



THE INFORMATION NETWORK FOR OHIO SCHOOLS

What LSTA Funds Have Meant to Ohio Schools

LSTA and the School Library

In 1996 at Wheelersburg High School the library was a very busy place. Automation of materials had been completed several years earlier with vendor software, and we believed we were "moving forward". By the end of the school year, I had attended a few professional meetings and realized how really far behind we were falling.

Our students at the elementary and middle school had no way of knowing what was in the H.S library. The card catalogue had been removed as a sign of our "progressive automated movement", and the only way you could see our holdings was to physically come to the H.S. during school hours and look at a terminal database. I realized other schools across the state were not handicapped by single building holdings and information. They were using INFOhio connections to share catalogs and materials, as well as using the web-based lines to share between all buildings in their districts. I was envious but realized that in a small rural district in Appalachia, there was no way we could have the funds to become so fortunate.

"Today, they can view and renew items borrowed at Shawnee State University (15 miles away), request a loan from nine other schools in our county, and research a multitude of electronic databases provided by INFOhio. "

- Nancy J. Nickell

Then, in the Spring of 1997, I heard about grant monies that were being offered that would automate our district's three libraries (students and teachers could finally share and view all holdings) and become part of a statewide network of school

libraries. The grant was accepted and the following year was spent converting files, affixing barcodes and installing equipment in three libraries. Professional help was made available through our DA-SITE (SCOCA) and INFOhio and a dream became a reality!!

It is hard to believe that just 5 years ago; our students were able to access only an aging and limited library collection. All of our grade levels share the resources and our teachers can plan units without worrying if materials that are appropriate to student learning are contained in their building library.

And if that is not enough, there was an unexpected event as a result of the LSTA grant. At the high school, Library Science is offered as a 1/2 credit course. Students work in the library to circulate materials, help students with electronic searches, and perform other library related tasks. Before the LSTA grant, the circulation desk was not equipped with a barcode reader or a computer that could be viewed other than behind a closed small area. In the fall of 1997, a female student wanted to take Library Science but was concerned about her ability to function since she was confined to a wheelchair as a result of Cerebral Palsy. As a paraplegic, she wasn't sure she could perform her class assignments. As a result of the LSTA grant changes, Amy not only took Library Science and learned the functions of a library; she has worked the last two summers at the Portsmouth Public Library and is making plans to pursue a degree in Library Science and a career as a public librarian. ***LSTA HAS NOT ONLY CHANGED THE LIBRARY; IT HAS CHANGED THE STUDENT LEARNING AT WHEELERSBURG!***

Nancy J. Nickell, Librarian
Wheelersburg High School, Scioto County

As we near the end of another school year, I would like to express my gratitude for the LSTA grant our school received last year. The funds from this grant have allowed us to computerize our high school and elementary libraries.

As a result, students have been more successful at finding the materials they need, and I have been more able to direct them toward those materials. In addition, we have cut our lost materials to a minimum, because the system allows easier tracking. The job of cataloging and preparing books has been streamlined.

These grants, as administered by the State Library of Ohio, have been invaluable to the school librarians of this state. Without them, most of us would be years away from being able to achieve this upgrading of our libraries.

Penny Van Vlerah, Library Media Specialist
Millcreek-West Unity, Williams County

“The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) was enacted on September 30, 1996 and enables public, school, academic, and special libraries to apply for federal library funds. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) the agency, which oversees the Library Services and Technology Act, provides LSTA funds each year to the State Library of Ohio. The Institute of Museum and Library Services, is a federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and lifetime of learning, through the support of museum and library programs.”

*- Northwest Ohio Computer Association
2000-2001 LSTA Press Release*

“Without such grant funding, our district would not have been able to automate any of our libraries. The available local funding simply would not have been there, and our students would not have been taught the necessary skills needed for use in public and, later, college libraries.

- Mary Williams

Words cannot express my appreciation for being able to be a part of the LSTA grant.

We received equipment we never dreamed of having. We now have two computers designated for electronic card catalog so this allows other computers to be available for other student research. We also have a printer available for student use in the library.

Student use of the electronic card catalog has increased with the instruction of how to use the Web Cat and Web Cat Jr. All of this would not have been possible without the help and support of our local DA-Site. They are a wonderful group of people to work with.

Luann Schroeder, Library Aide
Ottawa Elementary School
Ottawa-Glandorf Local Schools, Putnam County

As a small school district with less than 1000 students in grades K-12, we would never have been able to afford to automate on our own. By participating in the LSTA grant, our students will have greater and more efficient access to our own materials and to those of our nearby Defiance Public Library. Once we begin to use the automated system for circulation, I anticipate having more time to work directly with students since I will be spending less time on circulation procedures.

Florence Dielman, Library Media Specialist
Ayersville Local School District, Defiance County

“The LSTA Grant has opened new doors for the students and staff at C.D.Brillhart and expanded our resources while preparing us for even greater things to come from INFOhio.”

- Sandy Lange

We have a number of students that are involved in post secondary options programs at Northwest State Community College. They come to my library media center when they are with us to look for information for their classes at the community college as well as those they take with us. The INFOhio databases help me meet their needs for materials that I would not have in my collection. My automated card catalog helps them become more at ease in searching and more willing to use the resources at Northwest. If programs such as post secondary options are going to be successful, we will need to have the resources to support them at the high school level. Our students need to have access to the right resources at the right time no matter where they are at any given time. LSTA funds can play a critical role in helping us provide these resources to all students who need them.

John Myles, Library Media Specialist
Liberty Center Local School, Henry County

I first became aware of INFOhio several years back as I read their Vision Statement in a brochure: “INFOhio, a partner in Ohio’s library network, ensures, the free delivery, quality, format and equity of information for learners and educators by embracing appropriate, emerging technologies used in school, home, and community.” Napoleon Area Schools has come a long way since first reading that brochure.

Soon after our media specialist attended an informational meeting on the LSTA Grant being offered to area schools. The timeline for the grant was explained and carried out as planned. NWOCA is on top of things and is our link to providing us the essentials we need such as additional training, trouble shooting, support, etc. in addition to their dedicated work on the LSTA Grant. Their expertise has been invaluable to our success in automating three libraries within Napoleon Area Schools. I feel very fortunate to have been involved with this project and to have the opportunity to work with NWOCA and other INFOhio professionals.

INFOhio has created a whole new concept of the school library. With the library automation in my building, C.D.Brillhart Library, it has created electronic resources beyond my wildest dreams! INFOhio’s school library union catalog is awesome. Just knowing that we have access to this at our finger tips is unbelievable to me yet. Being able to share the on-line resources that the students and staff needs using one system and a union catalog has greatly expanded our mere 4000+ volumes. As one of the elementary school libraries in Napoleon School District, the library receives very little of the allocated budget to purchase new materials. We rely a great deal on donations and fund raisers. The LSTA Grant has opened new doors for the students and staff at C.D.Brillhart and expanded our resources while preparing us for even greater things to come from INFOhio. Everyday, we experience that INFOhio is truly the information network for Ohio schools.

Sandy Lange, Library Assistant
C.D. Brillhart Elementary Library
Napoleon Area Schools, Henry County

The Central Local School system is a consolidation of four small, rural, village schools, which came together in 1958. Within our district, there is no major manufacturing or other similar means of tax revenue which explains why in the history of the district there has been great difficulty in passing operating levies (as well as the building funds for a centralized high school built in 1966 and an attached middle school built in 1972 when the existing buildings were declared unfit).

In the year 2000, the district ranked 139 from the bottom out of 612 schools in Ohio on the equity list. This enabled our district to apply for equity funds, and along with a levy passed by the voters, is allowing for a new, centralized elementary school (to be completed in 2002) to replace two early 1900 structures.

With the tight budgets our district has always had, grant money allowed us to automate the high school-middle school library in 1992. The LSTA grant we most recently were granted is allowing the automation of one of the two current elementary schools for the coming year. (The other elementary building does not have the needed external lines). It will also enable the new elementary building to be completely automated upon its opening in 2002.

Without such grant funding, our district would not have been able to automate any of our libraries. The available local funding simply would not have been there, and our students would not have been taught the necessary skills needed for use in public and, later, college libraries. Besides the actual automating of the libraries through INFOhio, we also access the Union Catalog, which allows us to search for MARC records and to discover what books are available on various subjects. In addition, the training, which the LSTA grant has provided, has been invaluable in learning how to effectively use the INFOhio system.

It is our sincere hope that such grants as the LSTA will continue to be available for those districts, which are in need of financial help.

Mary M. Williams, Media Specialist
Central Local Schools, Defiance County

“Our students need to have access to the right resources at the right time no matter where they are at any given time. LSTA funds can play a critical role in helping us provide these resources to all students who need them.”

- John Myles

When Right to Read Week came along, with the school's slogan, "Pig-out on reading," the library clerk thought a search for pig books in the new electronic catalog would be a great trial of efficiency and accuracy. Sure enough, 36 books appeared with 'pig' as part of the title or in the subject heading! All books were pulled and a display was established.

The principal challenged her students to surpass reading a specific quota of books -- to 'pig-out on reading.' If the students succeeded, she'd kiss a pig during a celebratory assembly. Well, sure enough, they did read far beyond their challenge. A pig farmer brought not one, but three pigs for the assembly. Little, sweet piglets is what the principal had in mind, but instead the pigs were each a hefty 20+ pounds -- only 5 weeks old. She cradled each, kissed each, and simply hogged the show. At noon, one of the teachers had enough courage to tell the principal she stank... like a pig. (A quick trip to Old Navy for sweet-smelling overalls saved the afternoon.) When the pig farmer learned the principal was going to actually kiss his animals, he regretted not bringing his 350 pound boar!

Barb Reynolds
Lake County Educational Service Center