SDLA Legislative Platform 2013

STATE of DISCOVERY
Libraries for the 21st Century

To connect school libraries and public libraries using cloud-based technology enabling all students and citizens of South Dakota to discover existing library and information resources. This project would create the path for our libraries to become 21st century libraries for the benefit of education based on the Common Core, while fostering economic development and strengthening communities.

Analysis:

The State Library evaluation conducted in 2006 by Dr. Mary Bushing prepared a roadmap for state programs that support libraries. As a result of the Bushing study, the State Library has been reconfigured and is now poised to launch a new strategic planning process. As a starting point, initiatives identified in the previous study will be brought forth for consideration and planning. A critical remaining need is implementation of technology to create a network of school and public libraries utilizing an appropriate platform. Through use of a discovery layer system this new network would work in tandem with the SDLN libraries. Dr. Bushing states "…there is no question that the citizens deserve a network that gives all of them access to shared resources." After initial start-up there would be an ongoing need for operational subsidies based on a cost-sharing formula.

Background:

78% of SD public libraries are the sole provider of free access to the Internet in their communities. Libraries serve as portals to web-based information for their communities and foster economic development by supporting entrepreneurs, research and job-seekers.

Each day SD K-12 school libraries assist 10,852 students and instruct 1,112 classes providing a collaborative program for learning and teaching across all Common Core content areas.
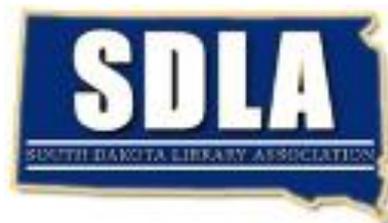
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The State Library has implemented its Strategic Plan eliminating direct library services to citizens who have no local library. As a result, creative programs and strategies must now be developed for providing next-generation library services.

The South Dakota Library Network is a model of collaboration that can be the spring-board for comprehensive statewide library technology.

Libraries offer an opportunity for everyone in South Dakota to succeed, regardless of income, ethnicity or language. Libraries support lifelong learning.

Communities that invest in their libraries understand that the provided services, re-sources, technology and staff enrich the quality of life. Libraries build and strengthen communities.

South Dakota Library Association

http://www.sdlibraryassociation.org