partnerships to expand the educational benefit of libraries and museums.



New Web Index to Connecticut State Library Site

Cheryl Fox Law/Legislative Reference Indexer

The Connecticut State Library is pleased to announce the creation of a subject index to the library's online Research Resources www.cslib.org/faq.htm. The back-of-the-book style index is the work of CSL Indexer Cheryl B. Fox.

As in a back-of-the-book index, similar information is gathered under one subject term. URLs take the place of page numbers and thus subject entries are hypertext-linked directly to the content within the CSL website. Subheadings under a general topic help the user find the information most relevant to their needs. Cross references, both *see* and *see also*, are included. The index is updated as new research resources are added.

The index is a complement to the site's search function and allows the user to go directly to the desired topic rather than wading through the many irrelevant hits that a full-text search engine can retrieve.

The URL for the index is: www.cslib.org/ResearchResourcesIndex.htm



Library Services and Technology Act Long Range Planning Grants Awarded for FY06



Sheila Mosman, Grants and Contracts Manager

In the first week of July 2004 the State Library announced the availability of Library Services and Technology Act funding for grants for public library long-range planning. Applications were accepted for grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000. A local match of 25% of the amount of federal funds requested was required. Priority was given to libraries that would use the PLA *Planning for Results* process and were planning a construction project in the next four years. The deadline for submission of applications was October 1, 2004.

The State Library received nine applications, five of which were chosen for funding. The Brooklyn Town Library, Saxton B. Little Free Library in Columbia, Enfield Public Library, New Britain Public Library, and the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury each received a \$10,000 grant. The grant period began on January 1, 2005, and will end on December 31, 2005.

In *The New Planning for Results* Sandra Nelson's planning process is "built on three basic assumptions.

1. Excellence must be defined locally - it results when library services match community needs, interests, and priorities.
2. Excellence is possible for both small and large libraries - it rests more on commitment than on unlimited resources.
3. Excellence is a moving target-even when achieved, excellence must be continually maintained.¹

Each of the five libraries receiving a Long Range Planning Grant is committed to actively involving representatives of municipal government, civic organizations, and schools, as well as the library's board and staff in the planning process to ensure that the final plan will accurately address the community's needs. Recipient libraries represent towns from among those with the lowest per capita income to among those with the highest, and from among the smallest in population to the sixth most populous. Recipients range from a library that has never had a long-range plan, through libraries that have had plans developed by their administrations, to a library whose plan, developed with input from community members, recently expired and needs to be revisited and updated.

Although the grantee libraries are demographically diverse they share a common goal: to develop a long-range plan that will enable them to best utilize available resources to address the needs, interests, and priorities of their community.

1. Mary Jo Lynch, "Forward" in *A Planning Process for Public Libraries* (Chicago: American Library Assn., 1980) xii



State Public Library Construction Grants

Awarded in FY2005

Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant



CATEGORY #1 (ranked in order of scores). Category #1 is for projects that create additional usable library space, such as new buildings, additions, and renovations.

TOWN	PROJECT	AMT. OF PROJECT	AMT. OF ST. GRANTS AWARDED
Top Priority			
Simsbury	Expansion and Renovation	\$ 7,300,000	\$ 500,000
Westbrook	Expansion and Renovation	\$ 3,204,898	\$ 500,000
Essex	Expansion and Renovation	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 500,000
Regular Ranking			
New London	Expansion and Renovation	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 333,333
Guilford*	Expansion and Renovation	\$ 9,750,000	\$ 500,000
Wilmington	New Building	\$ 3,570,000	\$ 500,000
Sherman	Expansion and Renovation	\$ 3,999,600	\$ 500,000
Wallingford*	Expansion and Renovation	\$ 12,884,000	\$ 500,000
Greenwich	Expansion and Renovation	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 138,059
TOTAL		\$ 48,880,998	\$ 3,971,392

CATEGORY #2 (ranked in order of scores). Category #2 is for projects that make buildings handicapped accessible and in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), correct fire or building code violations, remodel to accommodate new technologies, or provide for energy conservation.

TOWN	PROJECT	AMT. OF PROJECT	AMT. OF ST. GRANTS AWARDED
Hamden	Remodeling	\$ 32,839	\$10,946
Salisbury	Energy Conservation and Remodeling	\$75,690	\$25,000
TOTAL		\$108,529	\$35,946

The Connecticut State Library Board approved these Construction Grants on November 22, 2004. The State Bond Commission approved these projects on February 4, 2005

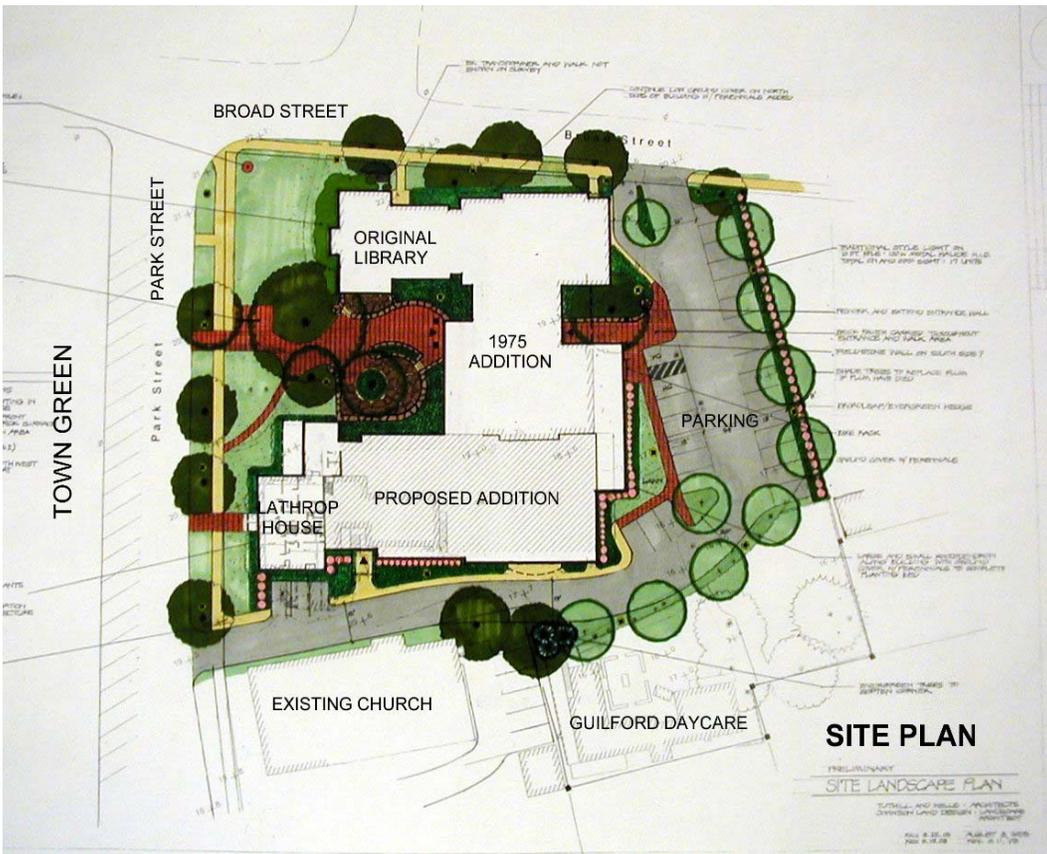
State Public Library Construction grant awards may fund one-third (1/3) of the total cost of a project, with a maximum grant of \$500,000. Next year's grant applications are due on September 1, 2005. If you would like more information about this grant program, contact Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant, Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106, phone: 860-566-2712 or e-mail: mjensen@cslib.org.

**continued*

Proposed Public Library Construction 2005



View from North Main Street
WALLINGFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY



Guilford Public Library

Connecticut Excellence in Public Library Architecture Award 2005

Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant

The Connecticut Excellence in Public Library Architecture Award is given every other year to encourage excellence in the architectural design and functional planning of public library buildings in the state. Awards are given in two categories, libraries under 18,000 square feet and libraries 18,000 square feet and over.

A jury panel consisting of two librarians (Anne Larsen, Associate Library Building Consultant at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Betty Hughes, retired librarian from Maine) and two architects (Frank Adams (Boston, MA), and David Webster, AIA, (Portland, ME)) reviewed and evaluated the thirteen construction projects completed between 1998 and 2003 that were submitted for consideration this year. These projects covered a wide spectrum of building styles and design solutions which made choosing winners a challenge for the jurors.

The 2005 winner for public libraries under 18,000 square feet was Cornwall Free Library. The architect was Kenneth MacLean, Jr, Amsler Woodhouse MacLean, Architects Inc. (Boston, MA). This library, an attractive, light, and airy 6,300 square foot new building located in a small village with a population of 1500, is a focal point of the community. Elements of the building's design reflect those of the rural village buildings and neighboring farms. The heavy timber hemlock post and beam construction relates to the dairy barn at the edge of the village, and the large windows in the library relate to Town Hall windows. People approaching the library at night can see the activities through the windows, and during the day natural lighting floods the library. Patrons entering the building can easily see all of the service areas and are attracted by the appealing color scheme. Although the building has an open layout, the use of furniture clearly defines service areas. Local artists' paintings are displayed in the meeting room. Clear sight lines and the logical layout allow a minimum number of staff to supervise the entire building from the circulation desk. If needed, the site can accommodate future expansion of both the building and parking.

The co-winners for public libraries over 18,000 square feet were the Cragin Memorial Library (Colchester) for its expansion and renovation project of a 20,000 square foot building and the Greenwich Library for its expansion and renovation project of 100,000 square feet.

The Cragin Memorial Library's original building was a 100-year-old 4,000 square foot building located at a busy intersection in the heart of Colchester. The jurors felt that the architect, Bruce Tuthill, Tuthill and Wells, Architects (Avon, CT), took full advantage of the site by having the main entrance off the parking lot at the lower level. Even though the library is located in the heart of Colchester, there is substantial parking on three sides of the building, and it has an accessible drop-off area. The addition complements, but doesn't overpower, the original building because the mass of the addition is broken up with separate components that are in scale with the original building. The exterior materials and

detailing were chosen with understanding and conviction. The library's interior has a pleasing color pallet with good natural and artificial lighting. The interior floor plan is open. Spaces are delineated by carpeting, furniture, shelving, lighting, and signage, which gives the library flexibility to change areas in the future. Within the building there is a logical arrangement of services which make it user-friendly for patrons and easily administered by staff.

A meeting room where artists can display their paintings is located on the lower level as is the children's area which has a separate story hour room. The space for young children is separate and distinct from the area for older children. The adult area in the upper level has quiet study rooms and a variety of seating choices. The original building has been restored to provide both a meeting and a reading room, each with its own fireplace.

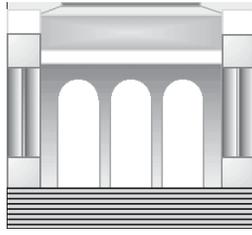
Greenwich Library is a well-executed contemporary urban public building. The architect, Cesar Pelli, Cesar Pelli & Associates (New Haven, CT), successfully incorporated the 1999 addition and renovation project with the existing library that consisted of the former Franklin Simon Department Store, built in 1931 and an addition built in 1967. The street side of the building was designed with respect for surrounding architecture, and on the parking side people can see the activity inside which makes the library inviting. There is substantial parking for 251 cars. The impressive exterior with the new entrance in the middle of the main level allows easy access to the large building.

People entering are greeted by a welcome center with a glass wall behind it, return and check out desks, an impressive metal and wood curved stair suspended from the ceiling, and Main Street, an organizational axis. Natural light streams through the glass wall creating a bright and airy atmosphere. A separate book return desk makes it faster and easier for people to return library materials. The grand stairs orient people and unify the two floors. Entering the second floor from the stairs, one can see the Flinn Art Gallery through a glass wall. Downstairs the organizational axis is defined by a double row of columns. Since this is such a large building, the axis helps orient people to services areas. The reference desk and a generous number of electronic workstations for the public are located near the entrance. There are also hookups for personal laptop computers. The color pallet used throughout the building is attractive. The reuse of the original building was very appealing.

The sponsors of these awards are

- The Connecticut State Library
- The Connecticut Library Association
- The Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB).
- The AIA Connecticut (AIA/CT)
- The Friends of Connecticut Libraries (FOCL)

These awards will be presented to libraries and architects at the CLA conference in April.



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