

**Illinois State Library**  
**Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) Projects Funded**  
**July 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016**

**Federal Fiscal Year 2015 (Federal Award ID: LS-00-15-0014-15)**

*LSTA Funds are provided by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) (IMLS) through  
the Grants to State Library Administrative Agencies program.*

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Ninety eight percent of Illinois' LSTA FFY 2015 allotment of \$5,451,043 was awarded in support of twenty projects/activities. The federal fiscal year overlaps two State of Illinois fiscal years; therefore, for continuing projects, amounts listed below may reflect two contracts.

**\$1,880,238**

**Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS)**  
**Support Services for Northern and Western Illinois Libraries**

High quality, regional delivery services were provided to RAILS member libraries through this project. RAILS maintained 24 delivery routes supported by 44 team members, plus the services of an outside contractor to provide weekday delivery services between member libraries. Approximately 9.3 million items were transferred between 1,289 member libraries which enabled resource sharing of books and materials to fulfill patrons' information and reading requests.

**\$1,104,630**

**Illinois State Library (ISL)**  
**OCLC FirstSearch Databases**

In support of statewide needs for access to quality information resources, ISL subscribed to FirstSearch, an online service providing electronic access to a rich collection of reference databases with more than 10 million full-text and full-image articles. Over 1.7 million searches were conducted by patrons and staff from libraries of all types. Underlying FirstSearch is the WorldCat database. Through WorldCat, users quickly found relevant records plus the location of the library from which to request the materials. ISL provided access to the basic FirstSearch databases for every library in the state.

**\$626,746**

**Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS)**  
**Support Services for Central and Southern Illinois Libraries**

The goal of this project was to get library materials into the hands of library patrons as quickly as possible. The IHLS regional delivery service supported the sharing of resources between 525 public, school, academic and special libraries in central and southern Illinois, which resulted in more than 1,000 weekly stops and delivery of 2.5 million items. IHLS delivery focused on the physical transportation of library materials, such as books, between libraries to fulfill the information requests of library users.

**\$622,309**

**Reaching Across Illinois Library System**  
**Talking Book Center: Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center (ITBOC)**

Serving all of Illinois outside of Chicago, ITBOC opened the world of reading to people unable to read standard print due to a physical or visual limitation. This included for example, people with Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, stroke victims and paralysis. ITBOC enriched the lives of 11,729 people by providing access to audio and braille books, magazines and players via US mail or materials downloaded to smart phones or tablets. Reader advisors connected patrons to books, equipment and apps. Through 25,630 phone calls, letters, and e-mails, people reached out to ITBOC.

**\$532,226**

**Chicago Public Library (CPL)**  
**Talking Book Center**

The CPL Talking Book Center provided a full range of high quality services and programs for Chicago residents of all ages unable to read print comfortably due to visual or physical limitations. The Center provided reference and readers' advisory services, reading materials in braille, audio and accessible formats; as well as other resources including descriptive videos and assistive technology equipment. In total CPL Talking Book Center staff coordinated 40 events and programs, circulated 92,567 items, served 1,045 walk-ins, handled 7,548 telephone calls, answered 941 emails, processed 346 new applications, conducted over 40 outreach events and provided 37 tours.

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**\$275,337**

**Illinois Heartland Library System**

**Talking Book Center: Illinois Machine Sublending Agency (IMSA)**

IMSA maintained the machine and accessory inventory and loaned equipment statewide to registered users of the National Library Service's (NLS) Talking Book and Braille Services program. Individuals unable to easily read standard print due to blindness, a visual or physical impairment or certain learning disabilities were eligible. IMSA also provided technical support for the Braille and Audio Reading Download program, an NLS service that allows registered users to download reading materials in braille and audio form. Services were provided in cooperation with and following the standards and guidelines of the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Services and the NLS/Library of Congress.

**\$72,698.77**

**Illinois State Library**

**Resource Sharing**

The Illinois State Library purchased 145 current serials in print and electronic formats to meet the information needs of state government. A variety of government related business reference and educational topics including transportation, agriculture, environmental services, and human services were purchased and made available for statewide resource sharing.

**\$59,894**

**Illinois State Library (ISL)**

**Counting Opinions**

ISL contracted with Counting Opinions (SQUIRE) Ltd. to collect, compare and analyze data about Illinois libraries. Through their products, ISL facilitated a statewide library performance assessment that enabled libraries and library systems to collect, review, approve and report on the quantitative aspects (performance metrics) of library performance. ISL used Counting Opinions for two major data collections: the Illinois Public Library Annual Reports (IPLAR) and ILLINET interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing statistics. Libraries continue to have real-time and on-demand access to the data for operational and advocacy purposes and peer benchmarking that incorporates qualitative and quantitative results.

**\$57,939.10**

**Illinois State Library (ISL)**

**Continuing Education for Librarians**

ISL enhanced the skills and knowledge of the Illinois library workforce through in-person and online continuing education opportunities. Two statewide, targeted, affordable and relevant in-person educational programs to educate Illinois' library workforce were offered: ILEADU and Synergy combined social technologies and leadership training for the purpose of heightening awareness of library services and providing opportunities to collaborate on innovative projects that addressed community needs. Especially for those library staff that faced challenges traveling to in-person training, two subscription services, Adobe Connect and WebJunction, allowed ISL to deliver online training statewide.

**\$12,500**

**LaSalle Public Library**

**Project Next Generation**

The Project Next Generation program at the LaSalle Public Library empowered youth (ages 10 to 14) - the next generation "millennial" – to become savvy, responsible, and outstanding digital citizens. With the development of Common Core Information Literacy Standards, educators have defined a digital citizen as an individual who has a sense of right from wrong, exhibits intelligent technology behavior and makes good choices when using technology. In this program, students increased their understanding of what it means to be a digital citizen while expanding their technology skills via digital technologies used to create content for social media and other media types.

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**\$10,630**

**Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS)**  
**OCLC Support for Member Libraries**

IHLS supported the statewide resource sharing functionality of the OCLC/ILLINET Network. Billing and receiving support were provided to the network of approximately 1,200 member libraries statewide. Working collaboratively with the Illinois State Library staff, IHLS processed transactional-based and group services invoices and receipts on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. This project allowed for an update of the Traverse accounting software and as a result, IHLS finance staff fully utilized the software to the extent of its potential.

**\$10,065.29**

**Illinois State Library (ISL)**  
**Certification**

The Certification project was both an educational process and vetting tool that served to ensure libraries were meeting statutory requirements. Training emphasized statutory requirements for membership in a regional library system as well as the basis for a library to be eligible for services and grants from ISL. 1,822 public, school, academic and special library agencies completed the online certification during which they reviewed and confirmed compliance with the required system membership criteria as outlined in Illinois statute and rule, and reviewed requirements to meet or exceed standards for continuous improvement.

**\$8,462**

**Decatur Public Library**  
**Project Next Generation**

Through Project Next Generation, the Decatur Public Library offered educational opportunities for area youth to develop their skills using technologies. The students learned about library resources, research strategies, computer basic, and public speaking; and discussed topics such as community engagement, civil actions and media events. Mentors guided the students through activities. The sessions laid a foundation for creating long-term relationships to meet and discuss civic responsibilities and strategies for the students to become agents of change in the community.

**\$8,406**

**Pekin Public Library**  
**Project Next Generation**

Project Next Generation encouraged students in 7th and 8th grades to use modeling software, import and augment stock 3D designs, design and print their own creations and to troubleshoot 3D printing issues. 3D printing helped the students understand design and engineering concepts as the activities took students from an image drawn on paper to the image existing on a computer screen to an item that was printed in three dimensions. Projects increased technology literacy and positioned the library as a place for lifelong learning.

**\$8,400**

**Brimfield Public Library District**  
**Project Next Generation**

The Brimfield Public Library provided opportunities for youth in this rural Illinois community to develop new technical skills through collaborative, hands-on learning. With the help of library staff and three mentors, a total of 42 students learned online search strategies, edited existing 3D models, designed new 3D models, and experienced 3D printing. Grant funds were used to purchase technology and supplies, including a 3D printer and new laptops, which would otherwise have been inaccessible to students due to low family income or unusable due to limited Internet access. Programs and one-on-one mentoring helped students develop technical skills, critical thinking skills and confidence.

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**\$8,137**

**Joliet Public Library**

**Project Next Generation**

Project Next Generation was an after school program for students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades at the Joliet Public Library. A total of 325 students worked with new technologies they would otherwise not be able to access. Many of the participants were from low income households and did not have a computer in their household. The program offered access to drone flying, programmable robots, 3D pens, e-textile wearable art, circuit drawing kits, and programmable light activated spheres. Four mentors guided the students on use of the new technologies and through the activities.

**\$7,950**

**Carbondale Public Library**

**Project Next Generation**

Project Next Generation provided students in the 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades opportunities to learn and interact with their peers in a safe and encouraging environment. Participants gained exposure to the arts, sciences, and technology through a variety of engaging activities. Students accessed and learned to utilize a wide variety of technology for both learning and leisure. Activities were interactive, engaged all the senses and incorporated all learning styles, from visual to kinetic. Participants developed practical intellectual and life skills, cultivated creativity, developed confidence and formed a social network of peers from schools all over the area.

**\$7,845**

**Zion-Benton Public Library District**

**ZB University (Project Next Generation)**

The ZB University program at the Zion-Benton Public Library targeted technology and digital literacy gaps of teen patrons. Middle school students were engaged with hands-on, interest driven and academically oriented experiences with current technologies. ZB University was divided into two quarters; the first quarter focused on 3D design and printing and the second quarter exposed students to the technological career of disc-jockeying. The teens attending became proficient in the featured equipment, software programs and technological devices. Participants learned vital 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that connected their interests to academic achievement and future career opportunities.

**\$7,700**

**Matteson Public Library**

**Y Reach at MAPLD (Project Next Generation)**

Through the "Y Reach at MAPLD" program, Matteson Area Public Library District provided opportunities for area youth to engage with technology both as a set of skills to be mastered and as a powerful tool to be used in everyday activities such as doing homework, communicating with friends, and researching interests for future academic, professional goals and personal development. Through technology-rich activities particularly useful in fueling project-based learning, MAPLD provided a stimulating arena in which youth worked together to solve problems, meet challenges, and create products and artifacts. This intrinsically motivating project-based learning allowed area youth to establish tasks and goals.

**\$7,603**

**Harrisburg Public Library District**

**Project Next Generation**

Harrisburg District Library hosted a Project Next Generation program providing technology related instruction to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The library's goal was to provide students with technology skills necessary in school as well as in everyday life. The students worked with Microsoft Word and Power Point, learned about digital cameras, and utilized engaging and educational websites. The program encouraged cooperation and students developed problem solving skills by working together on various projects.

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