Send Responses to: Sara Parker
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Jefferson City, MO 65102
(Return by May 10, 2002)

2003 – 2008
Moving Forward Missouri Libraries

Please give your input for Missouri's Five Year Plan for using federal library funds

Missouri's library needs?

- What should be added to or deleted from the list?

- What are the highest priorities?

Goals are proposed in three clusters, the library, the community and the world.

- What do you think of this approach?

- If you want to suggest a different approach, please outline here.

Are there goals that are missing and should be added to the plan?

Are there goals which are not appropriate for Missouri or are not important? Should some of those listed be deleted?

What objectives do you think should be placed under each goal as the strategies for achievement?

What activities do you want to attach to the goals and/or objectives?

Tell us your highest priorities from the strategies and lists:

What other suggestions do you have for this proposed plan?

Is this response from an individual or a group?

Do you want to tell us who?

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Missouri's Library Needs

- Recruiting a new generation of librarians is essential to address the shortage of people entering the library field.
- Ensuring well-trained staff is a continuing need in libraries.
- Library governing bodies should be knowledgeable about societal and budgetary factors which affect library service.
- Libraries play a crucial role in offering electronic resources to their communities, but many libraries lack the funding and training to acquire and use advanced information technologies.
- People need community information, and libraries should be key destinations for this information.
- Libraries should offer or support cultural programs and educational services for their communities.
- Equitable library service should be available to all segments of the population.
- Library staff need to adapt programs and services to address changing demographics in the state.
- Libraries need strong partnerships to serve as resources, to advocate for recognition in their communities, and to expand outreach efforts.

The Library—Supporting Excellence in Service

- All Missourians will feel welcome in the state's libraries.
- An incentive program for careers in the library field will be developed and provided.
- Continuing education and training opportunities for library staff will be supported with local, regional, and statewide programs.
- Governing bodies of libraries will be kept abreast of current library issues as a basis for good decision-making.
- Ongoing support for technology helps libraries function in the electronic environment.
- Libraries will introduce their users to new information technologies for personal learning and enrichment.
- Library collections will be diverse in content as well as formats for all age groups.
- Local and state government information will be available, including access to "electronic only" government documents.
- A new awards program will enable the Secretary of State to acknowledge excellence in library service.

The Community—Reaching Out to Partners

- Multi-type library cooperation at all levels will be encouraged, and successful cooperative programs will provide models for emulation.
- Strong collaborations among libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and the State Library and State Archives will build a cultural heritage infrastructure in Missouri.
- Financial and consultation support will be provided for establishing viable partnerships and other appropriate arrangements to sustain and extend library services.
- Libraries will enter partnerships to promote literate communities.
- Support will be provided for special events and programs in libraries.
- Tools will be developed to promote good public service, effective marketing, establishment of cooperative partnerships, and assessment of local communities for all types of libraries.
- Collaborative collection development among all types of libraries will be explored.
- Conservation and preservation of electronic publications and records will be promoted.
- Public and school libraries will offer programs and services for disadvantaged populations.

The World—Beyond the Here and Now

- An interlocking-collaboration of library leaders from statewide organizations will ensure library progress through shared knowledge of their resources and services.
- An intranet for Missouri libraries will facilitate communication and exchange of ideas among library staff.
- Research to improve library service will be planned, compiled and made available.
- Research results from state, national, and international sources will be communicated to Missouri library staff.
- The contributions of libraries to lifelong learning, economic development, and the overall quality of life in communities will be transmitted to all Missourians.
- Collaborative digital reference service will be available through Missouri libraries.
- New digitization projects will be supported and their content added to "Virtually Missouri."
- "Show Me the World" will continue and expand to include all Missouri libraries.
- Librarians will lead efforts to make organization of the Internet more coherent.