



LIBRARY SERVICES FOR THE UNSERVED

GOAL

To work with the State Library to create opportunities for providing library services to all citizens of South Dakota, regardless of geographic location, in a fair and equitable manner.

BACKGROUND

- 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 library services to citizens left without essential library services. These strategies are dependent upon
 - *local* investment in and support of library service
 - financial assistance for interlibrary borrowing
 - a stable budget and staff for the South Dakota State Library
- 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, resources, technology and staff enrich the quality of life. Libraries build and strengthen communities.
- South Dakota's new information-based economy requires a highly trained and competitive workforce. Libraries encourage economic development by creating technology literate communities.
- Libraries preserve South Dakota's culture by providing a link to the past and a bridge to the future. Informed citizens are essential to a healthy democracy.

FUNDING

The State Library needs to be fully-funded and staffed to create new programs that ensure equal access to library resources for all South Dakota citizens. The State Library budget needs to be additionally funded to offer financial assistance for interlibrary borrowing. In addition, support of library services to the underserved will require "local" investment. Federal funding sources such as LSTA need to be leveraged for the benefit of the underserved. Alternative funding methods need to be explored.



South Dakota Library Association
www.sdlibraryassociation.org