

Bryan J. Babin

Phone: (225) 342-6759, E-mail: BBabin@CRT.State.LA.US

EXPERIENCE

Information Technology Coordinator *November 2007 to present*
Information Technology Department, State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA

- Provide overall managerial direction & leadership to the IT Department staff. Oversee the provision of tech support for telecommunications & databases for all 68 public library systems statewide. Reach understanding & resolve issues with other managers & staff, on strategies & implementation of major projects. Keep State Library & IT staff informed about new projects, enhancements, needs and new system functionality as needed.
- Reach decisions and implement them based on quality service standards, cost-effectiveness of library operations, state & library policy. Research software & hardware needs making well informed decisions. Develop & enforce standards for quality customer service & responsive help desk team. Consult with public libraries on equipment needs & technology planning. Maintain inventory of all hardware and software licenses in the State Library.

Information Technology Technical Support Specialist II *June 2005 to November 2007*
Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, Baton Rouge, LA

- Primary Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE), Cluster Administrator, Technical Advisor, & Network Administrator. Design solutions, request price quotes, installs, configures, manages and maintains LAN, WAN, & enterprise hardware and software. Co-administrator for fiber storage-area networks (SAN), Linux Servers & power-management systems.
- Providing lead technical skill, monitor performance & training to Department's junior-level technical staff. Primary Backup Administrator using Enterprise level backup hardware & software products. Works on special projects. Designing, interface with vendors, requesting price quotes, and purchase, for the addition or replacement of all networked nodes.

Owner & Operator *August 1988 to November 2007*
Babin Networking Services, Inc, Gonzales, LA & Berlin, Germany

- Prepare customer bids & negotiate maintenance contracts. Consult with customer's senior management on the utilization of data processing equipment & procedures to maximize productivity and security. Analyze company policies, procedures, forms, and reports then design and implement improvements to increase efficiency of data processing. Create and implement bench marks to monitor productivity. Create and implement customer maintenance programs.
- Design, configure, and implement Enterprise level LAN/WAN systems.
- Inventory customers' systems maintain, update, and repair existing networks, computers, and peripherals. Install, patch, and update operating systems and other software programs.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

Past & present certifications spanning a 25-year period include; Certified Cryptographic repairmen (US Army 4-years); Certified Novell Engineer (CNE); Compaq ASE (Accredited Systems Engineer); HP Desktop, Laser Printer, Server Engineer; Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)

Resume
Diane M. Brown

State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

225-342-4923
dbrown@crt.state.la.us

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2004-present *STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA*, Baton Rouge, LA

Oversee all aspects of library operations including public services, technical services, special services and information technology services. Operational departments consist of approximately 60 staff. Work with Library Development in planning services to public libraries.

1991-2004 *SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY NETWORK, (now Lyrasis)* Atlanta, GA

Accomplishments included:

- Oversaw 17% increase in SOLINET training output and formalized program of synchronous distance education efforts.
- Performed extensive analysis of workshop and training efforts including financial forecasting, pricing, cancellation rates, topic and geographic coverage.
- Expanded SOLINET's consulting expertise to include workflow audits, cost analyses, strategic planning and establishment of performance standards.
- Oversaw implementation of physically-separate technical helpdesk, electronic discussion lists and restructuring of department.
- Developed new workshops and coordinated workshop development and presentation for several large state-wide training endeavors: GALILEO, FLA DLLI, Kentucky FirstSearch, NC LIVE, Magnolia, VIVA.

1977-1991 *CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY BICENTENNIAL LIBRARY SYSTEM (CHCBL)*, Chattanooga, TN

EDUCATION

M.S.L.I.S University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1981. Library Science.

B.A. University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, 1973. English.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- "Cost Principles: 2 CFR Part 220 (A-21), 225 (A-87), 230 (A-122), and FAR 31.2." IMLS, 2008.
- "License Review & Negotiation: Building a Team-Based Institutional Process." ARL, 2001.
- "Masterful Consultation Skills: a 'How To' Workshop on the Craft of Consulting." Schreiber Shannon Assoc, 2001.
- "Essential Facilitation, Core Skills for Guiding Groups." 1999.
- "Writing More Effective Proposals & Reports." SOLINET, 1999.

Jerome Cummings
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-0131
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EXPERIENCE

Library Consultant, Continuing Education *August 2007 to present*
Library Development Division, State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA

- State Continuing Education and Training Coordinator – aid public libraries needing training in the areas of Database and Information Services; Computer and Technical Services; and Access Services. Help create various learning environments and formats designed to inform and make aware national and state trends and policies. Assist with employing a Train-the-Trainer method of instruction so that information and knowledge is passed to public staff and onto the end-user.
- Consult with public librarians on topics in public library management and administration, such as policy writing, library laws, personnel issues, statistics, and other general library questions.

Librarian IV, Administrative Services *May 2006 to August 2007*
Lafayette Parish Public Library, Lafayette, LA

- Assisted the Library Director and Library Operations Manager in the day-to-day operations of the Lafayette Parish Library System, which serves a population of over 200,000 and has a budget of approximately \$7.1 million per year with eight library branches and a staff over 100.
- Assisted with the planning and development of new libraries and in development and administration of library policies. Supervised multiple departments with a staff of over 20.
- Provided some database management for the library's Automated System.
- Supervised and proctored distance learning courses.
- Shared responsibility for working with the E-Rate process, which included technology planning, receiving proposals, and obtaining funds. Also, worked on obtaining other grants and prepared activity and progress reports. Worked with vendors in implementing new technologies.

Assistant Professor of Library Science, Department Head *March 2002 to May 2006*
Fazar Memorial Library, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA

- Managed operations of the Interlibrary Loan and Distance Education Department.
- Planned, scheduled, and coordinated software and equipment upgrades.
- Provided quarterly and annual reports to the Director on departmental performance measures.
- Taught university course in library and information science for both aspiring teachers and secondary school administrators.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL *April 2001*
Master of Library and Information Science

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL *December 1998*
Bachelor of Science, Environmental Science

Executive Certificate from State Board of Library Examiners 2008

Rebecca Hamilton



September 2006 Executive Certification Renewal, State Board of Library Examiners
September 2001 Executive Certification, State Board of Library Examiners
December 1995 Masters of Library & Information Science-Louisiana State University
December 1991 Bachelor of Arts, Psychology-Louisiana State University

July 2005-Present **State Librarian, State Library of Louisiana**

- Works closely with the Secretary of DCRT and the Lt. Governor on all legislative issues that affect public libraries including monitoring state and federal legislation on behalf of the public libraries
- Serves as the appointing authority for all State Library councils, committees and advisory groups
- Oversees a budget of 13 million dollars and a staff of seventy one (71) that provide library service to all state employees, the general public and Louisiana's 336 public libraries
- Responsible for increasing the budget through the budgeting process. Doubled state aid first year in office from 1.5 million to 3 million.
- Oversees the administration of state and federal grants and private donations to public libraries
- Develops and implements state and federal strategic plans for the Office of the State Library and also works with local officials and library administrators on strategic planning for statewide library service
- 20 years experience working with public libraries, 15 of which I served as an administrator (director or assistant director) of a public library

July 2003-July 2005 **Associate State Librarian, State Library of Louisiana**

- Facilitated the creation of a unique early literacy program for children under the age of 6
- Coordinated technology planning and e-rate applications for all 336 public libraries, making sure they complied with all FCC and Schools and Libraries Division regulations—resulting in 2 million dollars worth of telecommunications credits for the state
- Monitored state and federal legislation for State Librarian, interpreted changes and laws to public library directors and advised them of proper procedures and legal issues
- Oversaw statewide collection and reporting of public library statistics
- Assisted in development of State Library strategic plan for use of LSTA funds and submitted LAPAS (Louisiana Performance Accountability System) statistics for entire state library on a quarterly basis
- Conducted periodic needs analyses to ascertain staff development and training needs of public library staff, as well as budgeted for and delivered the training and evaluated its effectiveness
- Hired and managed six professional librarians who provide consulting services to public libraries
- Acted as advocate for superior professional library service in Louisiana by serving on the State Board of Library Examiners that assess the qualifications of individual librarians and administers certifications; and by providing job interview training and presenting job opportunities to graduate students at the LSU School of Library and Information Science

June 1989-June 2002 Director, St. Mary Parish Library
Assistant Director, Audubon Regional Library
Assistant Director, St. Mary Parish Library
Assistant Director, Terrebonne Parish Library

Margaret Crockett Harrison

State Library of Louisiana
701 N 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-0131
(225) 342 - 4942
mharrison@slol.lib.la.us

QUALIFICATIONS: Six years of experience and commitment to library service to special populations, particularly blind, visually impaired, disabled, and elderly persons. More than 20 years experience as a professional reference librarian. Familiarity with assistive technology and adaptive devices used in home, library and work environments. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Excellent presentation skills, developed through teaching and training background. Experienced in making outreach presentations to a wide variety of audiences. Skilled in handling long term projects, setting goals and evaluating progress. Experience with developing budgets, writing reports and purchasing specialized equipment and supplies. Strong leadership skills, experience interviewing, training, motivating and counseling employees.

EDUCATION

MLIS, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 1988
BA in Psychology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 1977

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

State Library of Louisiana, Outreach Services, 2006 -present

Coordinator of Outreach Services

Direct Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and Louisiana Voices audio book recording studio; direct outreach to special populations.

Head, Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH) 2003 -2006

Manage all aspects of a special library within the State Library of Louisiana, including reference service and reader advisory, circulation, budgeting, purchasing, and personnel. Supervise a staff of twelve.

Senior Reference Librarian 1998-2003

Provide reference and research service to the patrons of the State and public libraries. Assist with book selection. Develop and present workshops.

Louisiana State University, Middleton Library, 1995-1998 and prior

Reference Librarian and Instructor

Taught Library and Information Science 1001, an undergraduate library research skills class. Provided reference assistance to the students, faculty and staff of Louisiana State University.

Margaret Huddleston Placke
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Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-0131
Phone: (225) 342-4931, E-mail: mhuddleston@slol.lib.la.us

EXPERIENCE

Library Consultant, E-rate and Technology *March 2008 to present*
Library Development Division, State Library of Louisiana

- State E-rate Coordinator for public libraries – aid public libraries throughout the E-rate process, attend annual E-rate training and work with other state coordinators, conduct training and workshops for the public librarians, certify technology plans, compile E-rate applications, assist libraries with organizing E-rate documentation and with handling audits and reviews. Aid in planning and support for the state network including overseeing statewide bandwidth upgrade project.
- Consult with public librarians on topics in public library management and administration, such as policy writing, library laws, personnel issues, statistics, and other general library questions.
- Act as the webmaster for parts of the State Library website and Extranet, including posting job opportunities and updating directories.

Assistant Director/Director of Operations *February 2005 to November 2007*
Administration, Lafourche Parish Public Library

- Assisted the Library Director in the day-to-day operations of the Lafourche Parish Library System, which serves a population of 90,000 and has a budget of approximately \$3.5 million per year with nine library branches and a staff of fifty.
- Responsible for the planning and development of new libraries and in development and administration of library policies.
- Responsible for working with the E-Rate process, which included technology planning, releasing bids, receiving proposals, and obtaining funds. Also, worked on obtaining grants and aid for the library system and prepared statistical reports.

Branch Librarian and Reference Librarian *January 2003 to February 2005*
M.S. Utey Memorial Library, Lafourche Parish Public Library *November 2007 to January 2008*

- Managed a staff of approximately ten assistants which included handling orientation of new staff, training of staff, and evaluating staff performance.
- Handled branch operations including collection development, reference, circulation, and program development.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA *December 2002*
Master of Library and Information Science

Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA *Summer 2000*
Bachelor of Arts, English – Summa Cum Laude

Executive Certificate from State Board of Library Examiners *2007*

Sara M. Taffae

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████████████████████
225-219-4647 staffae@slol.lib.la.us

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1996- Present - State Library of Louisiana I/T Department

- Library Systems Administrator – Managing technical aspects of the Horizon ILS, Auto-Graphics statewide Interlibrary Loan System, assisting public libraries with library automation issues. Assisting staff with Horizon problems – maintain servers, and backups.
- Project coordinator for Gate’s foundation “PACHUG” Grant.
- Backup to E-rate coordinator. Attended federal training and conducted workshops statewide.
- Initial setup of the Horizon Library System
- Initial setup of the Galaxy Library System and its administration.
- Setup of initial network cabling and mail server. Assisting public libraries with networking and the Internet.

1979-1996 State Library of Louisiana

- Head, ILL and Serials – responsible for training, installation of Lasernet Interlibrary Loan System. Conducted workshops in house and throughout the state.
- Reference Librarian
- Audio-Visual Librarian

EDUCATION

Certificate of Advanced Study in Library Automation - Louisiana State University

MLS - Louisiana State University

BS Geology – Colorado State University

Dorothy J. White
225-342-4931

EDUCATION:

M.L.S., Master of Library Science, 1974, Louisiana State University

B.M., Bachelor of Music, 1972, Louisiana State University

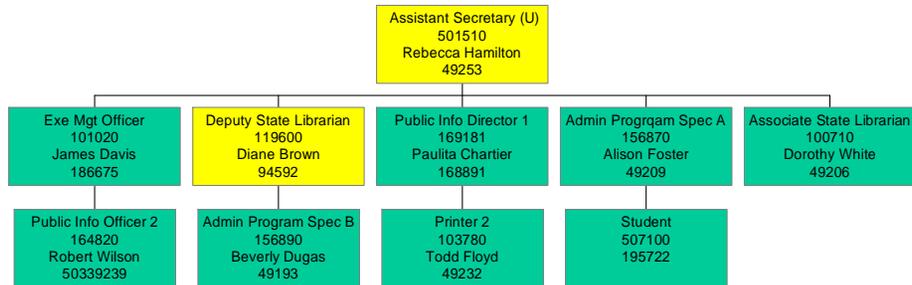
PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION:

Certified by the Louisiana State Board of Library Examiners

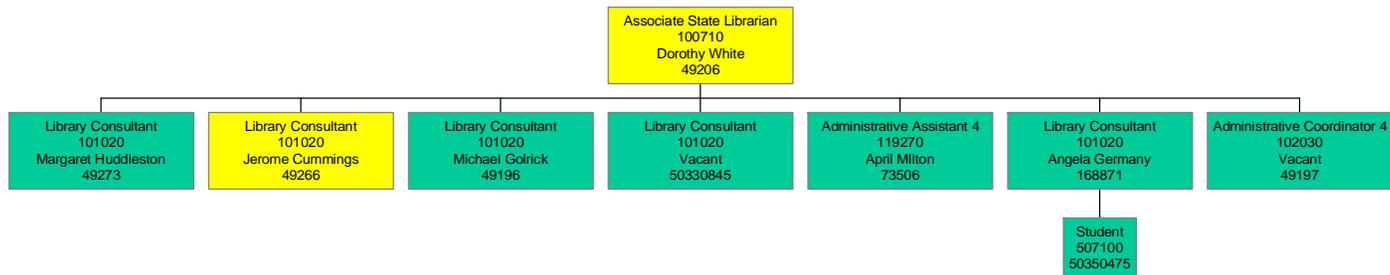
EMPLOYMENT:

- 1974 Louisiana Legislative Council. Baton Rouge, La.
Librarian
- Reference Librarian, created cataloging system for library collection
- 1974-80 East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Baton Rouge, La.
Librarian I – 1974-76
- General Reference and Louisiana Documents Librarian
- Librarian II – 1976-80*
- Young Adult Librarian, outreach program to junior high and high schools
- 1980-85 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.
Intern
- Various graduate assistantships while working on advanced degree
- 1986-88 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.
Research Associate
- Editor, grant writer, and graphics assistant for faculty and staff
- 1988-current State Library of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, La.
Librarian III – 1988
- Work with state agencies to organize and assess information needs
- Library Manager I – 1988-91*
- Manage Audiovisual Resource Center
- Public Library Consultant – 1991-2007*
- Consult with public library administrators and boards of 68 parish libraries.
- Associate State Librarian – 2007-current*
- Coordinate technology planning and e-rate applications for all public libraries
 - Project coordinator for the IMLS 21st Century Laura Bush grant, “Executive Leadership Training for Louisiana Librarians” (2008-2010).
 - Monitor state and federal legislation for State Librarian, interpret changes in laws to public library directors and advise them of proper procedures and legal issues
 - Oversee statewide collection and reporting of public library statistics
 - Assist in development of State Library strategic plan for use of LSTA funds
 - Oversee distribution of \$3 million in state aid funds to public libraries
 - Conduct periodic needs analyses for staff development and training needs of public library staff; budget for and deliver the training; evaluate its effectiveness
 - Hire and manage six professional library consultants for public libraries
 - Act as advocate for superior professional library service in Louisiana by serving on the State Board of Library Examiners to certify individual librarians
 - Travel extensively across the state to meet with librarians, trustees and local government officials providing advice, training and presentations on how to enhance their library programs

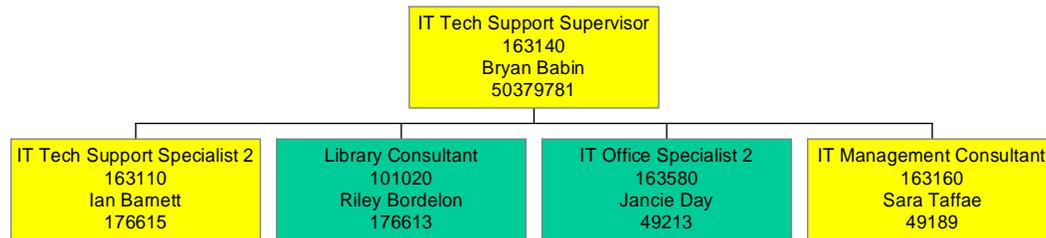
State Library of Louisiana Administration



State Library of Louisiana Library Development



State Library of Louisiana Information Technology



Certifications and Signature

(i) I certify that I am authorized to submit this grant application on behalf of the eligible entity(ies) listed on this application, that I have examined this application, that all of the information and responses in this application, including certifications, and forms submitted, all of which are part of this grant application, are material representations of fact and true and correct to the best of my knowledge, that the entity(ies) that is requesting grant funding pursuant to this application and any subgrantees and subcontractors will comply with the terms, conditions, purposes, and federal requirements of the grant program; that no kickbacks were paid to anyone; and that a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or **claims** on this application are grounds for denial or termination of a grant award, and/or possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and civil violations of the False Claims Act.

(ii) I certify that the entity(ies) I represent have and will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, codes, orders and programmatic rules and requirements relating to the project. I acknowledge that failure to do so may result in rejection or deobligation of the grant or loan award. I acknowledge that failure to comply with all federal and program rules could result in civil or criminal prosecution by the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

(iii) I certify that the entity(ies) I represent has and will comply with all applicable administrative and federal statutory, regulatory, and policy requirements set forth in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements ("DOC Pre-Award Notification"), published in the Federal Register on February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), as amended; DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (Mar. 8, 2009), the Department of Commerce American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Award Terms (Apr. 9, 2009); and any Special Award Terms and Conditions that are included by the Grants Officer in the award.

(iv) If requesting BTOP funding, I certify that the entity(ies) I represent has secured access to pay the 20% of total project cost or has petitioned the Assistant Secretary of NTIA for a waiver of the matching requirement or received a waiver.

Signature of authorized person  Date 8/7/09
Print name of authorized person Rebecca Hamilton
Title or position State Librarian

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.

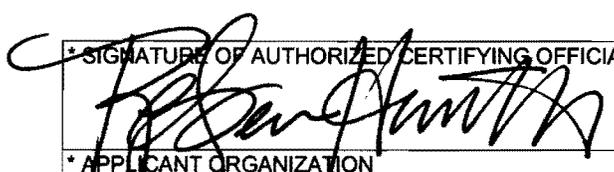
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a -1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

<p>* SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL</p> 	<p>* TITLE</p> <p>State Librarian</p>
<p>* APPLICANT ORGANIZATION</p> <p>STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA</p>	<p>* DATE SUBMITTED</p> <p>8-7-09</p>

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

Applicants should review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, "New Restrictions on Lobbying."

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

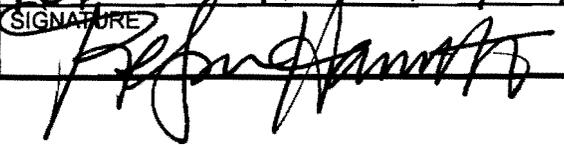
Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

In any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

NAME OF APPLICANT	AWARD NUMBER AND/OR PROJECT NAME
STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA	1397 - LOUISIANA LIBRARIES CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THEIR POTENTIAL
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	
Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian	
SIGNATURE	DATE
	8/3/09

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, "New Restrictions on Lobbying." The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

In any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

NAME OF APPLICANT

AWARD NUMBER AND/OR PROJECT NAME

STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA

1397 -

LOUISIANA LIBRARIES CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THEIR POTENTIAL

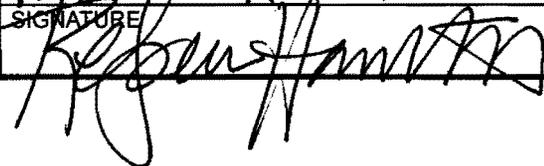
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Rebecca Hamilton

State Librarian

SIGNATURE

DATE



8/3/09

STATE OF LOUISIANA
Annual Financial Statements
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008

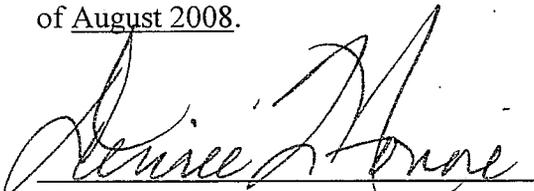
Office of State Library

Division of Administration
Office of Statewide Reporting
and Accounting Policy
P.O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

Legislative Auditor
P.O. Box 94397
Baton Rouge, LA
70804-9397

AFFIDAVIT

Personally came and appeared before the undersigned authority, Desiree Honoré,
Undersecretary, of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism who duly sworn,
deposes and says, that the financial reports herewith given present fairly financial information
of the Office of State Library at June 30, 2008 and the results of operations for the year then
ended in accordance with policies and practices established by the Division of Administration
or in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as prescribed by the
Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Sworn and subscribed before me, this 29th day
of August 2008.


Signature of Agency Official


Notary Public

Prepared by: Johnnie Y. Stewart
Title: Accountant Manager
Telephone: (225)-342-8189
Date: August 29, 2008

Erin Monroe Wesley
Notary Public
Bar Roll No. 28157
State of Louisiana
Commission Expires at Death

STATE OF LOUISIANA
Annual Financial Statements
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2008

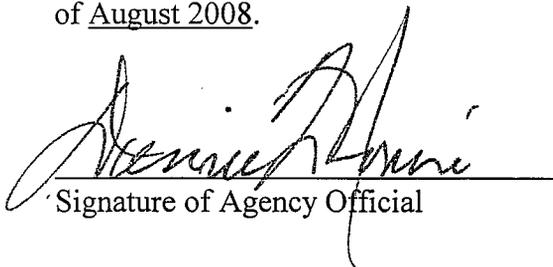
Office of State Library

Division of Administration
Office of Statewide Reporting
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P.O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

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or in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as prescribed by the
Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Sworn and subscribed before me, this 29th day
of August 2008.



Signature of Agency Official



Notary Public

Prepared by: Johnnie Y. Stewart
Title: Accountant Manager
Telephone: (225)-342-8189
Date: August 29, 2008

Erin Monroe Wesley
Notary Public
Bar Roll No. 28157
State of Louisiana
Commission Expires at Death

RUN DATE : 08/15/08
 RUN TIME : 23:35:52
 REPORT ID : 4G31-085
 DISTRIBUTE TO: 2620001

STATE OF LOUISIANA
 GENERAL OPERATING APPROPRIATION FUNDS
 SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGETARY COMPARISON
 CURRENT YEAR APPROPRIATION (BUDGET - LEGAL BASIS)
 FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

PAGE: 50

OFF OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF LA

ISIS AGENCY NO. 262

	CASH BASIS I	ADJUSTMENTS II	ACCRUAL III	AGENCY ADJUSTMENTS IV	TOTAL V	REVISED BUDGET VI	VAR FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE) VII
A REVENUES							
1 APPROPRIATED BY LEGISLATURE:							
2 STATE GENERAL REVENUE	8,899,643.00	0.00	79,927.00-		8,819,716.00	8,899,743	80,027.00-
4 FEDERAL AID	2,227,256.89	0.00	448,619.97		2,675,876.86	3,533,183	857,306.14-
5 GENERAL FUND-SGR	9,869.41	0.00	537.98		10,407.39	20,905	10,497.61-
	-----	-----	-----		-----	-----	-----
11 TOTAL APPROPRIATED REVENUE	11,136,769.30	0.00	369,230.95		11,506,000.25	12,453,831	947,830.75-
	-----	-----	-----		-----	-----	-----
B EXPENDITURES							
12 APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES:							
ACT 672 OF 06 EARLY RETIREMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	3,979	3,979.00
LIBRARY SERVICES	10,962,040.80	81,323.26-	442,466.56		11,323,184.10	12,449,852	1,126,667.90
	-----	-----	-----		-----	-----	-----
27 TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES	10,962,040.80	81,323.26-	442,466.56		11,323,184.10	12,453,831	1,130,646.90
	-----	-----	-----		-----	-----	-----
28 EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF APPROPRIATED REVENUES OVER APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES	174,728.50	81,323.26	73,235.61-		182,816.15	0	182,816.15
	=====	=====	=====		=====	=====	=====

RUN DATE : 08/15/08
 RUN TIME : 23:49:03
 REPORT ID : 4632-085
 DISTRIBUTE TO: 2620001

STATE OF LOUISIANA
 SCHEDULE OF APPROPRIATED REVENUE BY TYPE
 GENERAL OPERATING APPROPRIATION FUNDS
 FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

PAGE: 84

OFF OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF LA

ISIS AGENCY NO. 262

APPROPRIATED REVENUE FUND	ISIS APPR NUMBER I	REVENUE SOURCE CODE II	CLASSIFIED CASH RECEIPTS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008 III	UNCLASSIFIED CASH RECEIPTS AT JUNE 30, 2008 IV	TOTAL CASH DEPOSIT WITH TREASURY III + IV V	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AT JUNE 30, 2008 VI	AGENCY ADJUSTMENT VII	TOTAL REVENUE VIII
FEDERAL AID								
A0	006	1040	2,156,354.33	0.00	2,156,354.33	448,619.97		2,604,974.30
A SUBTOTAL - FEDERAL AID			2,156,354.33	0.00	2,156,354.33	448,619.97		2,604,974.30
GENERAL FUND-SGR								
B0	002	1835	0.00	3,203.25	3,203.25	0.00		3,203.25
B0		1835	6,666.16	0.00	6,666.16	537.98		7,204.14
B SUBTOTAL - GENERAL FUND-SGR			6,666.16	3,203.25	9,869.41	537.98		10,407.39
GENERAL FUND- IAT								
C SUBTOTAL - GENERAL FUND- IAT			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
AUXILIARY FUND								
D SUBTOTAL - AUXILIARY FUND			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
OTHER FUNDS								
E SUBTOTAL - OTHER FUNDS			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00

SCHEDULE 3

RUN DATE : 08/15/08
 RUN TIME : 23:49:03
 REPORT ID : 4632-085
 DISTRIBUTE TO: 2620001

STATE OF LOUISIANA
 SCHEDULE OF APPROPRIATED REVENUE BY TYPE
 GENERAL OPERATING APPROPRIATION FUNDS
 FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

PAGE: 85

OFF OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF LA

ISIS AGENCY NO. 262

APPROPRIATED REVENUE FUND	ISIS APPR NUMBER	REVENUE SOURCE CODE	CLASSIFIED CASH RECEIPTS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008	UNCLASSIFIED CASH RECEIPTS AT JUNE 30, 2008	TOTAL CASH DEPOSIT WITH TREASURY III + IV	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AT JUNE 30, 2008	AGENCY ADJUSTMENT	TOTAL REVENUE
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
F TOTAL - APPROPRIATED REVENUE			2,163,020.49	3,203.25	2,166,223.74	449,157.95		2,615,381.69
			=====	=====	=====	=====		=====

RUN DATE : 08/15/08
 RUN TIME : 23:58:41
 REPORT ID : 4633-ST
 DISTRIBUTE TO: 2620001

STATE OF LOUISIANA
 SCHEDULE OF NON APPROPRIATED
 (MAJOR STATE REVENUE & INCOME NOT AVAILABLE)
 FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

OFF OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF LA

ISIS AGENCY NO. 262

ISIS APPR NUMBER I	REVENUE COLLECTION CENTER II	REVENUE SOURCE CODE III	CLASSIFIED CASH RECEIPTS THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008 IV	UNCLASSIFIED CASH RECEIPTS AT JUNE 30, 2008 V	TOTAL CASH DEPOSIT WITH TREASURY IV + V VI	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AT JUNE 30, 2008 VII	AGENCY ADJUSTMENT VIII	TOTAL REVENUE IX
GENERAL-INCOME NOT AVAILABLE								
A1	XB2	N262 1835	202.57	0.00	202.57	0.00		202.57
A SUBTOTAL - GENERAL-INCOME NOT AVAILABLE			202.57	0.00	202.57	0.00		202.57
GENERAL -MAJOR STATE REV								
B SUBTOTAL - GENERAL -MAJOR STATE REV			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
OTHER NON-APPROPRIATED REVENUE								
C SUBTOTAL - OTHER NON-APPROPRIATED REVENUE			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
D TOTAL - NON APPROPRIATED FUND SOURCES			202.57	0.00	202.57	0.00		202.57

OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY
 STATE OF LOUISIANA
 NON APPROPRIATED OTHER FUNDS
 SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

TOTAL

REVENUES (Full Accrual)

_____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
Total Revenues	\$ 0.00	0	0	0

NOT APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

EXPENSES (Full Accrual)

_____	\$ _____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
_____	_____	_____	_____	0
Total Expenses	\$ 0.00	0	0	0

Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 0.00	0	0	0
Fund balances at beginning of year	_____	_____	_____	0
Adjustments	_____	_____	_____	0
Fund balances at end of year	\$ 0.00	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY
ESCROW FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

Balance at beginning of year	\$ _____
Revenues (additions July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008):	
Deposits	_____
Interest Earned	_____
Expenditures (deductions July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008):	
Withdrawals	_____

NOT APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

Balance as of June 30, 2008	_____ 0.00
Accruals	
*Receivables:	
Amount classified in 2008 (July 1, 2008 through August 14, 2008)	_____
*Amount classified in 2009 (July 1, 2008 through August 14, 2008)	_____
**Amount not classified as of August 14, 2008 (GASB 34 full accrual)	_____
*Payables:	
Amount paid in 2008 (July 1, 2008 through August 14, 2008)	_____
*Amount paid in 2009 (July 1, 2008 through August 14, 2008)	_____
**Amount paid as of August 14, 2008 (GASB 34 full accrual)	_____
Fund Balance at end of year	\$ <u>0.00</u>

*Should be accruals due to prior year activity but reflected in the 2009 fiscal year.
 **Should be accruals due to prior year activity not yet reflected in the financial system.

Prepared By _____
 Telephone _____ Email _____

Name of Entity: CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM / OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY
 Schedule 8 Reconciliation to Financial Statements - Example Format for ISIS Agencies
 FYE June 30, 2007

Budget Schedule Number: 06-262

Preparer: Mary Canella

Phone Number: 225 342-8118

Reconciliation of
 Schedule 1 to Schedule 8
 For The Year Ended June 30, 2007

Total Federal Expenditures per Schedule 8		\$ <u>2,394,370.15</u>
Plus: Current Year 13th Period Expenditures (7/1/07 - 8/14/07)		<u>448,619.97</u>
Less: Current Year Indirect Cost not recorded in AFS Org	\$ <u>0.00</u>	
Prior Year 13th Period Expenditures (7/1/06 - 8/14/06)	<u>238,060.62</u>	
Prior Year Indirect Cost Reported on CY Schedule 8 (7/1/06 - 8/14/06)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>238,060.62</u>
Total ISIS Expenditures at 8/14 Current Year		<u>2,604,929.50</u>
Other Reconciling Items(s) ***		
Carryforward Fiscal Year 2005-2006	<u> </u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Revenue per Schedule 1, Col. V, line 4		\$ <u><u>2,604,929.50</u></u>

*** Other Reconciling Items will be specific to your agency

Schedule 8

Department/Commission/District OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY
 Budget Schedule No. 06-262

Preparer: Fran Campbell
 Phone Number: 225-342-7227
 Dunn's Number: 72-0807104
(list all Employer Identification Numbers covered in this schedule)

CASH BASIS
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

Federal Grantor	Pass-Through Entity	Program Name/Title and Cluster Name	CFDA or Other Identifying No.	Pass-Through Entity's Number	Project Name	Award ID Number	Award Period	Cash Disbursements	Receipts/ Issues	Total
Direct Awards:										
Institute of Musuem and Library Services		National Leadership Grant	45.312		Louisiana Gumbo	LG-30-04-0230-04	12/15/04 - 12/14/07	\$109,743.83		109,743.83
Institute of Musuem and Library Services		Library Services and Technology Act State Grants	45.310		LSTA	LS-00-07-0019-07	10/1/06-9/30/08	\$1,819,722.21		1,819,722.21
Institute of Musuem and Library Services		Library Services and Technology Act State Grants	45.310		LSTA	LS-00-06-0019-06	10/01/05-09/30/07	\$464,904.11		464,904.11
Awards from a Pass-through Entity										
TOTAL								\$2,394,370.15	\$0.00	\$2,394,370.15

Schedule 8-1

Department/Commission/District Office of State Library
 Budget Schedule No. 06-262

Preparer: Fran Campbell
 Phone Number: 225-342-7227
 Dunn's Number: 72-0807104
(list all Employer Identification Numbers covered in this schedule)

**Schedule of Fixed Price Contracts
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2008**

<u>Federal Grantor</u>	<u>Pass-Through Entity</u>	<u>Program Name/Title and Cluster Name</u>	<u>CFDA or Other Identifying No.</u>	<u>Pass-Through Entity's Number</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Award ID Number</u>	<u>Award Period</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
------------------------	----------------------------	--	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-----------------

Direct Awards:

NOT APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

Awards from a Pass-through Entity

TOTAL	<u>0.00</u>
-------	-------------

SCHEDULE 8-3
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

Department/University or College/Commission/District: **OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY**

For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

Finding Title:

NOT APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

Preparer's Signature: Fran Campbell

Phone Number: (225) 342-7227

Schedule 8-4

State Agency/Hospital/University Office of State Library

Schedule of Non-State Subrecipients of
Major Federal Programs
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

Preparer: Fran Campbell
Phone Number: (225) 342-7227

<u>Federal Grantor and CFDA or Other Identifying No.</u>	<u>Award or Subaward Number</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Major Program Name and Cluster Name, when applicable</u>	<u>Amount of Major Program Funds Disbursed to Non-State Subrecipient</u>	<u>Non-State Subrecipient</u> <small>(local gov't, non-profit, state gov't other than LA)</small>
--	---	---------------------------	---	--	--

NOT APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

Schedule 8-5

State Agency/Hospital/University

Office of State Library

Schedule of State Agency/University Subrecipients of
Federal Programs
For the Year Ended June 30, 2008

Preparer: Fran Campbell

Phone Number: 225-342-7227

<u>Federal Grantor and CFDA or Other Identifying No.</u>	<u>Award or Subaward Number</u>	<u>Project Number</u>	<u>Federal Program Name and Cluster Name, when applicable</u>	<u>Amount of Federal Program Funds Disbursed to State Agencies or Universities</u>	<u>State Agency or University Subrecipient</u>
--	---	---------------------------	---	--	--

NOT APPLICABLE FOR THE OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

SCHEDULE OF PER DIEM PAID BOARD (COMMISSION) MEMBER, BY FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
-------------	---------------	---------------

\$

NOT APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

TOTAL \$ 0

The per diem payments are authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute _____ and are presented in compliance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 54 of the 1979 Session of the Legislature.

NOTE: Provide a separate copy of this schedule for each board (commission) by fund (appropriation)

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM
OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

SCHEDULE OF CONSULTANT FEES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDIES
AND OTHER SPECIAL REPORTS, BY FUND,
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
-------------	---------------	---------------

\$

NOT APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY

TOTAL

\$ 0

This schedule is prepared in compliance with Senate concurrent Resolutions No. 35 of the Regular Session of 1974

NOTE: Where more than one fund (appropriation) applies, separate by fund (appropriation).

GASB 34 REVENUE ACCRUALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

(rounded in dollars)

Schedule Number 06-262
ISIS Agency Number 262

Organization #	Object	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J			
		(A + B)			(D + E)			(C + F)	(H + I)					
MODIFIED ACCRUAL											PRIOR YEAR FULL ACCRUAL ADJUSTMENTS			
		Revenue @ 6/30			Receivable					Gross Adj. to Rev./Rec.	Allowance Amount	Total		
		Per ISIS	Agency Adj.	Per Agency	Per ISIS	Agency Adj.	Per Agency	Total						
Schedule 3														
Federal Funds														
6206	1040	\$ 2,156,354	\$	2,156,354	\$ 448,620	25,843	\$ 474,463	\$ 2,630,817	\$	\$	\$ 0			
				0			0	0			0			
Self Generated														
6202	1835	3,203		3,203			0	3,203			0			
6202	1835	6,666		6,666	538		538	7,204			0			
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
Total -														
Schedule 3		2,166,224	0	2,166,224	449,158	25,843	475,001	2,641,225	0	0	0			
Schedule 4														
INA														
		203		203			0	203			0			
				0			0	0			0			
Major State														
Revenue:														
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
				0			0	0			0			
Total -														
Schedule 4		\$ 203	\$ 0	\$ 203	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 203	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0			

GASB 34 REVENUE ACCRUALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

(rounded in dollars)

Schedule Number 06-262
ISIS Agency Number 262

Organization #	Object	K	L	M	N	O	P	Amount expected to be collected in one year
		Gross Adj. to Rev./Rec.	Allowance Account	(K + L)	(C - J)	(F + M)	(N + O)	
		CURRENT YEAR FULL ACCRUAL ADJUSTMENTS			FULL ACCRUAL REVENUES			
				Total	Revenue @ 6/30	Receivable	Total	
Schedule 3								
Federal Funds								
6206	1040	\$	\$	0	\$ 2,156,354	474,463	\$ 2,630,817	\$
				0	0	0	0	
Self Generated								
6202	1835			0	3,203	0	3,203	
6202	1835			0	6,666	538	7,204	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
Total -								
Schedule 3		0	0	0	2,166,224	475,001	2,641,225	0.00
Schedule 4								
INA								
				0	203	0	203	
				0	0	0	0	
Major State								
Revenue:								
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
				0	0	0	0	
Total -								
Schedule 4		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 203	\$ 0	\$ 203	\$ 0.00

SCHEDULE 14 (concluded)

GASB 34 EXPENDITURE ACCRUALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2008

(rounded in dollars)

Schedule Number 06-262
 ISIS Agency Number 262

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
			(A + B)			(D + E)	(C + F)			(C - H)	(F + I)	(J + K)
	MODIFIED ACCRUAL						FULL ACCRUAL ADJ.		FULL ACCRUAL			
	Expenditures @ 6/30			Accounts Payable				Prior Year Gross Adj. to Exp./AP	Current Year Gross Adj. to Exp./AP	Expenditures @ 6/30	Accounts Payable	Total
	Per ISIS	Agency Adj.	Per Agency	Per ISIS	Agency Adj.	Per Agency	Total					
Schedule 1 Programs:												
Library Services	\$ 10,962,041	\$ (81,323)	\$ 10,880,718	\$ 442,467	\$ 0	\$ 442,467	\$ 11,323,184	\$ 127,550	\$ 142,423	\$ 10,753,168	\$ 584,889	\$ 11,338,057
			0			0	0			0	0	0
						0	0			0	0	0
Totals	\$ 10,962,041	\$ (81,323)	\$ 10,880,718	\$ 442,467	\$ 0	\$ 442,467	\$ 11,323,184	\$ 127,550	\$ 142,423	\$ 10,753,168	\$ 584,889	\$ 11,338,057

SCHEDULE 14A

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF STATE LIBRARY**

COMPARISON FIGURES

1) To assist OSRAP in determining the reason for the change in financial position for the state, please complete the schedule below. If the change in revenues or expenditures is more than \$3 million from the previous year's figures, explain the reason for the change. (Add additional sheets as necessary for the explanation section.)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Revenues (a)	\$ 2,603,177.53	\$ 2,556,525.28	\$ 46,652.25	1.82%
Expenses (b)	\$ 11,387,074.84	\$ 9,353,278.49	\$ 2,033,796.35	21.74%
Explanation of change:	_____			

	FY 2008	FY 2007
(a)*Revenues - must equal the following:		
Total Revenue on Schedule 3 or Schedule 3-1	\$ 2,615,381.69	\$ 2,544,622.43
+ Full Current Year Accrual Revenues on Schedule 14	\$ -	\$ -
- Full Prior Year Accrual Revenues on Schedule 14		
+ 2007 Payroll Federal Revenue Accrual from Note R	\$ 25,843.29	\$ 38,047.45
- 2006 Payroll Federal Revenue Accrual from Note R	\$ (38,047.45)	\$ (26,144.60)
	<u>\$ 2,603,177.53</u>	<u>\$ 2,556,525.28</u>

(b) Expenditures - must agree with total expenditures on Schedule 1 or Schedule 3-1, plus 2006 Payroll Accrual, less 2006 Payroll Accrual. (=11323184.1+25843.29-38047.45)= 11387074.84

To assist OSRAP in determining the reason for the changes in the budget, please complete the schedules below. If the change 2) is more than \$3 million, explain the reason for the difference.

	<u>2008 Original Budget ©</u>	<u>2008 Final Budget (d)</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Revenues	\$ 12,756,365.00	\$ 12,453,831.00	\$ (302,534.00)	-2.37%
Expenses	\$ 12,756,365.00	\$ 12,453,831.00	\$ (302,534.00)	-2.37%
Explanation of change:	_____			

	<u>2008 Final Budget</u>	<u>2008 Actual (e)</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Revenues	\$ 12,453,831.00	\$ 11,506,000.25	\$ 947,830.75	7.61%
Expenses	\$ 12,453,831.00	\$ 11,323,184.10	\$ 1,130,646.90	9.08%
Explanation of change:	_____			

(c) The original budget amount should equal the budget amount appropriated by the Legislature (Act 17).

(d) The final budget amount should equal the original budgeted amount plus or minus all of the BA7's (revisions) and it can be found on Schedule 1, column 6.

(e) Actual revenues and expenditures can be found on Schedule 1, column 5.

State of Louisiana

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS LAST SEVEN FISCAL YEARS

(ACCRUAL BASIS OF ACCOUNTING)

(EXPRESSED IN THOUSANDS)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
EXPENSES				
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:				
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 8,693,766	\$ 7,492,929	\$ 4,806,262	\$ 2,655,471
CULTURE, RECREATION, AND TOURISM	148,178	100,246	66,927	69,415
TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT	1,052,169	889,606	1,054,044	835,901
PUBLIC SAFETY	331,086	337,962	301,338	271,118
HEALTH AND WELFARE	8,615,435	7,626,096	7,412,815	7,458,289
CORRECTIONS	649,858	540,284	550,627	664,961
YOUTH SERVICES	165,840	121,335	116,975	--
CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT	439,009	331,891	283,692	297,097
EDUCATION	6,871,321	6,085,878	5,514,318	5,310,194
OTHER	43,217	40,008	26,251	33,833
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	540,505	182,741	1,037,043	375,373
INTEREST ON LONG-TERM DEBT	297,201	296,223	230,976	216,750
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES EXPENSES	<u>27,847,585</u>	<u>24,045,199</u>	<u>21,401,268</u>	<u>18,188,402</u>
BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES:				
UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND	189,095	185,308	823,987	264,458
NONMAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS	333,801	307,483	298,879	274,268
TOTAL BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES EXPENSES	<u>522,896</u>	<u>492,791</u>	<u>1,122,866</u>	<u>538,726</u>
TOTAL PRIMARY GOVERNMENT EXPENSES	<u>\$ 28,370,481</u>	<u>\$ 24,537,990</u>	<u>\$ 22,524,134</u>	<u>\$ 18,727,128</u>
PROGRAM REVENUES				
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:				
CHARGES FOR SERVICES				
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 2,063,639	\$ 2,116,712	\$ 2,017,870	\$ 1,905,839
CULTURE, RECREATION, AND TOURISM	33,232	34,932	30,531	29,145
TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT	222,756	197,283	79,099	136,642
PUBLIC SAFETY	306,615	273,481	276,020	271,052
HEALTH AND WELFARE	278,254	266,603	187,920	305,674
CORRECTIONS	32,553	41,657	33,926	33,407
YOUTH SERVICES	584	1,073	513	--
CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT	1,046,365	841,171	653,286	647,685
EDUCATION	31,158	30,058	49,735	39,783
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	1,246	1,027	954	1,396
OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	8,848,637	8,962,433	9,323,509	7,052,411
CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	5,405,015	3,984,479	978,072	520,376
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM REVENUES	<u>18,270,054</u>	<u>16,730,909</u>	<u>13,631,435</u>	<u>10,943,410</u>
BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES:				
CHARGES FOR SERVICES				
UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND	237,406	249,631	264,349	267,602
NONMAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS	468,369	447,678	422,489	385,309
OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	2,695	3,800	419,438	7,104
CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	41,003	19,355	16,588	21,188
TOTAL BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM REVENUES	<u>749,473</u>	<u>720,464</u>	<u>1,122,864</u>	<u>681,203</u>
TOTAL PRIMARY GOVERNMENT PROGRAM REVENUES	<u>\$ 19,019,527</u>	<u>\$ 17,451,373</u>	<u>\$ 14,754,299</u>	<u>\$ 11,624,613</u>

Note: Ten years are required; however, only seven fiscal years since the implementation of GASB 34 in Fiscal Year 2002.

Source: Office of Statewide Reporting and Accounting Policy

(Continued)

State Library of Louisiana Historical Budget Summary

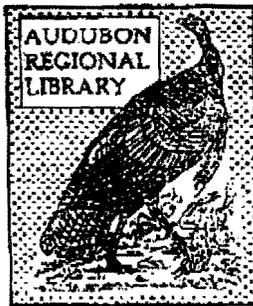
	Actual FY06-07	Actual FY07-08	Estimated FY08-09****	Budgeted FY09-10
Total Positions	71	71	71	64
REVENUE				
General Fund	\$6,875,474	\$8,819,716	\$9,190,158	\$6,578,665
Self Generated Revenue**	\$5,164	\$10,407	\$20,905	\$40,905
Federal Funds	\$2,468,556	\$2,574,384	\$2,936,757	\$2,936,757
Total Revenue	\$9,349,194	\$11,404,507	\$12,147,820	\$9,556,327
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries	\$2,409,785	\$2,572,695	\$2,719,831	\$2,498,801
Student Wages	\$54,680	\$73,104	\$60,828	\$58,939
Related Benefits: Retirement,	\$1,034,264	\$1,146,731	\$1,150,175	\$1,139,504
Total Personnel Services	\$3,498,729	\$3,792,530	\$3,930,834	\$3,697,244
Travel	\$33,057	\$45,091	\$40,178	\$56,526
Operating Services	\$279,386	\$310,936	\$283,317	\$327,402
Supplies	\$75,045	\$61,955	\$69,766	\$83,992
Total Professional Services	\$7,391	\$2,554	\$7,127	\$32,761
Other Charges: *	\$4,192,131	\$5,962,872	\$6,065,993	\$4,348,863
Interagency Transfer***	\$965,013	\$945,356	\$931,874	\$1,009,539
Acquisitions	\$298,441	\$280,487	\$283,294	\$0
Major Repair	\$0	\$2,726	\$74,610	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$9,349,193	\$11,404,507	\$11,686,992	\$9,556,327
Minus other agency pass-throughs	-\$640,000	-\$660,000	-\$608,918	-\$447,231
Total State Library Expenditures	\$8,709,193	\$10,744,507	\$11,078,074	\$9,109,096

* Other Charges includes State Aid to Public Libraries, statewide database expenditures, statewide interlibrary loan system, statewide interlibrary loan delivery service, statewide children's summer reading program, a digitization grant, etc.

** Increase in FY09-10 represents increase in user printing charges.

***IAT includes building maintenance, utilities, security, etc.

**** Mid year, the state required us to return over \$400,000, representing a mid-year budget cut.



Audubon Regional Library
 Headquarters Library / Clinton Branch
 P.O. Box 8389
 Clinton LA 70722
 225-683-8753
 fax: 225-683-4634
 email: admin.clar@state.lib.la.us

www.youseemore.com/Audubon

August 6, 2009

Ms Rebecca Hamilton
 State Librarian
 State Library of Louisiana
 P.O. Box 131
 Baton Rouge LA 70804-0131

Dear Ms Hamilton:

The Audubon Regional Library system enthusiastically supports the State Library's application for stimulus funding to improve broadband services to the libraries of Louisiana.

The demand for the broadband services developed by the State Library in partnership with the parish libraries (including Audubon) has provided our citizens with an essential service that libraries are uniquely qualified to provide. In our local communities of Clinton, Jackson and Greensburg, this library has provided free high-speed Internet service to the public at all of our branches with the State Library's help. The use of free public Internet service has grown by 20% in the last six months alone.

The demands of e-government and new business practices (filing for unemployment, registering for emergency food stamps, online job applications, and government resource documents) mandate libraries offer computer services and be able to help patrons use the latest resources online as part the traditional library mission to provide useful information. As the recession continues, we see more demand for computer assistance as people who have never used computers before ask us to help them find solutions to their problems. With the help of the State Library offering expertise with technology set-up, ERATE funding, and now technology consulting, we are meeting this challenge.

The on-site IT support that the State Library of Louisiana has provided Audubon Regional Library, and the assistance in trouble shooting our system, has been essential to Audubon Regional Library's public access Internet service smooth operation. One of my colleagues estimated that he has spent over 200 hours a year dealing with computer issues, and I think this estimate is low—with the State Library's assistance areas such as ours, with little computer technology support available, have an experienced resource to count on for assistance. As a library director dependent on this service, I support the effort to expand and enlarge its services.

As the local demand grows for these broadband services, several critical areas demand our attention and funding: our public access computers are ageing (most of Audubon Regional Library's public access computers are now 5 years old), and the broadband demands increase daily. Although we have increased broadband as much as our budget allows, this budget has been cut this year and faces further restrictions with the cuts in state aid for technology. The Library absorbed for 2009 the costs that the State Library formerly funded for us from our local operating budget and that exhausted our reserve funding for technology. The Audubon Regional Library Board made that budget commitment because of the public demand for broadband as a library service.

Jackson Branch
 P. O. Box 1830
 Jackson LA 70748
 225-634-7408
 fax: 225-634-5896

St. Helena Branch
 P. O. Box 368
 Greensburg LA 70441
 225-222-4328
 fax: 225-222-4335

Page 2

Ms Rebecca Hamilton

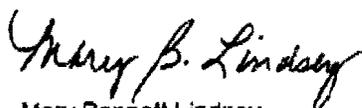
The people we serve need access to the wider world that broadband provides, and they need expert reference help to find the best sources of information while searching the Internet.

The parishes that Audubon Regional Library serves, East Feliciana and St. Helena, face problems in their public schools, unemployment and poverty. The Library is an agency of solution in all of these areas-we help student with school work and encourage reading, we work with teachers, we help the unemployed work through the applications to find jobs, and we encourage life-long learning to give people a future. The Library needs higher bandwidth, current hardware and up-to-date software. In the 21st century, broadband Internet resources are as essential as reference books to libraries.

The application of the State Library of Louisiana for NTIA Broadband Opportunities Program grants to provide broadband and technology support to local public libraries will improve statewide the existing services and build on a foundation that the State Library has developed over the last decade to provide broadband access to the citizens of this state. This foundation has statewide application and statewide local impact. It has been carefully developed, and has the proven expertise to administer the grant honestly, effectively and competently.

Audubon Regional Library fully supports and endorses the applications of the State Library of Louisiana for the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants.

Sincerely yours,



Mary Bennett Lindsey
Library Director

Audubon Regional Library
P. O. Box 8389
Clinton LA 70722

Jackson Branch
P. O. Box 1830
Jackson LA 70748
225-634-7408
fax: 225-634-5896

St. Helena Branch
P. O. Box 368
Greensburg LA 70441
225-222-4328
fax: 225-222-4335



RED RIVER PARISH LIBRARY

2022 Alonzo St.
Coushatta, LA 71019

P.O. Box 1367
Coushatta, LA 71019

August 5, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Rebecca,

RE: Support for Louisiana Broadband Alliance and State Library's technology grant project.

The Red River Parish Library fully endorses the grant proposals to be implemented by State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance.

Red River is one of the most economically disadvantaged parishes in the state. We qualify for the 90 percentile discount from universal service. Much of our population ranks below the poverty threshold as outlined by government guidelines.

The Red River Parish Library serves as the only free public internet access in the parish. It is only through additional funding sources such as your proposed grant that our library can provide such a service and keep our technology current.

State library has provided invaluable services to our library in the form of training and consultants. This training allowed us to make the most of funding sources that have come our way. We now have wireless internet and increased access through our computer network. As with any technology, our needs as well as those of our patronage continue to increase. Additional bandwidth is necessary to allow for fast access, additional money is needed for the purchase of computers compatible with the latest software, and of course training on and development of new resources is always necessary.

In the current cycle of economic downturn, additional funding will make it possible for the library to continue to be a source for information, recreation, work force development at a time when our patrons need it most.

It is our hope that State Library is successful in its request for stimulus grant funding. By providing necessary funding to libraries, every dollar is multiplied through economies of scale. We at the public level are on the front lines helping the underserved and providing the best in informational services to all.

Regards,

Marvin W. Lewis, III
Director, Red River Parish Library

**IBERIA PARISH LIBRARY**

educate • enlighten • entertain

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5232

August 11, 2009

Ms. Hamilton,

During these tough economic times the Iberia Parish Library System has seen a tremendous increase in the use of our public access computers. With increased use comes increased maintenance and updating so that our patrons not only have reliable computers upon which to seek and prepare for employment or educational prospects, but also up-to-date applications to give them an edge in this increasingly competitive market. Needless to say it is not always possible to have the time or know-how to keep up with this demand. This is why the Iberia Parish Library is grateful that the State Library of Louisiana has contracted the services of Richard Young from Louisiana Convergence Services. Mr. Young has now made three visits to our library, spending up to 8 hours each time working on keeping our servers current. He is scheduled to come back on the 14th of August to transfer our data onto a new server which will mean faster and more reliable service to our eight locations throughout the parish.

With the added demand coming at the same time, or perhaps more accurately, because of, these bad economic times it would have been an added expense to the library to have to hire a consultant like Mr. Young on our own. This, coupled with the reduction in State Aid and having to use library funds to continue to offer database services that were once offered to us for free from the State Library, would have been an additional hardship indeed.

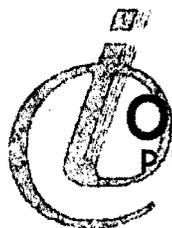
We are grateful that the State Library offers such a valuable consulting resource to our library.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen Miles".

Kathleen Miles

Director



Ouachita Parish

PUBLIC LIBRARY

www.ouachita.lib.la.us

Ph. 318-327-1490

Fax 318-327-1373

1800 Stubbs Ave. Monroe, La. 71201

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5232

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

The Ouachita Parish Public Library supports the Louisiana State Library's NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Grant Application.

Ouachita Parish Library currently provides 187 Internet workstations for the public. Eighty more will be added when the library completes a building program that will be concluded in August of 2010. Due to the drop in State Aid, we will have a difficult time purchasing these new computers and an even greater difficulty replacing the many outdated computers used in our current eight branches—some are eight years old or older. Every computer in our system is used on a daily basis with wireless capability at every branch. The software on many of these computers needs to be updated. Staff need to be trained so that the public may be educated on the use of updated software.

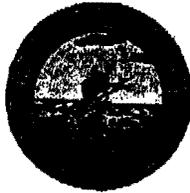
Our patrons complain of slow speed because of a lack of adequate bandwidth, but most are happy to have access to a computer as they can not afford a computer at home. Many in our community have lost their jobs. We are seeing an increase in our classes to teach these displaced workers how to use a computer, how to use software and how to obtain an email address so they can apply online for a new position.

We are at a critical time in our state; last in so many areas, our need for updated and new computers, updated software and training is at an all time high.

We hope the State Library's Grant Application will receive the attention it needs—the benefits to Louisiana's many citizens are depending upon it.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Moulere, Director
Ouachita Parish Public Library



Todd J. Schouest
Library Director

Plaquemines Parish Library Department

Patricia L. Walker
Assistant Library Director

August 10, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Hamilton
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

I am writing this letter as a show of support for the State Library application for federal stimulus funding. As a partner with the State Library in providing library service to our citizens, the State Library's support and aid are indispensable to our library department. And due to this year's state budget crisis, we will be receiving less state aid this coming fiscal year, which makes any stimulus funding so very important to our entire community here in Plaquemines Parish.

As you know, Louisiana is ranked at the bottom in critical areas such as technology funding for libraries. With the help from stimulus grants, I know our library as well as the libraries across the state, will benefit greatly from these funds. In our case, these funds would be used to serve the underserved and help our community's workforce development. Since Katrina, our libraries in Plaquemines Parish are the sole source of public computers and public internet service in the entire parish. The value of our public access computers to our citizens cannot be stressed enough. Without this year's state aid, we would have had to quite possibly look hard at making cuts in either services or materials, while library usage has definitely increased during this economic downturn.

Also, the value of the consulting services that the State Library has been recently providing and the quality of staff training has to be underscored here. The advice on how to best update our computer network has been instrumental in bringing it to fruition. The need for our patrons to have access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware and up-to-date software is so very important in our community while we still struggle to rebuild and at the same time, try to survive during these hard economic times. Our library has also taken advantage of the training seminars offered by the State on many occasions in order for our staff to stay abreast of the technology and procedures necessary to best serve our patrons.

I sincerely hope that the State Library of Louisiana wins approval for their stimulus funding, which will certainly benefit our library system and all libraries in Louisiana. I respectfully would like to submit this letter as my support for the State Library's cause in this matter.

Sincerely,

Todd J. Schouest
Plaquemines Parish



151 Library Drive Houma, LA 70360

Phone: 985.876.5861 • Fax: 985.876.5864

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

This letter is to inform you that the Terrebonne Parish Library System relies on the State Library of Louisiana as a valued partner in providing library services to our citizens. The consulting services and the quality technology training and support to library staff we have recently received have been invaluable.

The public access computers in each of our eight libraries are an important asset to the community. Due to the vast rural nature of Terrebonne Parish, it has a large population of un-served and underserved individuals. Many of its residents, including a very high percentage of minorities, rely solely on the library for access to the Internet. This service is vital on many levels, but due to this current economic downturn it is even direr. Our well-trained staff, thanks to Lantec of Louisiana, is able to assist patrons who have never used a PC before in searching for employment and filling out applications.

An example of the indispensable services that a library can provide occurred during the Katrina crisis. The Terrebonne Parish Main Library was open to the public one day after the storm, being one of only a handful of places with both power and Internet. The library was inundated with folks using the Internet to find loved ones, fill out FEMA forms, and to read news stories. We pride ourselves on being there for our community.

Due to the great demand for public access computers, it is imperative that we have the adequate hardware, software, and bandwidth in order to meet the demand of the public. The hardware must be reasonably sound to support the variety of software and Internet demands that are placed on it. A cause for alarm is the reduced state aid this coming fiscal year due to state budget cuts. It is imperative that stimulus funding be obtained in order to continue the level of services the public demands from our library system.

In closing, we support and appreciate the efforts of the State Library of Louisiana to apply for the stimulus grants in order to secure the funding for continued valuable and indispensable library service in Terrebonne Parish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Cospier LeBoeuf".

Mary Cospier LeBoeuf
Library Director

Concordia Parish Library

Clayton Library
P.O. Box 100
Clayton, LA 71326
(318) 757-6460

Ferriday Library
1609 Third Street
Ferriday, LA 71334
(318) 757-3550

Vidalia Library
408 Texas Street
Vidalia, LA 71373
(318) 336 -5043

August 4, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton

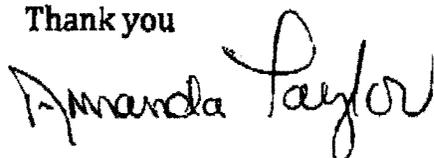
Concordia Parish Library endorses the effort of the State Library of Louisiana to apply for the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. Concordia Parish Library is a Mississippi River Delta parish that has many low statistics describing the low literacy and low income residents of the parish. Only 9% of the population has a college degree, the per capita income is \$12,000, and 26% of the population is below poverty level. Very few families have home computers; therefore, citizens come to the public library frequently to use the public access stations. Adults use them during the day and many school children use them after school. I am the only professional librarian and we only have two staff members who have had formal computer training. The technology assistance and site visits from the State Library's consulting services are so very important to us. Concordia wants to offer the best possible service and provide the same opportunities as larger libraries. Concordia's residents need to have access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware, and up-to-date software. The Louisiana State Aid for public libraries was reduced this year, and the library counted on these funds to operate the technology services. As in many places the library is being used more by families and used more by individuals applying for work.

With literacy and computer skills being low, Concordia now has a person who comes every week to assist citizens applying for jobs and preparing resumes.

Concordia Parish Library appreciates the opportunity to partner with the State Library of Louisiana and Louisiana Broadband Alliance.

These funds are desperately needed for our parish as well as the low-ranking state of Louisiana.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Amanda Taylor

LaSalle Parish Library

MAIN LIBRARY
P.O. Box 9199
3108 N. First St.
Iberville, Louisiana 71342
Phone (504) 992-5675
Fax (504) 992-7374

e-mail: admin@pelican.state.lib.la.us



COLLA BRANCH
P.O. Box 1417
1449 Blake St.
Orleans, Louisiana 71465
Phone (504) 495-5270
Fax (504) 495-5993

August 7, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian/Assistant Secretary
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5232

Dear Mrs. Hamilton,

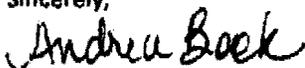
I am writing to you, on behalf of the LaSalle Parish Library, to acknowledge my support of the grants that you have chosen to seek for all of the Louisiana libraries. As you are well aware, our State Aid monies have been reduced for the upcoming year due to state budget cuts. State Aid is very important to libraries because it is how we fund our technological purchases. We must now seek other means to provide our patrons with one of the most important services that we offer, which is higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware, and up-to-date software.

With the economic downturn, we have had more patrons using the public access computers, to file unemployment claims, search for new jobs online, complete online job applications, and create resumes. Usage of public computers is vital to the parish. And of course training library staff members to take on this new role of "helping patrons find jobs" needs to be met also. The grants that you are applying for will fill these needs.

The State Library of Louisiana has been a wonderful partner to the LaSalle Parish Library, as well as all of the Louisiana libraries. The services that you offer to us are so vital to our success; such as the training workshops you provide, the knowledgeable consultants that you employ, you are a center of communication between the libraries and you are truly appreciated for all of the hard work that you do.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please give me a call. It is my hope that everyone will see how important libraries are to the people they serve and how vital Internet access and hardware/software equipment have become to the population. I feel sure that if awarded this grant, no one would be disappointed in the outcome. It would be beneficial to everyone, and that is so important when using public funds.

Sincerely,



Andrea Book
Acting Director



Grant Parish Library

www.grant.lib.la.us

To Whom It May Concern:

The Grant Parish Library is partnering with the State Library of Louisiana (STOL) to apply for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants.

The STOL helps public libraries in Louisiana in many ways

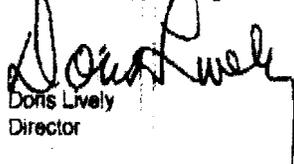
- Consulting services from the Computer Services and Library Development Departments
- Interlibrary Loan
- Lanter Delivery system for Interlibrary Loan
- Access to online databases through the Louisiana Library Connection Databases
- Training in many areas (programming, computer skills, interpersonal skills, reference transaction skills, etc.)

Some of these services are threatened by the state budget crisis. The amount of state aid for public library has been cut and that will affect how well we are able to continue to serve the people of Grant Parish.

The need for more computers and higher bandwidth is imperative for Grant Parish residents. A majority of home in Grant Parish do not have a computer and of the home that do have computers many do not have Internet access or only have access to dial-up. The public access computers at our Headquarters and 4 branches are rarely idle. During the economic downturn many people have dropped what Internet service they did have and instead come the library to access the internet and use the online databases to which the public library provides access. The Library is one of the first places people come when they start looking for employment and are able to use our public access computers to search for jobs, write resumes, apply for jobs online or to sign up for benefits for the unemployed. The public library is also where people go during times of disaster to apply for FEMA funds and to keep in touch with family and friends.

The number of people that use the library has increased steadily over the last 2 or 3 years as the economy has continued to weaken. Being able to provide our residents with higher bandwidth, quality and up-to-date hardware and software, and more public access computers is vital in continuing helping the residents to improve their computer skills to be able to obtain jobs that require those skills they are lacking, take online computer courses, have access to online databases that provide worlds of information to which our residents would otherwise never have access without the library providing them.

I am in full support of the efforts of the State Library of Louisiana in their application for BTOP grants.


Doris Lively
Director

Headquarters/Bookmobile
300 Main Street
Cottax, Louisiana 71417
Phone: 318-627-9920
Fax: 318-627-9900

Montgomery Branch
940 Caddo Street
P. O. Box 157
Montgomery, Louisiana 71454
Phone or Fax:
318-646-3660

Pollock Branch
1316 Pine Street
P. O. Box 41
Pollock, Louisiana 71467
Phone or Fax:
318-765-9616

Dry Prong Branch
605 Russell Hataway Street
P. O. Box 187
Dry Prong, Louisiana 71423
Phone or Fax:
318-899-7588

Georgetown Branch
4570 Highway 500
P. O. Box 226
Georgetown, Louisiana 71432
Phone or Fax:
318-827-9427

Morehouse Parish Library

524 E. Madison Avenue

Bastrop, LA 71220

Phone: 318-281-3696 Fax: 318-281-3683

Ellen M. Highsmith, Director

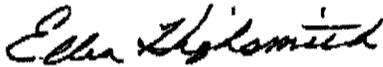
Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian/Assistant Secretary
State Library of Louisiana
Office of Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5232
August 10, 2009

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

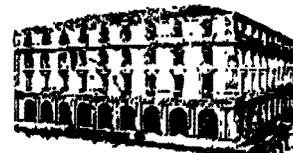
Morehouse Parish residents would greatly benefit from the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption grant to us in conjunction with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance. As you know, our main industry closed its doors in November of 2008 and, to date, our parish has not been fortunate enough to replace this industry. The impact on our tax base has been debilitating. Not only have we had to deal with the loss of revenue statewide, our parish revenues will be down between 15% and 20% because of the mill closing. We must reduce spending at the very time when we need more computer resources because demand has escalated. Patrons are here in ever-increasing numbers to search for jobs, improve job skills, and complete job applications.

Our partnership with you has been of strategic importance. Our library system is much too small with too small a budget to provide needed computer, consulting, and broadband services without help from you and grants. The computer consulting aid and computer training will be even more important to us as we continue trimming our budget. It is vital that these services and any other you can help us obtain remain available to the people of Morehouse Parish.

Sincerely,



Ellen Highsmith
Director, Morehouse Parish Library
524 E. Madison Avenue
Bastrop, LA 71220

SHREVE MEMORIAL LIBRARYPOST OFFICE BOX 21523
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA 71120-1523Dr. Ronald R. Heezen
DIRECTOROFFICE 318-226-5871
FAX 318-226-4780

424 TEXAS STREET

August 7, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian/Assistant Secretary
State Library of Louisiana
Office of Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, La. 70802-5232

Dear Rebecca,

I don't need to tell you how people in Louisiana are hurting; you've witnessed the suffering around the state. The current economic downturn has only exacerbated the problem. Here in Shreveport, more and more people are turning to the library to learn new skills, search for jobs, or try and connect with loved ones from whom they've been separated. With nearly 800 public access computers at our 21 branch libraries, we are only scratching the surface of this growing need and are turning people away from those resources daily. If our local monies were not in danger, maybe we could respond. As it is, we are losing two major employers and those announcements have only added to the times which folks must wait to access our computing centers. We had hoped we could turn to the state for additional support. You know what happened to YOUR budget! The fact that you are leading the state and bringing all of us together to change this circumstance is admirable—we in Shreveport salute those efforts.

Some of the things which we hope will be addressed should the funds be awarded include: larger pipelines for data transmission, to ease wait times at local libraries and free additional computer access; workforce training sessions (we lost, because of a lack of skill level in the population, an Air Force initiative at Barksdale AFB that would have brought in more high tech positions); and elements that would help us reverse one of the highest drop-out rates in the country. We are desperate. But you know that.

Rebecca, the challenge is in your hands. We are confident you can help those awarding the funds be aware of the extreme good they can do by sending the monies to Louisiana.

Thanks for all you do,

Dr. Ronald R. Heezen, Executive Director

RRH/sd



Assumption Parish Library

293 Napoleon Avenue
Napoleonville, LA 70390

Dr. Teri Maggio - Director

Tel: 985-369-7070
Fax: 985-369-6019

August 4, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P. O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca:

The State Library of Louisiana has been partners with the Assumption Parish Library in providing essential library services to parish residents at the headquarters and three branch libraries for the past 40 years. The expertise of the State Library's staff in providing consulting services and training to public libraries has been excellent particularly in telecommunications and technology. In rural areas, residents need well-equipped hardware and up-to-date software as well as access to higher bandwidth to meet their information and educational purposes. Furthermore, Assumption Parish is primarily rural with sugar cane being the main industry and per capita income is much lower than Louisiana and the country as a whole. Our customers depend on the public access computers to find jobs, update resumes, search for better jobs, etc. With the reduction in state aid to public libraries, it has become more difficult to fund our technology needs. Computer usage and visits to the library have increased significantly during the past year.

The Assumption Parish Library wholeheartedly supports the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption and will cooperate with the State Library in making Louisiana a better place for its citizens.

Sincerely,

Dr. Teri Maggio, C.P.L.A.
Director

South St. Landry Community Library

235 Marie Street
Sunset, LA 70584
337-662-3442

August 10, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131

Re: NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

The South St. Landry Community Library fully endorses the grant proposals to be implemented by the State Library of Louisiana.

South St. Landry serves the communities of Sunset, Cankton, and Grand Coteau with a population of over 4,000 with a staff of three. Having no professional librarian and with the increase demand for technology, we look to the State Library of Louisiana to assist with consulting services and quality training. While Louisiana may be ranked less than stellar in some critical areas, one can look to our State Library as being outstanding and committed.

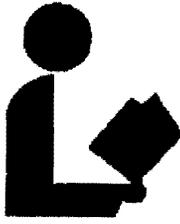
As with any technology, our needs as well as those of our patronage continue to increase. Additional bandwidth is necessary to allow for fast access, additional money is needed for the purchase of computers compatible with the latest software, and of course training on development of new resources is always necessary.

It is our hope that the State Library is successful in its request for stimulus grant funding. By providing this necessary funding to the State Library multiplies every dollar through economies of scale. We at the public level are on the front lines helping the underserved, reducing the digital divide, and providing the best in informational services to all.

Sincerely,



Barbara Malbrue
Director



NATCHITOCHE PARISH LIBRARY

450 Second Street
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457
318-357-3280

August 11, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian of Louisiana

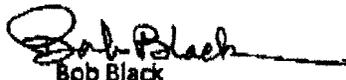
Dear Rebecca:

We are in such need here in Louisiana for Broadband. As everyone witnessed during the Katrina storm, our communications were the greatest problem. Much greater than the water or the wind. People died on the streets of New Orleans from a lack or breakdown in communications. The story that by now everyone in Louisiana knows is that the only way the Mayor got the word to Washington that first day was when his IT person broke in to a Radio Shack in the Quarter and looted and scavenged enough equipment to get a broadband connection.

Post storm every public library in North Louisiana was "swamped" with storm refugees, using the only computers they could find -- the public libraries -- to try to find their friends and family and initiate FEMA forms. The FEMA workers had no public computers for them to use. There was no place except the public libraries.

Now with so many people laid off from their jobs, where can they go to find information about jobs? Again the public library computers are their only resource. Let's face it. Broadband has become a public utility the same as water, gas and electricity and telephone service. Like the century preceeding us Louisiana is again behind in this utility. With the State coffer depleted and the budget cutbacks here in Louisiana, we desperately need Federal Assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,


Bob Black
Parish Librarian
Natchitoches, Louisiana

CC: Representative Rick Nowlin
Senator Gerald Long

www.youseemore.com/natchitoches

Morgan City Public Library

PO Box 988
220 Everett Street
Morgan City, Louisiana 70380
(985) 380-4646
library@cityofmc.com

August 7, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Stimulus Funding

The State Library of Louisiana has been a pioneer in its services to the libraries and citizens of Louisiana.

Without the State Library of Louisiana, our small public library would be unable to keep our patrons up-to-date on current resources, provide internet, or have a larger circle of expertise in times of difficulty.

The citizens of this community are honored and grateful for the support of the State Library and know that funds attained through this opportunity will be spent wisely and will provide largest impact on the majority of citizens of Louisiana in continuing to provide excellent service.

Very truly yours,

Malisa A. Mayon
Malisa Mayon
Director

East Carroll Parish Library

109 Sparrow Street
Lake Providence, Louisiana 71254

318-559-2615

Renée T. Whatley
Librarian

August 6, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P O Box 131
Baton Rouge, La 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

The East Carroll Parish Library is pledging our support of the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants submitted by the State Library of Louisiana.

We understand the importance of partnering with the State Library of Louisiana to build and network resources to sustain the library services that we provide to our citizens. This partnership will provide additional hardware for public libraries, promote computing centers and sustain broadband adoption.

We understand the value of the consulting services that have been provided by the State Library and appreciate their efforts to continue to provide quality technology training and support. There is a real need for users in our parish to have access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware and up-to-date software. As we will receive less state aid this coming fiscal year due to the state budget crisis, we are concerned about any decrease in our services, especially as library usage has increased during this economic downturn.

Louisiana, especially rural, agricultural areas of the state like East Carroll Parish, is ranked at the bottom in critical areas. The value of public access computers to the underserved users in our community is immeasurable for workforce development and the needed resources required to enhance the quality of life for all residents in East Carroll Parish. We, at the East Carroll Parish Library, are committed to improving our parish and strive to work in cooperation with the efforts of the State Library of Louisiana on our behalf.

Cordially,


Renée T. Whatley, Director

Pointe Coupee Parish Library
201 Claiborne Street
New Roads, Louisiana 70760
<http://www.pointe-coupee.lib.la.us>

August 5, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

On behalf of the Pointe Coupee Parish Library, please know we applaud and support the efforts of the State Library of Louisiana to secure funding on behalf of Louisiana's public libraries. The Pointe Coupee Parish Library is thrilled to partner with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance in its application to NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption.

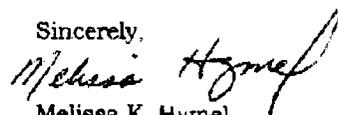
Pointe Coupee Parish Library serves a population of approximately 22,000. Our five library facilities are located in rural areas with limited technology resources. In many of these communities, our public library is the sole source of technology. We have experienced a tremendous increase in demand in the last eighteen months, primarily due to the recent economic downturn. Many patrons are seeking our assistance with resumes, job searches, unemployment benefits, basic computer access, technological program instruction, and technical skills development. We have a small staff with limited resources. Every extra dollar is currently used to provide quality library resources to our patrons. In this last legislative session, our libraries were cut valuable state aid dollars. And our own local tax base was significantly reduced. But demand for library services continues to increase on a daily basis.

The level of expertise provided by the State Library of Louisiana is without question excellent. In small, rural communities we rely upon that level of excellence to guide and assist in providing needed services to our patrons. We simply don't have the manpower to provide the same level of service without the assistance of the State Library.

The State Library of Louisiana has been, is and will continue to be our partner in providing our citizens with quality services. Without the assistance of the State Library staff, our own staff would not have the experience or time to write grants, most notably an NTIA technology grant.

Please know you have the support of the Pointe Coupee Parish Library. We are excited about the possibilities provided by this grant application. And we support your efforts in providing this opportunity to Louisiana's public libraries.

Sincerely,



Melissa K. Hymel

Director

Pointe Coupee Parish Library

ACADIA PARISH LIBRARY

P. O. BOX 1509

CROWLEY, LOUISIANA 70527

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF ACADIA PARISH SINCE 1945

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: Louisiana State Library's Stimulus Grant Application

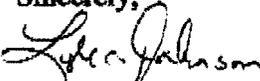
Dear Ms. Hamilton:

This letter is written in support of the State Library's application for stimulus funds for Louisiana's Public Libraries. The State Library constantly strives to provide service assistance to all of Louisiana's Public Libraries.

In these challenging economic times, our library is experiencing an increase in use while facing revenue reductions. Some heavily used services are no longer available due to budgetary constraints. Prime examples are the online full text databases that were once available to our patrons. These services have not been renewed due to budget cuts to the State Library of Louisiana. These databases are most useful to smaller libraries like ours who cannot afford to purchase them alone.

There are many libraries in Louisiana who depend on the State Aid to Libraries Grant Program which provides additional funding to each parish library. This fund has been slashed in half and has affected every library's budget in the state. As we attempt to absorb this shortfall, we cannot continue to provide all of the ever increasing informational needs that our patrons require and deserve.

Thank you in advance for considering the requests made by the State Library of Louisiana and for any assistance provided to them that they might continue to help us serve the needs of our patrons.

Sincerely,

Lyle C. Johnson,
Director



ALLEN PARISH LIBRARIES

Headquarters: Post Office Box 400
Oberlin, Louisiana 70655 • 800-960-3015

August 5, 2009

Dear Grantors:

Allen Parish Libraries is partnering with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance in applying for the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants. This letter is written in support of that application.

Allen Parish is a small, rural parish whose people have always been underserved in terms of overall access to computers, the Internet, and technology training. Lack of funding, both personal and parish, has hampered efforts to build the strong infrastructure needed to provide critical computer services. This, in turn, helps to keep our people at the bottom of all those quality of life lists the media is so fond of quoting.

Allen Parish Libraries partners with the State Library of Louisiana to provide Internet and database access to our citizens at each of our three branches. Higher bandwidth, up-to-date hardware and software, and technological training for staff are three areas that are difficult to provide for, especially with the reduction of state aid this coming fiscal year. These are all things that will improve the lives of our parish citizens who are turning to us for help more and more during this time of economic distress. They will also help us during the times of climatic disaster. In addition to caring for its own citizens, Allen was a place of refuge for those people displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Allen Parish Libraries was where people with property damage registered with FEMA, kept in touch with loved ones, contacted insurance companies, looked for jobs, etc.---all online.

If we are to continue to provide today's vital services to our citizens, we must be able to keep up with the ever-changing technology. We cannot afford to have 20th century technology in a 21th century world. I respectfully ask that you fund these grants in full.

Sincerely,

Karen Teigen
Director

Branch Locations:

Oberlin
337-639-4315

Oakdale
318-335-2690

Kinder
337-738-2126

Ascension Parish Library

708 South Irma Boulevard, Gonzales, LA 70737 (225) 647-8924 Fax: 644-0063

500 Mississippi Street
Donaldsonville, LA 70346
(225) 473-8052 Fax: 473-9522

708 South Irma Boulevard
Gonzales, LA 70737
(225) 647-3955 Fax: 644-0063

40300 Highway 42
Prairieville, LA 70769
(225) 622-3339 Fax: 622-2550

August 5, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: Grant application: NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

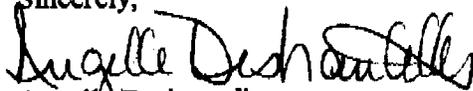
Dear Ms. Hamilton:

Ascension Parish Library and the State Library of Louisiana work hand in hand to provide the best possible service to our citizens. The NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption are essential to this process.

As you are aware, Ascension Parish Library has lost significant funding in the coming fiscal year due to the state budget crises. This is at a time when the citizens are in greatest need of our services. We have lost funding but yet need to provide greater bandwidth to meet the needs of the community. Our hardware has reached a point of no longer having maintenance contracts due to the age of the equipment.

We support the State Library of Louisiana in its efforts to secure grant funds to provide for our citizens. It is imperative that we seek out these funds so that we can maintain if not improve the current technological environment necessary to a successful future.

Sincerely,



Angelle Deshautelles
Library Director

Angelle Deshautelles, Library Director
Ascension Parish Library
708 South Irma Blvd.
Gonzales, LA 70737
Phone: (225) 647-8924
FAX: (225) 644-0063
email: <adeshaut@state.lib.la.us>
www.myAPL.org

**BIENVILLE PARISH LIBRARY**

2768 Maple Street
Arcadia, Louisiana 71001
www.bienville.lib.la.us

Phone (318) 263-7410
Fax (318) 263-7428

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca,

The Bienville Parish Library supports your efforts at the State Library to apply for stimulus monies such as the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants for computing centers and for sustaining broadband adoption. Our library system has benefited from state aid grant funding to provide technology for our library patronage. State aid grant funding has been cut this year due to the state budget crisis. We applaud your efforts to find other funding options.

The State Library has been instrumental in assisting my staff and me in all areas of library service, but especially with technology equipment, training, tech support and consulting. We are partnering with the State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance to continue our resources and services.

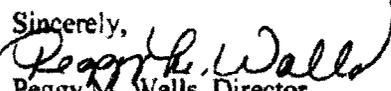
Bienville Parish is very rural with a population of less than 16,000. The economic downturn has brought increased use of our public access computers. With fewer homes with computers, we have an influx of patrons using our computers. Many are searching for jobs. The need is very great to provide this free service to our people.

Technology is a wonderful thing, but useless if you don't know how it works. The State Library has provided beneficial technology training for our staff members. This training is free or at little cost to our library and is presented by highly qualified professionals. Each library in the state has benefited from this training.

The State Library has a staff of professional consultants available whenever called to answer questions in all areas of library service. These consultants are few and spread thin, but they have been the backbone for many small libraries in this state. I have never called with a question (no matter how ignorant) and have not had a prompt reply. They are SUPERMEN (and women) to us.

In summary, we support the efforts in gaining any stimulus funding for all the libraries in our state. And thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,


Peggy M. Walls, Director



Bossier Parish Libraries
www.bossierlibrary.org

August 7, 2009

Bossier Parish Library
2206 Beckett Street
Bossier City, LA 71111
Phone 746-1693
Fax 746-7768

Bossier Parish Libraries
Delbert Terry
Administrator

Benton
115 Courthouse Drive
965-2751

H. L. Aulds
South Bossier
3950 Wayne Avenue
742-2337

Houghton
116 West McKinley
949-0196

Koran
Highway 627
967-3915

Plain Dealing
Highway 2
326-4233

East 80
1050 Bellevue Road
949-2665

Bossier Parish Library
Historical Center
2206 Beckett Street
746-7717

Technical Services
2206 Beckett Street
746-1903

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian/Assistant Secretary
State Library of Louisiana
Office of Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, La. 70802-5232

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Rebecca:

This letter is in support of your grant application for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Bossier Parish Libraries is happy to partner with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance to offer computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption.

With the increase of patronage over the past several years, and most recently with the increase of patronage during economic downturn, there is a tremendous need in Bossier parish to have access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware and up-to-date software. Unfortunately Bossier Libraries will suffer due to less state aid this coming fiscal year due to state budget crisis and those funds are essential to technology. The value of public access computers to the users in our community is more vital now than ever so that we can assist in workforce development and serving the underserved. Our state is ranked at the bottom in critical areas and technology opportunities are one of them.

We look forward to continuing to provide much needed services to patrons all across the Bossier parish and to working as a partner to assure that every person in Louisiana matters.

Sincerely,

Delbert Terry
Library Director
Bossier Parish Libraries

**Calcasieu Parish Public Library****Administrative Office**

301 West Claude Street

Lake Charles, Louisiana 70605-3457

Phone: (337) 721-7147 • Fax: (337) 475-8806

Michael Sawyer
Director

August 6, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

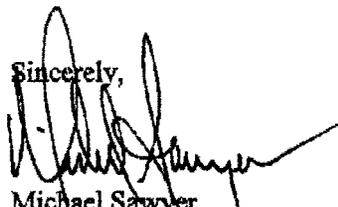
Dear Rebecca:

The Calcasieu Parish Public Library (CPPL) would like to express its appreciation to the State Library of Louisiana for leadership in implementing, supporting and expanding public technologies to libraries in Louisiana. Specifically, for many years the state library has and continues to provide education on applying for federal e-rate; has completed state-wide e-rate applications; assisted in obtaining technology grants for hardware; and provided technology consulting and training for library staff. Because of our partnership with the state library, our library system has been able to consistently improve public access in our libraries to such technologies as public computers and software available on networks that provide internet access. Access to state library technology training assists with the ongoing planning and costs of training library staff to assist patrons in using technology. Online resources provided by the State Library of Louisiana available 24/7 have expanded the remote availability of quality information resources to our citizens.

The impact of the economic downturn is being felt in reduced funding at the state level. State Aid to public libraries that we have used in years past to pay for technology improvements and maintenance has been severely reduced this year and until the economy improves, may continue to be limited. This limitation will affect our public library system's ability to support workforce development and economic recovery.

To participate in future workforce needs and grow our local, regional, national, and ultimately, global economy requires access to technology. For many members of the community, the public library is their resource for required access to technology. For example, many employers prefer to start the employment process with online job applications. More schools require students to have online access for information, class work communication, and testing. Government agencies are also pointing service applicants to their websites for information and assistance. As this becomes the norm, it becomes ever more critical that citizens without personal access to technology have an alternative path. In Louisiana, assistance with technology is vital and we welcome the opportunity to partner with the State Library of Louisiana in their efforts.

Sincerely,


Michael Sawyer
Director

• Bell City • Carnegie Memorial • Central • DeQuincy • Epps Memorial • Fontenot Memorial •
• Hayes • Iowa • Maplewood • Moss Bluff • SWLA Genealogical • Starks • Sulphur Regional • Westlake •

Caldwell Parish Library

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Rebecca,

I am so glad that you are applying for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Grant. It has been a pleasure to have the partnership of the State Library and the educational opportunities offered to the citizens of our parish through the technology support provided by the staff of the State Library.

As you know, Caldwell is a small, rural parish with a high level of poverty. Many of our citizens cannot afford home computers and depend on the public access provided by the library. We are seeing more people coming to the library for computers. We have had days that people were waiting for an opening on a computer.

We are trying to adjust our budget to reflect the cut in State Aid. We hope to maintain the same level of service to our library patrons. These grants will help supplement the increased requests for technology.

Sincerely,

Mary G. Poole,
Caldwell Parish Librarian

**Cameron Parish Library
PO Box 8832
Lake Charles, LA 70607**

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian/Assistant Secretary
State Library of Louisiana
Office of Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, La. 70802-5232

August 4, 2009

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

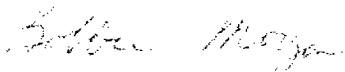
Libraries have been affected as the nation reels from the financial crisis affecting every aspect of society. During times of financial hardship, library use increases while funding decreases. The State Library of Louisiana recently suffered severe cutbacks and State Aid to Libraries has been curtailed. Our libraries are in dire straits. Our partners, the Louisiana State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance have applied for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption. The Cameron Parish Library strongly supports this partnership and grant application.

The Cameron Parish Library has long partnered with the State Library of Louisiana. The library depends upon the State Library for help with technology issues and has had quality service from consultants that are always willing to visit the library and help resolve issues. The help provided by the State Library has vastly improved services to the people of Cameron Parish.

Cameron Parish is the largest Parish in the State of Louisiana, covering 1,932 square miles, 620 of which is water. The area is mostly rural, with settlements spread out across the Parish. It has been devastated by hurricanes in the past several years and is in the rebuilding process. Access to public computers is vital in the recovery as the public searches for information to help rebuild their homes, reestablish their businesses, obtain job training and return to a life enjoyed pre-hurricanes. The services the libraries provide allow those underserved patrons the ability to access the sites they need in their efforts to recover.

The training the State Library provides has proved invaluable in helping to provide services to the public, and better serve the people of Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Bobbie Morgan, Director

Catahoula Parish Library



P. O. Box 218 • Harrisonburg, Louisiana 71340 • Phone 318-744-5271

Rebecca Hamilton
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Ms Hamilton:

I am writing to support the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant that will support the needs of our libraries. As a newly hired Library Director, I can easily see the need for technology in our libraries. I just moved from secondary teaching where the new focus of our schools is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The successful schools in our nation have focused in these areas to obtain student interest and to also provide a prepared workforce for 21st Century Skills. The public libraries in Louisiana can be a tremendous asset in this area; however, we will need to have the technology in place for this to happen. Working with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance, I see the potential to meet the needs of our communities. With the economic downturn that the nation is in, the citizens need a place to turn to for workforce development and that place is the public library. Those that are underserved are served in the library. Many patrons now use the library computers as a means of accessing online job postings, creating resumes, and completing online classes. State aid for this fiscal year will be reduced due to the economy, thereby endangering a valuable resource for local communities. Catahoula Parish is a rural parish that has a need for access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware, and more up-to-date software. With Louisiana ranked at the bottom in many critical areas, this grant will allow the public libraries to meet the growing need to access relevant and useful technology.

Sincerely,

Wayne Spence

Library Director Catahoula Parish Library

Claiborne Parish Public Library
909 Edgewood Drive
Homer, La 71040

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

We are very excited about the possibility of partnering with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance to obtain broadband for our library through the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. We are proud that public libraries in Louisiana and the State Library have been providing exceptional library service to the citizens of Louisiana for many decades and that Louisiana's public libraries have always been at the forefront with the technological advances in delivery of library services to our citizens.

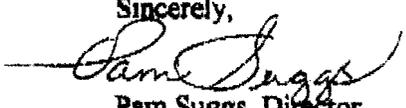
Now more than ever we need to not only maintain our level of Internet services but also to improve its delivery through broadband. The economic crisis has touched all of our libraries especially small rural ones such as ours. Our users of internet services have increased exponentially as our local business and industries have closed or drastically decreased their work forces. We are in desperate need of higher bandwidth and more up-to-date software to keep up with this growing demand for our free Internet services.

Louisiana's financial crisis has led to State Aid to Public Libraries being sharply reduced and this in turn means that we can no longer afford some of the technology resources that were funded through State Aid and our public access computers will have to operate using current software and hardware for many more years.

The technology training we have received in the past from the State Library has been excellent and it goes hand-in-hand with the quality of library services we are able offer to our public. We look forward to being able to continue to receive these.

Please know that you have our support for these projects and we look forward to the opportunity to improve our libraries through your efforts.

Sincerely,


Pam Suggs, Director

Pamela Suggs - Director
www.youseemore.com/claiborne
Phone: 318-927-3845
Fax: 318-927-2016
Email: psuggs@state.lib.la.us

**Evangeline Parish Library
242 W. Main St.
Ville Platte, LA 70586
(337) 363-1369; fax (337) 363-2353**

August 4, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

Evangeline Parish Library is proud to partner with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance. We fully support and endorse the State Library's grant applications.

Although we are a poor rural library system within a disadvantaged state, we take a strong interest in broadband issues. Our police jury president and library board member Bob Manuel serves on the governor's Broadband Advisory Council, and we are anxious to improve our infrastructure and technical training so that we can better serve the underserved citizens of our parish. Many of our patrons are struggling to adapt to a world where most government forms and information searches must be completed on line. We are their front line of support.

In turn, we count on State Library personnel and State Library consultants. Hopefully, grant funding through the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) will make possible much-needed follow up work by state library or consultant staff. We cannot afford an IT department and desperately need infrastructure evaluation and additional training and support to help us understand, manage, and upgrade our systems. As the technological systems become ever more complex, and State Aid funding decreases, our overall situation worsens. We need help.

For example, the public expects wireless, but we need a cost-effective way to institute wireless at all 6 of our locations without harming network security. We must evaluate and determine what portions of existing infrastructure require upgrading and determine how to upgrade them. And once wireless is in place we will need skilled training on how to manage and troubleshoot it.

As another example, we have added bandwidth, but now we are finding problems of lost connectivity and questions of whether our firewall must be upgraded or replaced in order to handle new system demands. We need selection guidance, financial support, and training in how to manage this major investment.

These are only two examples of how we need help NOW with infrastructure and training, two highly critical areas that BTOP can support. Thank you so much for your grant efforts on behalf of all the parish public libraries.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Foster-Galasso, MBA, MLIS
Director, Evangeline Parish Library

**Franklin Parish Library
705 Prairie Street
Winnsboro, LA 71295**

August 5, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P. O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca,

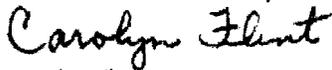
The Franklin Parish Library is certainly supportive of your efforts to obtain grant funds for newer computer hardware, training and tech support. As you know our parish is in one of the poorest regions of the state and country.

Many of our residents only have computer access at the library. They are using the computers for job searching and resume preparation. We have also seen an increase in the number of people taking online courses and taking test for jobs using the library computers. It would be good if we could provide more computers with the newest software and higher bandwidth.

In a small library the staff wears many caps. No one can devote the time necessary to stay abreast with new technology. The support and training we receive from your staff is invaluable.

Even though we will receive less state aid this year we know the State Library will still try to offer the great support on which we depend. Our patrons are used to hearing us say, "We will check with the State Library and get back to you." We hope to keep partnering with you to provide the best service possible to our citizens.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Flint
Librarian, Franklin Parish Library



IBERVILLE PARISH LIBRARY

24605 J. GERALD BERRET BLVD
P. O. BOX 736
PLAQUEMINE, LA 70765-0736
(225) 687-2520 FAX: (225) 687-9719

Thursday, August 06, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, AL 70821

On behalf of the library users, board members, and staff of the Iberville Parish Library I am writing in support of the State Library of Louisiana. As partners with the State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance we want to express our strong support and need for the grants available from the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities program (BTOP). In particular, the grants to assist Louisiana computing centers and to sustain our broadband access are crucial to our mission to support the educational, economic, and cultural goals of our communities.

Our library finances are being heavily impacted by reduced revenues. This at the same time that public use of our libraries increases as residents need help coping with the harsh realities of the faltering economy. The economic downturn has caused our property tax revenues to stagnate. We watch our bank interest income plummet along with the world-wide decrease in interest rates, as we work overtime to assist people looking for ways to cope with reduced family incomes.

On a broader level, the State Library has suffered budget cuts due to Louisiana's financial crisis so that their services and assistance to public libraries across the state is threatened. In the coming year this means steeper Internet access costs for Iberville Parish to bear because the State Library can no longer pay for our Direct Internet Access (DIA) costs. The budget for State Aid to Public Libraries was slashed. As a result we will lose almost half of the state aid funds that we have relied upon in past years to upgrade public use computers and network equipment. It also threatens the sorely needed technological training and IT consulting services currently available from the State Library. We are a rural parish with few options available for IT expertise and training. The reduction in several sources of revenue and the loss of training and consultant services will be major obstacles to providing for the needs of our citizenry.

I feel it is important to point out the variety of essential services that the State Library's expertise and direction help us to provide to our community and how these services would be maintained and improved with the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities program. One, we see a constant need to provide the best Internet access possible for library users that are hungry for high speed access, well trained staff, and quality software. Our statistics show library usage going up, especially among those hardest hit by the economic downturn. More and more patrons are using the library's computers to search for jobs, to work on their resumes, to re-educate themselves, and to find ways to save money in these tough times. And it should be

emphasized that for many people the library is their only option for access to computers and the Internet. Additionally, the demand for computer resources by students of all ages continue to climb with students that are increasingly dependent on databases and educational websites for their research and projects.

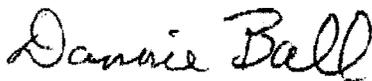
Another reason to maintain up-to-date public computers and high bandwidth is demonstrated by our history of first-line support during disasters. Our main library meeting room has served as a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) for months after both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Gustav. During these crises the library served a huge number of south Louisiana people that were severely impacted by these storms. Having a modern computer network helped those with destroyed or partially damaged houses file claims with FEMA, SBT, and other assistance agencies. The State Library was instrumental in coordinating efforts to help tens of thousands of people across the state and in neighboring states find help, and in some cases find relatives and friends that they were separated from during the disasters. When and if other hurricanes come our way, we need to be prepared to serve these heavy needs with the most current and effective technology.

The wide ranging benefits of having modern computers available for public use can not be over emphasized. Louisiana ranks near the bottom in many critical areas, such as education, poverty, health, job opportunities, and the environment. This makes it even more important to sustain modern equipment in order to improve the lives of our underserved citizenry. Towards this end we must applaud the benefits we have recently received from the State Library's IT consultant services. In multiple visits to our main library their IT consultants have helped us upgrade our network with software changes and by providing advice on network equipment purchases. They have also invested time training our small IT staff to implement changes to the network and fix problems. We consider this relationship extremely helpful and want it to continue.

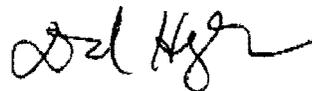
As you can see, declining revenues and increasing technology costs are presenting a mounting challenge for the Iberville Parish Library. Partnership with the State Library and support from the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities program would greatly assist us in serving the people of Iberville Parish.

I thank you for your fine work and assistance on our behalf.

Sincerely,



Dannie Ball
Director



David Hughes
Assistant Director & Head, IT Department



Jackson Parish Library

614 South Polk Avenue
JONESBORO, LOUISIANA 71251

August 3, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Re: Letter of Support
NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant application

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

This letter is written in support of the grant application of the State Library of Louisiana, which is applying for funds on behalf of every public library in our state. The State Library has worked very closely with all of the public libraries in Louisiana to determine what our needs are and to prioritize those needs. Two of the most critical areas for public libraries in Louisiana are (1) funding for additional computer hardware, and (2) technology training, technical support and technology consulting services. I understand that the State Library of Louisiana is applying for funding to address these two essential needs.

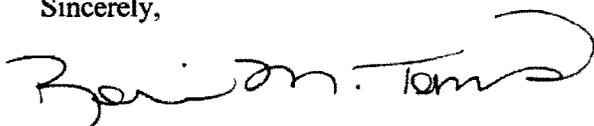
The Jackson Parish Library partners with the State Library to provide library services, particularly high speed Internet access, to the citizens of our rural parish. The technology training and consulting services we have received from you has been invaluable to us. Our library staff must have ongoing technology training so that they can learn the skills required to assist the public. Many of our citizens do not have access to online resources at home and they use our library to apply online for jobs, create resumes, access their email, do online training required by their employers, and take online coursework to obtain certifications or degrees to qualify for employment opportunities. This need has become even greater recently as our region has experienced significant job losses in the forest products industry due to plant closures and layoffs. We are seeing overall library usage increase as a result, and particularly use of our public computers and electronic resources.

As a Library Director, I sometimes need outside technical advice or support from the State Library beyond my level of expertise to make wise decisions and to be a good steward of our available resources. Also, as you know, despite the best efforts of you

and your staff, the amount of funding we receive from the state in the form of grants for technology enhancement and resource development has been cut, therefore putting a greater burden on our local library budget. We are partnering with the State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance in the hope that grant monies received through the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption will provide additional support needed for our library to continue to provide our library users with access to higher bandwidth, better hardware and the latest software to meet their ever-increasing needs.

Louisiana ranks at or near the bottom in many critical areas, particularly in the education of our citizens who make up our potential and available workforce. Our need is great and therefore we fully support the grant application of the State Library of Louisiana so that we may continue to work with you to provide free and open access to technology to meet the needs of all of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin M. Toms". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Robin M. Toms
Library Director



August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

As most of the nation is looking at dire financial situations, the libraries in the state of Louisiana are equally concerned. Due to recent budget crisis issues, each library will receive less state aid in the coming fiscal year. This coupled with the fact that library usage has increased during these trying economic times leaves each of our libraries with an urgent need. The State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance are our libraries' partners. They have applied for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption.

The State Library of Louisiana has long been the parish libraries' partner in fostering effective library services for the citizens of our state. The value of this partnership is immeasurable in the sense that many of the citizens of our state depend heavily on the library for their technological needs. It is imperative that the citizens of our state have access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware, and up-to-date software. Recently, the State Library of Louisiana has provided consulting services and quality training for our staff and our libraries. This service is top-notch and badly needed!

All of these efforts must be continued in that the significance of public access computers to the users in our community is so extremely important. Louisiana is ranked at the bottom of the list in critical areas. Our parish of Jefferson Davis is a rural, rather poor parish and has many challenges to face. The children are considered to be 64.26% at-risk. The diversity of patron ethnicity includes: Caucasian, Hispanic, African-American and American Indian. The services we provide reach out to those underserved rural citizens who utilize our technology for seeking jobs, learning computer skills, and in general workforce development. For many of our children and adults, their access to computers and technology are only provided within our library walls.

Please consider The State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance in their partnership with Louisiana Libraries in the quest to provide service for the people of a state badly in need of advancement.

Sincerely,

Linda LeBert-Corbello, PhD
Director



JEFFERSON PARISH
LOUISIANA
LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

Our Mission is:
"Provide the services,
leadership, and vision to
improve the quality of life
in Jefferson Parish."

AARON F. BROUSSARD
PARISH PRESIDENT

LON R. DICKERSON
DIRECTOR

August 6, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca Hamilton:

Jefferson Parish Library heartedly supports the applications from the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants for computer hardware for public libraries and technology training.

Our library sustained enormous damage from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as well as damage from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Almost four years later, we are still struggling to reopen libraries. We are also trying to "build back better" in a state which ranks at or near the bottom nationally in education, health care, public library services, computer access to information, etc. The digital divide is alive and well in Louisiana, and it is imperative that public libraries throughout the state provide increased public access to the Internet and online resources.

We are being inundated with people who lack the computers and rudimentary computer skills which are required to apply for jobs today. Libraries must provide training opportunities and support to their users and staff to cope with the economic downturn and spiraling unemployment in addition to rebounding from four major hurricanes within four years. We urgently need additional public access computers and much higher bandwidth, too.

I applaud the state library for taking the lead in seeking stimulus funds at a time when state funding is in sharp decline. Our level of state aid, for instance, has dropped from over \$200,000 last year to approximately \$30,000 this year. It is my fervent hope that the grants will be approved and the stimulus funds will be forthcoming to help us facilitate faster and greater online access to our residents.

Sincerely,

Lon Dickerson
Library Director

JENNINGS CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

303 CARY AVENUE
JENNINGS, LOUISIANA 70546

PHONE (337) 821-5517

FAX (337) 821-5527

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA. 70821

RE: NTIA's BPOE Grants

Dear Rebecca:

Concern for the sustaining of many, much utilized services provided our community, through our partnership with the State Library, has prompted me to put into writing my full-on support of the efforts being made by you and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance to obtain funding on our behalf.

Our six public computers are in constant use and have become a life-line to many during these difficult economic times. Needless to say, up-to-date hardware, software, bandwidth, etc. are necessary components in meeting our citizens' needs. Due to state aid being cut this fiscal year, without extra funding, I will not be able to cover these costs. Also of great benefit are the training sessions and technical consults provided. Having the tools and knowledge of our technology resources on a continual basis is so important.

Our library was founded in 1885 and is the centerpiece of our city. It's value throughout the generations has been undeniable and just gets more relevant each day.

If there's anything I can do to assist, please let me know.

Most Sincerely,



Harriet Shultz
Director



**Lafayette Public
Library System**

August 5, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

We are pleased to partner with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance on improving and sustaining technology in our Lafayette Public Libraries. I am writing this letter to show our support for the projects included in the grant requests our partners are submitting for the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The Lafayette Public Library system provides 160 public access computers throughout our ten locations. These computers are used over 32000 sessions each month for Internet access, creating documents, accessing early learning and other educational software, and researching information.

Use of our library electronic resources and computers continues to increase annually. The past 12 months are showing a 15% increase in library computer usage over the prior year 12 months. During times of economic uncertainty, the public increases its use of the library; we saw this in Lafayette during the mid-1980 'oil bust'. Once our economy recovered in the 1990s, we continued to see increases in use. This scenario is starting to recur in 2009.

We've recently partnered with the Lafayette Workforce Investment Board to offer 'Career Ready 101' training and access to the public on library computers. We also have seen an increase in demand for the free computer classes we offer the public. We offer classes ranging from 'how to set up an email account for seniors' to 'preparing for college entrance exams'. Recent basic computer, word processing, and spreadsheet class signups at our regional libraries were booked solid, including a waiting list, within two hours. Any additional help in this area to meet the demands will be welcomed.

Bandwidth utilization has peaked at several locations this summer, and we predict the WAN lines and the Internet connection will need to be upgraded within 18 months to meet the increased demand.

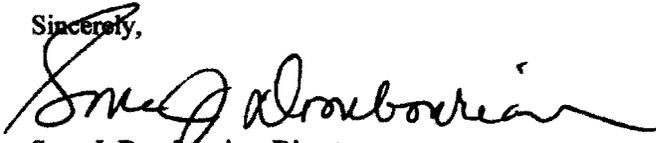
Computer access to the public isn't just a pc, mouse, and monitor. RAM and faster hard drives are routinely needed to extend the life of aging computers. Antivirus licenses and maintenance agreement costs recur annually. Network equipment, servers, and printers all have limited life spans. Within the next 24 months, much of this equipment will have reached its 36 - 60 month lifespan and will need replacing. In order for the library to keep providing this valuable service, librarians and other public services staff must receive ongoing training. IT staff need continuing education on the hardware, software, and network infrastructure. So the training that will be funded with this application will be heavily needed and utilized by our staff.

Rebecca Hamilton
August 5, 2009
Page 2

In the past, we have used State Aid funds to establish and equip permanent and mobile training labs in our facilities. Our state aid funding was severely reduced this year to only 25% of what it was in the past, limiting our ability to improve and enhance our technology.

In 1998, the Library entered the technology era, when all locations offered public access computers and the Internet. The demand is ever increasing, but especially so during times of strife – whether economic or other catastrophic. We always stretch our budget dollars to offer and improve this invaluable service to the public. The projects proposed by our partners under the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program will allow us to weather the economic storm, while improving services to the public.

Sincerely,



Sona J. Dombourian, Director
Lafayette Public Library System

Lafourche Parish Public Library

303 West 5th Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301, Phone 985-446-1163, Fax 985-446-3848

Susanna LeBouef, Director

www.lafourche.org

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian/Assistant Secretary
State of Louisiana
Office of Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

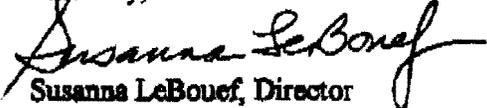
Dear Ms. Hamilton:

The Lafourche Parish Public Library would like to go on record as supporting the two stimulus grants being written by the Louisiana State Library. It has been proven by our statistics that library usage has greatly increased during this economic downturn, especially by patrons wishing to use our public access computers.

Lafourche Parish Public Library has had to purchase online databases at a cost of over \$10,000.00 which had previously been provided to us by the State Library. We have not been able to purchase all the databases due to economic difficulties. Lack of database materials affects our attempts to improve the literacy levels of our community.

As you can see, any help will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Susanna LeBouef, Director
Lafourche Parish Public Library



BRANCHES: THIBODAUX, CHOCTAW, BAYOU BLUE, RACELAND, GREENS, LOCKPORT, LAROSE,
SOUTH LAFOURCHE, GOLDEN MEADOW, COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Livingston Parish Library

13986 Fla. Blvd / PO Box 397
Livingston, LA 70754
225-686-2436

Wendy Bobo
Director

Giovanni Tairov
Assistant Director

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

Thank you for continually working to support the Livingston Parish Library system. The hard work, dedication, and support your team of consultants generates for our needs is much appreciated. The State Library consultants have, only recently, answered a number of difficult questions for me that were vital to the operation of my local library system. I received such timely response and helpful advice that I was able to resolve the situations immediately. The training my staff has received from the State Library is an important part of their continuing education which directly benefits the public.

Your team's exhaustive efforts to ensure that we continue to receive State Aid funding was impressive and important to help the Livingston Parish Library system continue our level of service to our patrons and the general public we serve daily. Thank you for the time and energy you and your staff have expended on our behalf. I was dismayed that our funding was cut so drastically, but do appreciate that, because of your efforts, we did not completely lose that area of funding.

In this time of economic uncertainty, the public is using our libraries more and more. Our circulation has increased by more than 12% in recent months; attendance at various adult, young adult, and children's programming events has been overwhelming, as people are looking for no-cost programs. The computer use at all branches has increased such that people are waiting for the doors to open in the morning so they can use the computers for Internet access. This, of course, places a "drain" on the bandwidth and functionality of our network, so that our system is becoming slower in response time. It also accelerates the "wear and tear" on the equipment and hardware.

Due to these facts, the Livingston Parish Library fully appreciates and supports your efforts in seeking funding from the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants for computing centers and broadband needs. Thank you for your continued concern for our patrons' needs.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bobo
Director

Library Trustees

Jo Ann Graul
President

Ronnie Bencaz

Kathy deGeneres

Eddie Ryan

Sue Blanchard
Vice President

Juanette Courtney

Shirley McDonald

Mike Grimmer
Ex-Office Member

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Opelousas, LA 70371-0249
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FAX: 337-948-5200
Email: admin.bloc@state.lib.la.us

EUNICE PUBLIC LIBRARY
222 S. 2nd Street
Eunice, LA 70535
Phone: 337-457-7120

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear State Librarian Hamilton,

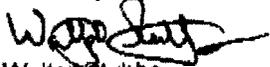
I am writing to offer this letter of support for you application for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption. In doing so, we are very pleased to have the opportunity to partner with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance.

The State Library of Louisiana has always been a valuable partner in providing library services to our citizens, not only through State Aid to Public Libraries, which has served to enhance access to technology through the purchase of needed computer hardware and software, but also through consulting services provided, which have helped us with the management of hardware, software and other aspects of public access computing. We have been notified that we will be receiving significantly less State Aid this coming fiscal year due to the state budget crisis. This comes at a time when it will also be necessary for our limited local resources to cover the cost of increased public access computing needs, which include not only the need for additional bandwidth, but also the need for additional hardware, up-to-date software, and consulting services to install and manage that hardware and software.

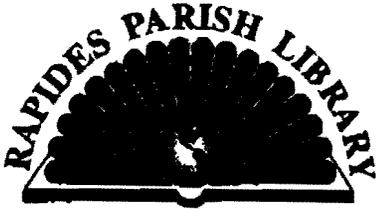
There has been an increased use of public access computers over the years in our library. This service is particularly valued by citizens in our community, who use our computers not only for entertainment, but also to further their education, obtain access to government services, and to search for employment. Our parish ranks near the bottom in critical areas such as literacy level, employment opportunities and income level. This is in as State that also ranks at the bottom in critical areas. It is, therefore, critical that continued support be forthcoming to sufficiently address the computing needs of citizens, with all its many aspects and implications.

It is our hope that through partnering with the State Library in its grant applications, this library, and other libraries in the State, will not have to struggle in the near future to provide much needed computer related services.

Sincerely,



Walter Stubbs
Administrative Librarian



RAPIDES PARISH LIBRARY

411 Washington Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-8338
www.rpl.org

August 6, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 71802-5232

Dear Rebecca:

I am writing in support of the stimulus funding being applied for by the State Library of Louisiana, in the form of the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

As you know, the State Library has been our partner in providing library services to our citizens in so many ways. We are happy to partner with the State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance.

We have benefited so much over the years from the monies you have applied for and received, which provide our library with the technology that our customers use to access the Internet, and which has provided them with PCs for public use. The need for bandwidth is ever-increasing, as our customers' use of the Internet continues to grow.

As a parish with many people affected by Louisiana's 19% poverty level rate, providing up-to-date hardware and software to our customers is especially important. They use our PCs, because they cannot afford their own. This has only increased in the present economic climate.

This year, due to budget cuts at the state level, our library is receiving less than half the funds it did in the past for state aid to public libraries, causing us to cut back on what software and hardware we can provide for our customers.

We support the State Library's application, and look forward to its adoption. It will allow us to continue to help our customers directly in the coming years.

Best regards,


Steve Rogge, Director

**St. Bernard Parish Library
7701 W. Judge Perez Dr.
Arabi, LA 70032**

August 4, 2010

Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca,

St. Bernard Parish Library is encouraged by the efforts of the State Library of Louisiana to apply for stimulus funding to benefit all of the public libraries in the state. The State Library has long been a leading partner in providing services to our residents and training for our staffs. The prospect of grants for computing centers and for access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware and up-to-date software is an opportunity like no other for our State Library and the parish libraries.

Our particular circumstances make it especially important that the library have the option to receive additional hardware. State aid, funds granted by the State Legislature, has been severely reduced and our parish will not receive \$73,000 in Revenue Sharing Funds this year. Our library has no IT department so we depend quite heavily on the technology training, tech support, and consulting provided by the State Library.

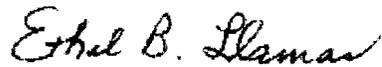
The parish library lost all technology and other resources because of Hurricane Katrina; we are currently in a 24 x60 SF trailer and will not move to a larger space until August 2010. In keeping with the library's mission of connecting individuals with resources and the necessary knowledge to enhance lives and build community, a public area and an available training area with ample computers are a chief focus of our plan to meet the technology and information needs of current and future patrons. The State Library offers hands-on and telephone assistance with technology issues, as well as training workshops aimed at keeping the staff of the public libraries up-to-date and informed. Staff knowledge transfers to the public.

The increasing multicultural diversity and changing consumer expectations of residents new to St. Bernard are clearly major future trends related to public services within our public library, present and future. The evolving differences among the population in understanding, using, and accessing technology is creating an increasingly demanding technology-needs group. The need is evident from the types and levels of training required in the trailer-library. Computer ownership is limited and home internet access is scarce in a large segment of the returning

population. Those engaged in employment searches, online-only application submissions, and resume writing make constant demands on the limited available technology.

It is quite evident technology plays an essential role in enabling the library to realize its vision of being recognized both as a physical place and an information portal with the most current technologies and high speed internet access. The public library, with support and leadership from the State Library of Louisiana, has the ability to become a 24/7, access anytime, source of information and services.

Sincerely,



Ethel B. Llamas
Director, St. Bernard Parish Library
504-279-0448
504-279-5427 fax



St. James Parish Library

www.stjames.lib.la.us

Margaret Simon, Library Supervisor
msimon@state.lib.la.us Office: (225) 869-3618

Dale J. Hymel, Jr.
Parish President

Tuesday, August 4, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca:

The Louisiana State Library is our partner in providing library services to our citizens. Due to the budget cuts, state aid has decreased and these stimulus grants will help improve our computer systems and training programs. Many of our patrons do not have personal computers, so they rely on our public access computers to do school work, look and apply for jobs, etc. Due to the economic recession our computers are being used more now than before, so with these grants our computer users will have access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware and up-to-date software. The State Library offers us consulting services and technology training. With our library getting new employees these grant will enable the State Library to help them get technology training and also help other employees keep up with the improvements in technology.

Sincerely,

Margaret Simon

Library Supervisor

St. James Parish Library

Headquarters: 1879 West Main Street, Lusher, Louisiana, 70071,
Office: (225) 869-3618 Fax: (225) 869-8435

West Branch: 2593 Highway 20 West, PO Box 190, Vacherie, Louisiana, 70090
Office: (225) 265-9066 Fax: (225) 265-4691

St. John the Baptist Parish Library
2920 New Highway 51
LaPlace, Louisiana 70068

4 August 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P. O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

I want to express my support in the applications for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants for computing centers and for sustaining broadband adoption. It is true of all public libraries in Louisiana, that we benefit both directly and indirectly from the efforts and programs of the State Library. Together as partners, local parish public libraries and the State Library provide a wide range of services to the people of our state. Many of these services are made possible only by the aide of the State Library. This long and close association has enabled the parish libraries to provide services, such as interlibrary loan that expands access to books beyond the local collections, and internet connection and provision of public access computers much earlier than would have been possible solely through local funding. Now, by partnering with the State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance, the expansion of technology and electronically based services is possible.

Because the internet is becoming an everyday part of our existence, with many governmental services moving to the internet as a primary service point, with job searching, with commercial business transactions as well as shopping and other transactions of daily life being conducted online, with local schools and colleges moving homework and student information online and with citizens wanting to expand their knowledge and horizons, the library is an integral part of the fabric of the community providing access. The local library provides services to all members of the community but for many, the importance of the library as an entry point to the internet and to computer literacy has never been more evident, nor has it ever been more important. In the current economic climate it is harder for a growing number of people to afford to have a computer in the home or to have good internet access if they do have a computer. The library becomes the haven for these citizens as it always does in times of economic adversity. The library stands tall in the community as a place that all may come for information and

recreation and not have the worry of cost. People come to libraries to seek information that will help them take employment tests, improve work skills, write resumes and send those resumes out to prospective employers. For some, classes at the local library are their first experience with computers. These classes can often lead to new jobs and new avenues of employment. To make this possible, the excellent training that has been provided by the State Library for local library staff has been as important a factor as the hardware and connectivity for serving the public. There is often no local access to classes and without the training by skilled consultants, library workers would not be able to assist the public to use the workstations, software and services being provided. This training filled a void and raised the level of competence, throughout the state, of parish library staff. This was a direct benefit to the public.

The state aid to libraries funding is a good example of benefits that have come through the State Library. With state aid funds, the St. John the Baptist Parish Library was able to purchase new computers to replace older ones, software was upgraded and the number of workstations was expanded. During the current state fiscal year the state aid funding will be reduced by half. This will have an impact on our planning and I know that there are many libraries that will face much more hardship in the continuation of services.

Louisiana is often low on the list when states are ranked in areas of economic and educational concern. This has not been true of library service. We recognize that our patrons, the people in all the parishes of Louisiana, deserve the best service that can be provided for them. To the point of this letter and in practical terms of use of the internet, people who use libraries need access to higher bandwidth, up-to-date hardware and software. Response speed and quality of the equipment are important: to library patrons in the many ways that they come in to use the computers, to libraries because of the number of users accessing the internet at the library. Public access computers are no longer an extra service that libraries offer; they have become a basic service, not just in Louisiana but across the nation. That is why I am writing in support of the grant applications.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy De Soto".

Randy A. De Soto
Library Director



St. Martin Parish Library

4 August 2009

To: Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0131

From: Jeanne A. Essmeier, Director

Re: NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

The St. Martin Parish Library prides itself in being **"Rural, but not Remote"** in our service to our patrons.

Our communities are being affected by the increasing dependence on digital information and communication being delivered efficiently and effectively in real time. This means the necessity of access to quality hardware, software, and continuing higher bandwidth is greater than ever. It also means the value of public library services are more vital in these times of fewer employment opportunities and budget cuts at every level – especially the most recent cuts in State Aid to Libraries and cuts in revenue sharing and funding to the State Library of Louisiana. Higher costs of goods and services across the board, along with greater socio-economic needs across the wide spectrum of Louisiana's citizens make free public access to information vital.

St. Martin Parish Library serves a population of over 52,000 with a staff of 26. Having only two professional librarians with Master of Library Science degrees on staff with the continued increase in technology, we look to the State Library of Louisiana to assist with consulting services and quality training. While Louisiana may be ranked less than stellar in some critical areas, one can look to our State Library as being outstanding and committed.

In every venue of service we draw on our partnership with the State Library of Louisiana and their cooperative support in striving to provide essential resources and services. We welcome the opportunity to partner with and support the State Library of Louisiana in its effort to obtain grant resources for computer centers and sustain broadband adoption.



ST. MARY PARISH LIBRARY SYSTEM
Alex Allain-Franklin ♦ Amelia ♦ Bayou Vista ♦ Berwick ♦ Centerville ♦ Patterson ♦ West End-Baldwin

Julie W. Champagne, Director
206 Iberia St.
Franklin, Louisiana 70538-4906
Phone: 337-828-1624
Fax: 337-828-2329

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Mrs. Karla Vappie

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5232

Dear Ms Hamilton:

As Director of St. Mary Parish Library System and as a library director for 28 years, I support the State Library of Louisiana's application for stimulus funding for Louisiana Libraries. We need help!

Louisiana is a state of great diversity and that diversity is what we love about our state. Paper mills are shutting down. That impacts the tree growers, the tree harvesters, and a plethora of paper mill and paper bag companies. I love the piney woods but without economic reasons will they continue to exist? And then there are the wealthier areas along the rivers and bayous where plantations thrived and now industry cohabitates well with the existing antebellum homes and the cane farmers; all fighting to stay in existence with these hard economic times. The national "hard times" is impacting a state that thrives on the tourism dollar. Thirteen of my employees are married. Of those 13 families, 4 have experienced layoffs in the past 12 months. Hard times are hitting home and in a fast way!

Libraries have always served everyone but the economically deprived have only us to supply their needs. What we are seeing more and more is an increase in the people who have eliminated the magazine subscriptions, ceased grabbing that paperback at the checkout line and have eliminated the internet bill from their home. Our users are increasing, their needs such as job searching and skills improvement are more demanding and we are experiencing reductions in our local funding due to decreased tax bases, reduction in our State Aid to Libraries that support our connectivity and collections, and a reduction in the availability of state wide databases.

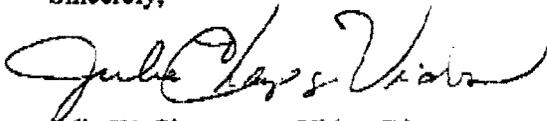
Louisiana Libraries have always been a stronger user of interlibrary loan since the 1970's. Collectively with the State Library of Louisiana, we form a strong cohesive unit. With State funding eroding and local funding becoming less and less and reductions at the State Library level, what are we to do? We, as a collective unit, are only as good as

A.P. ALLAIN MEMORIAL BRANCH 206 Iberia Street Franklin, LA 70538 337-828-5364	AMELIA BRANCH P. O. Box 556 Amelia, LA 70340 985-631-2262	BAYOU VISTA BRANCH 1325 Belleview Drive Morgan City, LA 70380 985-399-9866	BERWICK BRANCH 3527 Fourth St. Berwick, LA 70342 985-385-2943	CENTERVILLE BRANCH P. O. Box 185 Centerville, LA 70522 337-836-1717	PATTERSON BRANCH P. O. Box 57 Patterson, LA 70392 985-395-2777	WEST END BRANCH P. O. Box 309 Baldwin, LA 70514 337-923-6205
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our weakest links so we as individual units, trust our State Librarian to apply for such funds to cohesively shore up our libraries as a whole and move forward to supply the services that only libraries can supply free to everyone who crosses our thresholds. As previously stated those numbers are rapidly increasing, many of the new users have never been in libraries and never been on the Internet. These new users are in need of a well-trained staff to assist them in the necessary computer skills and job searches. This requires increased staff, a better-trained staff, up to date equipment, more workstations, faster connectivity, up dated software, on site training and consulting and continuation of statewide efforts such as our interlibrary loan and delivery system. It is because of these services the St. Mary Parish Library System is willing to maintain its active partnership and to support this endeavor with the Louisiana Broadband Alliance to bring in additional funds to provide services and training throughout Louisiana to help all public libraries to meet the need of our ever-changing economic climate.

On behalf of the Board of Control St. Mary Parish Library System, our staff and our residents, we urge you to consider the State Library of Louisiana's grant application for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption technology. Together we can make a difference!

Sincerely,



Julie W. Champagne Vidos, Director
St. Mary Parish Library System



August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca:

We very much need technology support for the following reasons:

- Our library has one IT staff person to cover seven facilities and 52 PCs. He is helped greatly by IT professionals from the State Library who assist with advice, training, installations and troubleshooting problems.
- With a State Library grant we provided wireless access in all of our branches, bought two badly needed servers, new databases, new Early Literacy Stations and upgrades, a FERRUPS battery backup system for our computer room and much more.
- Patrons who can't afford computers or Internet access need library computers to apply for jobs, create resumes and find opportunities for training and retraining.
- Next year we will receive less state aid than in the past. Stimulus money is vital to ensure we do not have to cut back on services to our citizens.

While Tangipahoa Parish Library exists to serve all of its citizens, we need to reach out to the underserved. By helping those with few resources find jobs and further their education, the library assists them in creating sustainable life-choices that strengthen our community. We need the support of the State Library of Louisiana to make that happen.

Sincerely,



Barry Bradford

200 E. Malberry Street
Amite, Louisiana 70422
Telephone: 985-748-7559
Fax: 985-748-2812

Barry Bradford - Library Director

Email: bbradford@state.lib.la.us
Web site: www.tangipahoa.lib.la.us



Union Parish Library

Your COMMUNITY Connection

202 West Jackson Street - Farmerville, Louisiana 71241
(318) 368-9288 WATT Fax: (318) 368-9224
www.youseemore.com/unionparish

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca:

The Union Parish Library would like to extend our support and validation for your pursuit of stimulus funding through the NTIA Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program that will impact our library.

As you know, we have the third lowest library budget in the State of Louisiana and our service to a primarily rural low-income parish is contingent on support we receive outside the parish. State funding in the past for technology support, internet service, and computer software training has been critical to our ability to meet the needs of our patrons. Without such funding, we are unable to upgrade or maintain local equipment and will struggle to offer Internet service to our patrons.

Union Parish is a primarily rural parish that still does not have access to Internet service (without dial-up) in many parts of the parish. In addition, the recent closure of a large manufacturer has made local access to public access computers essential for the economy. We have witnessed our community turn to the library during our recent economic downturn as a source of information and education for survival and improving quality of life. This grant will help us continue to offer these valuable services.

We are proud to serve as a partner with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance and will lend our in-kind support through staff time, training space, and other resources that may be needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Herrmann".

Stephanie Herrmann
Director



VERMILION PARISH LIBRARY

PO DRAWER 640 ABBEVILLE, LA 70511
405 E. ST. VICTOR ST. ABBEVILLE, LA 70510
337-893-2674 FAX: 337-898-0526

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Re: Stimulus Grants

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

The Vermilion Parish Library System would like to express our support for the stimulus grant applications submitted by the State Library of Louisiana. Funding support from the State Library of Louisiana is vital to the functionality of our library system.

Vermilion Parish Library System depends on the support of the State Library of Louisiana for its broadband funding especially during these tough economic times when more and more people are depending on the library for their Internet services. The value and demand for the consulting services and technical support provided by the State Library of Louisiana are of extreme importance to all Louisiana libraries.

The databases provided by the State Library of Louisiana are vital to the citizens of our state because they offer workforce development skills which are crucial at this time. These databases also provide a wealth of information for students of all ages, and are especially beneficial for those who no longer have internet access at home. For example, Learning Express provides students with resources to improve math, science, reading and language skills as well as help for college students wishing to be accepted into medical or law school.

During this challenging time for libraries it is imperative that these stimulus grants be awarded to the State Library for support of all Louisiana libraries struggling to meet the needs and demands of their customers or citizens of their respective communities.

I cannot say enough about the wonderful support the State Library of Louisiana provides to our library. I would also like to say as the former director of the Cameron Parish Library System, the State Library of Louisiana went above and beyond in its support system for hurricane ravaged libraries in order to help restore services to these citizens. This in itself speaks volumes for what the State Library of Louisiana means to libraries in our great state.

Representing the Vermilion Parish Library System, I wholeheartedly support the stimulus grant applications of the State Library of Louisiana.

Regards,

Charlotte Troscian
Charlotte Troscian, Director
Vermilion Parish Library

Vernon Parish Library

1491 Nolan Trace @ Abe Allen Memorial Drive

Leesville, LA 71446

(337) 239-2027 or 1-800-737-3231

FAX (337) 238-0666

e-mail: leesville.wlvr@pelican.state.lib.la.us

http: www.vernon.lib.la.us

August 3, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of La.
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

We strongly support your efforts to secure much needed funding from the stimulus funds for our library. The Vernon Parish is the third largest parish in size of land, rural, with a high level of illiteracy. Our funding is inadequate to provide much needed technical services to our population. We are in desperate need of Boardband Technology Opportunities and grants to sustain Broadband services. We gladly partner with the State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance.

The State Library of Louisiana has been and is very important in helping us provide services to our citizens. Most of our staff are not college trained, but learn on the job. The continued training opportunities provided by the State Library are essential. The support we receive from the State Library Consultants are very important. For example, E-Rate funding is a time consuming task. The information received from the State Library Consultant regarding E-Rate, and the help solving problems is invaluable. We don't have enough staff to have one person do E-Rate, or the many other tasks, so we desperate need the help and assistance we receive from the Consultants to enable us to better serve our citizens. The State Library is our valued partner in providing library services to our citizens.

Many of our citizens are below the poverty line and they depend on us for services, especially computers. We have a strong need to have access to higher bandwidth and adequate hardware with up-to-date software. In the past, we have used State Aid to help with our technological hardware and software and Internet connectivity. We will receive less this coming fiscal year due to state budget cuts. This will have a negative impact on us. Already, the State has cut needed Databases. We are trying to find ways to restore some, but will not have the funds to restore all. The continued increase in cost for telecommunications, and other necessary budget items make it more and more difficult to provide adequate services to our citizens.

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely,



Howard L. Coy Jr.,
Director



825 Free Street
Franklinton, LA 70438

Phone: (985) 839-7806

Fax: (985) 839-7808

E-mail: washingtonparishlibrary@wplib.org

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

This letter is to express our support for the State Library of Louisiana's application for the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grants. The monies provided for in the grants will be a major boost to all of the public libraries in the State of Louisiana.

Through these grants, the State Library will be able to provide technology training, support, and consulting to all 64 parish public library systems. With the reduction in the 2009-2010 budget for the State Library due to reductions that the state government had to make, it will be impossible for the State Library to maintain the high quality of services that it has provided the public libraries here in Louisiana.

Louisiana has ranked at or near the bottom in too many statistics regarding our education and other critical areas. Through these stimulus grants, our partnership with the State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance will be able to provide the assistance needed by the public libraries to serve the people. With updated computers and software, higher bandwidth, and well-trained staff, the public libraries will be able to provide the high quality of service that our state population needs in these economically troubled times.

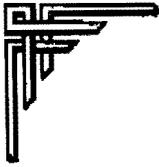
I sincerely hope that this will be of great use in the approval of the grant applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Sbisà".

Joseph Sbisà
Director, Washington Parish Library

ANGIE • BOGALUSA • ENON • FRANKLINTON • MT. HERMON • PINE • THOMAS • VARNADO



Webster Parish Library

521 East and West Street
Minden, Louisiana 71055
Phone 318-371-3080 Fax (318) 371-3081



August 6, 2009

State Library of Louisiana
Office of Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5232

To Whom It May Concern:

Partnership with State Library of Louisiana is fundamental in the operation of Webster Parish Library. Our local patrons rely on us to provide outstanding service in various areas of the library and we rely on State Library to help us provide those services to our patrons.

Webster Parish Library has seen a steady increase in computer usage in all seven of our branches. This increase is in part due to several area businesses shutting down or laying-off employees. Patrons are relying on our library resources including our computers and staff to help them file for unemployment, search for jobs, create resumes, etc. Our staff is able to help our patrons because State Library helps us in so many ways.

With the help of State Library, we are able to provide enough bandwidth for over ninety public workstations at seven different locations. This is extremely important as many of our patrons are relying on the library's computers to complete online applications.

Our state budget crisis has meant a decrease in our state aid funding. This funding decrease ultimately affects our patrons, those who can not afford personal computers of their own, those who need assistance while online, those who are struggling to find work. How can the library help our community grow and prosper if we ourselves are struggling to provide these resources because of limited funding?

Communities need their libraries more than ever. Libraries are not just a pastime, for recreational use. We are a life-source to our patrons.

Yours truly,

Beverly Hammett
Director

West Feliciana Parish Library
11865 Ferdinand Street
P.O. Box 3120
St. Francisville, LA 70775
(225) 635-3364
Fax (225) 635-4986

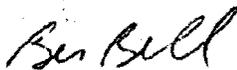
To Whom It May Concern:

West Feliciana Parish has many areas within its physical boundaries that do not offer internet access. Without internet access, the digital divide increases. Being the only public library in the entire parish, we have the public responsibility of providing access, oftentimes the only bandwidth for the underserved, as well as current software, which we still do not offer (Louisiana is not a top-ranked state for such critical areas).

Being partners with the State Library of Louisiana, they play a large role in allowing us to serve all patrons, regardless of economic status. By also being partners with Louisiana Broadband Alliance, this ensures that our connectivity remains strong. It is important to our patrons that each partner continues their mission.

Because of the library's commitment to connectivity, our workforce development is increasing. Many people use our computers to look for employment and we even offer some training in enabling people to pursue their goals. Especially in this economic downturn, this is true and more important than ever. Please consider our case when thinking about the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance. Due to Louisiana's budget crisis, we have less funding than ever. The Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program grant is imperative to our citizenry's continued success.

Sincerely,



Ben Bell
Director
West Feliciana Parish Library
(225) 635-3364

WINN PARISH LIBRARY

Mary Doherty, Director

204 W. MAIN STREET • WINNFIELD, LOUISIANA 71483 • (318) 628-4478

August 5, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca:

I was so excited to get your letter informing parish library administrators that the State Library is applying for stimulus funding for all of the librarians. That you are applying for stimulus grants is indeed good news.

Winn Parish Library, a rural library located in the north central part of the state, is experiencing a great increase in computer usage, especially during this time of economic downturn. Our computers are in constant use by citizens of Winnfield and Winn Parish; we actually need several additional stations to better assist our patrons with Internet services provided by the library. Since we will receive less state aid in the coming fiscal year due to state budget cuts, I do not think we will be able to provide additional computers. Funding from a stimulus grant will help us to offer better services to our community.

We also need additional broadband coverage. Not only are we lacking in resources in the main library, we also have four small branch libraries in rural areas of the parish to which we provide Internet services. We need to upgrade technology in those branches.

We appreciate the work that you are doing on behalf of rural libraries such as Winn Parish, and look forward to again being partners with the State Library in providing better Internet service to our citizens.

Sincerely,


Mary Doherty
Director, Winn Parish Library

West Baton Rouge Parish Library
830 North Alexander Avenue
Port Allen, Louisiana 70767
Ph 225-342-7920; Fax 225-342-7918

August 3, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P. O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-0131

Re: Stimulus Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

We at West Baton Rouge Parish Library sincerely support this application which would provide technology training, tech support, consulting, and hardware for public libraries. We are the smallest parish in Louisiana, and limited in resources and staff expertise (eleven full-time and eight part-time staff). The assistance provided to us through this grant would assure that our parish citizens have the technology and help they need to self-educate, improve job skills, seek employment, and provide for themselves and their families.

In the past, we have partnered with the State Library to make the best use of funding and consulting services – a collaboration which has proven to be invaluable to delivering the services our people need. We are facing a reduction in both dollars and services that we can ill afford. This grant would help us meet increased demand with much-needed technology and services.

I strongly urge your consideration and favorable review of this application.

Thank you most sincerely,



Beth Vandersteen, Director
bvanders@state.lib.la.us



West Carroll Parish Library

P.O. Box 703 • 101 Marietta St. • Oak Grove, LA 71263
(318) 428-2697 or (318) 428-4100 • Fax (318) 428-9887

August 5, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the State Library of Louisiana's application for a NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant for computing centers and sustaining broadband access.

As director of the West Carroll Parish Library in Oak Grove, Louisiana, I cannot overstate the importance of the State Library's initiative and leadership in our work to provide computers and public access to our patrons.

To better understand the importance of the State Library of Louisiana, one must think of the oft-times crushing needs of the rural parishes of Louisiana and the place from which we, the rural public libraries of Louisiana have come. In 1996, when I became director of the West Carroll Parish Library, the Library had a total of one public computer, which didn't work, and no staff computers. Soon, thanks to the State Library, then under the direction of Mr. Tom Jaques, partnered with the Gates Library Foundation to put computers in all of the libraries in Louisiana. In the intervening years, the State Library has helped us use various funding opportunities to secure an automated library system and add additional public access computers. More recently, under the leadership of Rebecca Hamilton, the State Library has provided the Louisiana Library Connection databases available online to all library patrons in the state. Furthermore, one must remember that these great strides came even as Louisiana suffered the twin disasters of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Regarding the needs of rural Louisiana, it would probably be the most constructive to put the term "rural" in its proper context. Rural is not the same thing as "small." If anything, it is a synonym for poor. In Louisiana, it is where the 21st Century meets the 19th Century. Just as the antebellum South was tied to one crop, cotton, the rural parishes of Louisiana are tied to a single economic model and one crop. The economic model may change from parish to parish. It may be a chicken processing plant in one parish or a sweet potato crop in another, but each is only one plant closure or dry summer away from economic crisis.

However, regardless of their marketable product, all of the rural parishes are exporting another crop, their best and brightest young men and women. When a child leaves rural Louisiana to go to college, he or she rarely comes back. And, they do not move from one rural area to another.

They leave Oak Grove or Harmerville or St. Joseph, and live in Monroe, Shreveport, or Dallas, and nowhere in-between. For those who do not go to college, life is hard work. In the case of West Carroll Parish, that often means "working off," a situation where the husband pipelines in the North during the Spring, Summer, and Fall, and returns home during the Winter, or works on an offshore oil platform. For those who stay behind, farming is almost the only thing that is left. However, though the land is more productive and more acres are planted than ever before, fewer workers are needed due to mechanization. Seasonal unemployment rates in West Carroll Parish are usually among the highest in Louisiana. Moving up from blue collar labor to something better is possible, but difficult. Just as their great-great-grandfathers found it difficult to escape sharecropping because of an insurmountable debt to the company store, today's children are held back by a lack of the tools to advance.

To understand the importance of the State Library's role in providing leadership to rural Louisiana's public libraries, it helps to understand the situation on the ground here. Assuming that you or your family can afford a computer, it is not all that easy to procure and maintain one in Oak Grove. The local Wal-Mart does not stock new computers, so new computers cannot be purchased in Oak Grove. Computer support and service are not readily available. Various attempts to open shops to repair or maintain computers have failed over the years. Our own technical support is contracted out of Monroe and comes twice monthly. Internet service providers here are a similarly mixed bag. People receive service through their telephone company, an I.S.P. in Monroe, or their satellite television provider. Speed is always an issue. Even if you have a relatively new computer, you may be limited to a dial-up service.

The grant that the State Library is applying for will not solve the problems facing rural parishes that I have only briefly touched on. And, no library, no matter how well-equipped can overcome them either. However, this grant will help us keep fighting the good fight. It will enable the State Library to help us make the best choices for our technology and train us in the use of that technology, so that we can continue doing the best that we can to serve the residents of West Carroll Parish.

Sincerely,



Clay Robertson

West Carroll Parish Library

Beauregard Parish Library

205 S. Washington Ave.

DeRidder, LA 70634

(V) 337-463-6217 / (F) 337-462-5434

library.beau.org

August 4, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

The Beauregard Parish Library is eagerly anticipating partnering with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance as a means of providing high-quality library services to our citizens.

In these tough economic times, we are seeing a steady increase in library usage and a decrease in available funding. Partnerships such as the one between the State Library and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance and generous funding such as that from the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption make it possible for public libraries like Beauregard Parish Library to continue to successfully meet the varied needs of our citizens.

While the Beauregard Parish Library is fortunate to boast an excellent, though small, Information Technologies Department, the state budget crisis and the reduction of funds translates, for our library, into being forced to forgo several planned projects and upgrades. Additionally, our IT staff will need to stream-line their efforts - an occurrence that will result in decreased training opportunities for our general staff and potentially diminish our ability to effectively serve our population. At times like these, the training opportunities provided by the State Library are invaluable to our employees and, in turn, our patrons.

In short, the Beauregard Parish Library thanks you for your consideration of our partner, the State Library of Louisiana's application and urges you to grant the requested funding which will provide a better quality of life for Louisiana citizens via up-graded bandwidth and up-to-date software and hardware to help with workforce development and educational needs.

Sincerely,



Lilly F. Smith
Director



August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

The New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) would like to express our gratitude for the assistance that the State Library of Louisiana has provided in the past and ongoing. The annual State Aid fund/grant that we receive is valuable and much needed to supplement our collection and technology budget. This year, the State Library has worked with us to assess the library's Technical Services workflow, assist in the install of our new Exchange server while also providing tech training in tandem, provide training and assistance with Erate filing, and provided staff development resources. As the library continues to modernize and review its policies and procedures to better serve the citizens, the State Library's assistance has been a tremendous benefit.

NOPL currently has 12 locations open, a combination of permanent and modular sites, serving the citizens of New Orleans and nearby parishes. The Library has just begun its Design-Build Project to construct five new permanent buildings through an expedited process. In addition, we are preparing to undergo an historic renovation and construction of the Keller Library and Community Center. This fast-track process, the first of its kind experienced in Orleans Parish and with the City, has an 18-month deadline for all five buildings to be constructed.

Demand for public computers, specifically access to the internet has risen even more so in post-Katrina New Orleans. Job seekers and employers are now relying on the internet to post jobs and resumes. Email has become the standard method of communication and correspondence. Students and learners of all ages continue to rely on the library's public computers for homework assignments and lifelong learning. As people continue to rebuild their lives and homes, the library has also become a place of refuge, providing entertainment and distraction either from the web or to be able to use our DVD or music CD collections in-house.

For the library to lead in the recovery and economic redevelopment of our community, we need to provide additional workstations with updated technology. NOPL is also preparing to obtain an updated and full-service PC Reservation and Print Management system to manage the public computers so that we may adequately distribute the disproportionate number of computers to users. Our current system, both hardware and software, is outdated and only serving three library locations.

With the additional six permanent branches in 2010, our needs for collections and technology will stretch our priorities even further. Two of the locations are slated to be regional libraries with multiple floors and large clusters of public computers. A sixth branch (storefront), Central City, will be new to the system altogether. This location will be part of a community center and serve a part of the city that has been neglected thus far.



219 Loyola Avenue | New Orleans, LA 70112 | Tel 504.529.READ | www.neworleanspubliclibrary.org

NEW ORLEANS
PUBLIC LIBRARY

In summary, the 13 locations (pre-Katrina) total damages to the system are estimated at \$30 million. Seven branches received over 12 inches of flooding. Nine locations had received water damage other than flooding. In detail, 10 locations lost a total of 77 PACs, 14 servers and 45 printers. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, there were 165, or .36 computers per 1,000 people, for public access. The library's Master Plan proposes an increase to 422, or approximately 1 per 1,000 people by year 2030.

If the State Library is able to assist in funding other than the allotted State Aid already distributed, then we are more confident that we'll be able to open the "new" branches to adequately serve those communities.

Sincerely,



Rica Trigs
Chief Operating Officer



219 Loyola Avenue | New Orleans, LA 70112 | Tel 504.529.READ | www.neworleanspubliclibrary.org



Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P. O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca,

I wanted to let you know that I wholeheartedly support the State Library's application for stimulus grants. In Sabine Parish, our library's computer use continues to rise every year, and more and more people are depending on us for their connection to the "outside world". Faster and better-maintained computer connections as well as more up-to-date equipment will help us deliver improved services to a rural population that needs current information just as their urban counterparts do. Because of our lack of space, I originally thought that we would soon reach a cap in computer use, but the addition of wireless access has increased our reach. Unfortunately, we lack the means to take full advantage of this access by adding more workstations with wireless capability. During this summer, we have often had waiting lines for computer use, something that rarely happened in the past.

Our area has been economically depressed for many years, but the past year has proven very difficult indeed. The drop in state aid funds during the next fiscal year means that we are back in survival mode concerning technology expansion, so we are hoping that your application for stimulus funds will be granted. Let me know if I can help in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Morris".

Rebecca Morris, Director
Sabine Parish Library

**East Baton Rouge Parish Library**

7711 Goodwood Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
70806

August 5, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian/Assistant Secretary
State Library of Louisiana
Office of Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, La. 70802-5232

Dear Rebecca:

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library wholeheartedly supports your application for stimulus funding on behalf of all libraries in Louisiana, and we consider ourselves to be partners with the State Library of Louisiana and the Louisiana Broadband Alliance on this application. The State Library has not made a frivolous request--your thoughtful application for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption is based on feedback collected from public libraries throughout Louisiana. If funded, one grant will provide much needed additional computer hardware for public libraries, and the other will provide for continued technology training, tech support, and consulting.

There is a great need for these services throughout Louisiana. Long a "leader" in most *negative* indicators for education, employment, literacy, health, and other key issues, the state as a whole, and the library community in particular, is still re-building capacity and infrastructure after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike. In our own area of Baton Rouge, the capital city and home to two major universities, the adult illiteracy rate in stands at a heart-breaking 27%. Many of our children are candidates for free lunch. A number of our schools have been taken over by the state. To make matters worse, the Louisiana State Legislature has severely cut the State Aid to Libraries program, so important and necessary to our parish library system.

Public libraries serve the underserved – our at-risk children and their low-literate parents, our elderly struggling with health issues and financial uncertainty, those who were unsuccessful in formal public education, and those who seek employment opportunities. In today's digital society, one must be digitally connected to thrive – and public libraries provide the only connection available to a large segment of Louisiana's population.

Our residents have taken full advantage of the resources and bandwidth provided through the State Library, yet there is a demonstrated need for patrons in the capital area to have access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware and up-to-date software.

One grant will provide additional hardware for public libraries, so desperately needed to meet our patrons' demands for free access to high-speed computers and the Internet. We have clear evidence of the value of public access computers to the users in our community. In 2008, library patrons used our free public computers on more than 750,000 occasions. An additional 360,000 users logged in remotely to use free computer resources. Bandwidth demands are ever increasing, and since library usage has skyrocketed during the recent economic downturn, we simply cannot keep up with the demand. Additional hardware with new capabilities will help us keep pace with the demand.

The second grant will provide for continued technology training, tech support, and consulting. The technical assistance training provided in the past has been invaluable to library staff, allowing us to better serve the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library considers itself to be partners with the State Library in providing quality resources, programs, and services to citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish and the surrounding parishes. We can also attest that the partners selected to assist with implementation of the grants have a proven track record of quality and value.

Our own staff has benefited greatly from training sessions provided by Lantec of Louisiana, and we have taken what we learned back to our libraries and passed our knowledge on to not only other staff members but to the public, in the form of free computer classes which help citizens acquire and improve their computer skills. Our classes help people upgrade their skills so they can seek or upgrade employment opportunities. Such knowledge is vital for workforce development in today's digital society. However, we must continually refresh our knowledge to keep up. Working with Lantec will help us maintain and develop our expertise, so that we in turn, can help the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Richard Young, Louisiana Convergence Services, has assisted us in improving our technology infrastructure; we have benefitted from his advice and expertise and are now in the process of moving towards a single domain. We have strengthened the security of our system and improved the efficiency of our system. More work is needed.

Bridging the digital divide in a community which lacks many of the most basic needs is imperative. These needs, on top of reduced state aid for this coming fiscal year, make the BTOP grant request even more important. Thank you for taking the lead on this critical application.

We look forward to a favorable decision on your request, and stand ready to assist in any way.

Sincerely,



David Farrar
Library Director



Avoyelles Parish Libraries:
Your Doorway to Discovery

August 5, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton, State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

You and I have had many discussions in the past about the needs of my parish library. We are rural and we do not have a broad cross-section of industry to support a healthy tax base for our public library system. Because of this, we do without many things that our citizens need to have.

We understand you are applying for a grant which can provide us with the means to offer some of these things to our public. On behalf of our users, we are very grateful to be included in this and hope very much that we will be able to increase our services to our users, many of whom live at or below poverty level and are presently underserved. Their needs are great. Every single day we have people coming in to use the computers for job applications, to write resumes, and to search for employment. Daily we have adult learners coming in and using the public access computers to further their education and to complete online coursework. We are the ONLY resource for many people. The need is there.

We alone do not have the means to offer higher bandwidth, up to date software, or the technological expertise to implement these improvements. We need access to quality technology consultants, such as have been provided to us by the State Library in the past. With this grant, we could provide our patrons with the tools they need to make advancements in their own lives and thereby in our communities, our parish, and our state. I have seen it happen, and I hope for the chance to see even more progress.

Sincerely,

Theresa Thevenote, Director
Avoyelles Parish Library



Lincoln Parish Library

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P O Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca,

Please accept this letter of support in your endeavors to obtain stimulus funds on behalf of the public libraries of our state. We have relied on the State Library as our partner to provide services for our public for many years. I can think of no other agency that has the reputation and expertise to manage this fiscal responsibility than the State Library.

As you are aware, library usage has increased dramatically nationwide with the economic downturn and our library is no different. This past month, we observed the largest amount of patron visitors we have ever seen in our building, more than 26,000 in one month. We increased children's programming with 66 programs and more than 2000 children attending those programs during June and July, in addition to programming for teens and adults. More than 6,000 patrons signed onto our patron access computers and more than 5,000 reference questions were answered in June, alone.

Because of the state budget crisis we will be receiving significantly less in state funding. Therefore, we will not be building our collection to the same degree as in the past, nor will we be able to update our technology on the same scale. The funds are simply not there to continue as before. And while we are aware that we must "tighten our belts" just like everyone else in the country, we are also aware of the many patrons who truly need our services. One lady came in to apply for a job at the Dollar Store and the only way she could apply was by computer. She was very embarrassed that she didn't even know how to use the computer. So technology is great and certainly needed more than ever, but staff with their knowledge to assist her was just as valuable. We see this scenario over and over.

It is my understanding that one of the grants you are applying for is for technology training, tech support, and consulting. We are thrilled that is a possibility. The training already provided to us by the State Library has been a godsend to our staff,

which has benefited our patrons immensely. I have always been able to call on your staff and get the best assistance and support available. I am glad that will not change.

Historically, Louisiana has been ranked near the bottom in education, health care, and other critical areas. But our libraries are some of the best in the nation. And this is largely because of the amount of support given to us by the State Library. I am proud to be a librarian in Louisiana and proud to serve the many underserved patrons in our state. There is no more rewarding job in the world.

Thank you for applying for these grants on our behalf. I support you in every way. If I may be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vivian McCain". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Vivian McCain
Director



ST. CHARLES PARISH LIBRARY

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca:

I am writing to express my strong support of the State Library of Louisiana's applications for the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grants for computing centers and sustaining broadband adoption. The State Library of Louisiana has always been an important partner to our library in providing valuable technology resources for our patrons and staff and this grant would provide crucial support needed by our library to sustain these efforts.

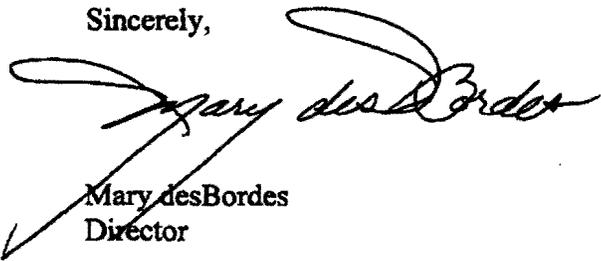
The State Library of Louisiana has always provided crucial funding that our library has relied on to provide Internet access, databases and other online resources, and hardware and software for our patrons. In 2008 our library upgraded the Internet bandwidth of our library system, a step that was necessary in order for us to continue to meet the ever-increasing demands of our patrons for Internet and technology resources. Our decision to do this upgrade was based partly on the fact that the State Library of Louisiana was able to pay for a significant portion of our Internet costs. Because of the budget cuts at the state level that have forced the State Library to cut funding for Internet access to the public libraries, we are now faced with the task of funding the entire cost of our Internet access on our own. In addition, we will be receiving less State Aid this fiscal year due to the state budget crisis. State Aid has always provided our library with crucial dollars needed to improve the technology within our library. In the past, we have used it to upgrade and increase the number of public computers available for patrons, to support the maintenance costs of our automation system, and to provide additional databases and electronic resources to meet the unique research needs of our community. In the coming year, we will have to use a portion of the State Aid funds that we do receive to purchase databases that were once provided to us by the State Library, thereby decreasing the amount of funds available for additional technology maintenance and enhancement.

Another area where the State Library of Louisiana has provided crucial support for our library is in technology training. Just recently, the library made a consultant available to us for a day. Training for our computer services staff tends to be extremely expensive, often costing up to \$2000 per class. Because of the consulting service provided by the State Library we were able to obtain useful and informative training for our Computer Services staff that would not have been available to us otherwise. This kind of training is invaluable and provides us with training opportunities that we could not necessarily afford on our own.

During this time of economic downturn, we are seeing a definite increase in demand for computer resources at our library. Patrons are turning to the public libraries for free Internet access so that they can search and apply for job opportunities online. They are also seeking online tools for writing resumes, learning interviewing techniques, and researching educational opportunities. Because of the increase in demand for these resources, it is imperative that the State Library be able to provide funding for technology enhancements to the public libraries. Without their assistance we are unable to provide all of the resources needed by our citizens who don't have to access to these resources on their own.

In closing, the State Library of Louisiana is an extremely important partner for our library. Without the funding they provide the citizens of St Charles Parish would not have access to many of the critically important resources that they have now. We hope that the State Library will be successful in obtaining grant funding so that they can continue providing the support and funding that is so desperately needed by all of the Louisiana public libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary desBordes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Mary desBordes
Director

11 August, 2009

Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: 1397

Dear Sir:

We are [general or special] counsel for State Library of Louisiana (the "Applicant.") In such capacity, we acted as counsel to the Applicant in connection with its ability to apply to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and in the review of the grant agreement, as referenced in the Notice of Funds Availability.

We are of the opinion that:

(a) the Applicant is a duly organized and existing [legal entity] under the laws of the State of Louisiana, [if applicable, is duly licensed and qualified and in good standing as a foreign corporation in the States of _____].

(b) the Applicant has corporate power: (1) to execute and deliver the agreement; and (2) to perform all acts required to be done by it under said agreement.

(c) no legal proceedings have been instituted or are pending against the Applicant, the outcome of which would adversely affect the Applicant's ability to perform the duties under the grant agreement, and there are no judgments against the Applicant which would adversely affect the Applicant's ability to perform its duties under the grant agreement.

Very truly yours,



JULIA M. GEORGE
GENERAL COUNSEL
LA. DEPT. OF CULTURE, RECREATION
& TOURISM

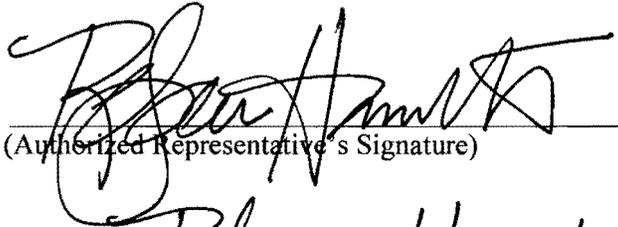
Certification Requirements for BTOP

U.S. Department of Commerce
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

I certify that I am the duly authorized representative of the applicant organization, and that I have been authorized to submit the attached application on its behalf. A copy of the applicant organization's authorization for me to submit this application as its official representative is on file in the applicant's office, and I am identified as the applicant organization's Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) in the Central Contractor Registration database. By signing this certification, I certify that the statements contained in the application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that if an award is made, the applicant organization will comply with all applicable award terms and conditions.

8/12/09

(Date)



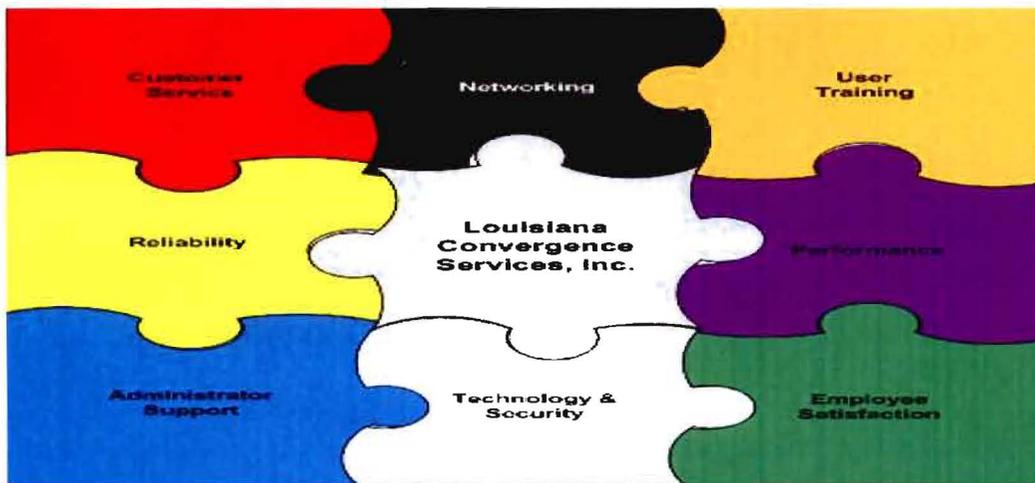
(Authorized Representative's Signature)

Rebecca Hamilton

Name:

State Librarian

Title:



Louisiana Convergence Services, Inc.
PO Box 727
Carencro, LA 70520

Dear Ms Hamilton:

On behalf of Louisiana Convergence Services, Inc, I am expressing my full support for your applications to NTIA for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, both the public computing center and the sustaining broadband adoption grants. We look forward to continuing our partnership of bringing technology training, consulting and qualified installers to all regions of the State of Louisiana. Louisiana Convergence Services, Inc. was specifically formed to bring together a convergence of training and real world experience in a library environment.

As we proposed to you, for every hour of training, installation and consulting purchased from us at \$160 per hour, we will donate 1 hour of same at no charge. The estimated value of our donation over a 3-year period to your Public Computing Center grant applications is \$1,800,000 and to your Sustaining Broadband Adoption grant is \$7,200,000.

I think the work you are doing for the citizens of Louisiana is important and critical to the future economic development of the state. We look forward to working with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely:

Richard C. Young, Jr.
Louisiana Convergence Services, Inc.



LANtec Computer Training Center
2638 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 220
P. O. Box 40314
Baton Rouge, LA 70835
Phone: 225/293-0656 Fax: 293-0657

www.lantecctc.com

August 10, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Hamilton
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: NTIA Grant

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

On behalf of LANTEC and our trainers, I am expressing my full support for your applications to NTIA for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, both the public computing center and the sustaining broadband adoption grants. We look forward to partnering with you to bring technology training to all regions of the state.

As we proposed to you, with the purchase of 1188 application training classes statewide over a 3-year period totaling \$2,227,800, we will donate 86 application training classes statewide over the same 3-year period with an estimated value of \$159,100 for your Public Computing Center application. For the Sustaining Broadband Adoption application, we commit to donating a total of 4 free Microsoft Technical training classes with an estimated value of \$40,000, if as previously quoted you purchase 84 Microsoft Technical training classes over the same 3-year period with an estimated value of \$703,500, all purchased and in-kind donated classes will be held statewide over a 3-year period.

I think the work you are doing for the citizens of Louisiana is important and critical to the future economic development of the state. We look forward to working with you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Rickie Comeaux
President/CEO

DOC Environmental Checklist

1. **SECTION 1-** To be completed for those projects historically shown not to create significant environmental impacts to the human or natural environment. Any answer of “No” or “Not Applicable” may require additional documentation or review.

a. Is the proposed action solely a procurement action for materials intended to be installed, stored or operated in an existing building or structure?

Yes

No

Not Applicable

b. If the proposed action involves procurement of electronic equipment, will the equipment be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner at the end of its useful life?

Yes

No

Not Applicable

c. Does the proposed action involve only minor interior renovations to a structure, facility, or installation?

Yes

No

Not Applicable

d. Is the proposed action solely for the production and/or distribution of informational materials, brochures, or newsletters?

Yes

No

Not Applicable

e. Does the proposed action consist solely of training, teaching, or meeting facilitation at an existing facility or structure?

Yes

No

Not Applicable

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY						
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. BTOP-PCC	11.557	\$	\$	\$8,798,081	\$2,352,128	\$11,150,209
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES					
6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	BTOP-PCC				
a. Personnel	\$214,578.00	\$	\$	\$	\$214,578.00
b. Fringe Benefits					
c. Travel	\$13,500.00				\$13,500.00
d. Equipment	\$2,384,780.00				\$2,384,780.00
e. Supplies	\$1,000.00				\$1,000.00
f. Contractual	\$8,372,401.00				\$8,372,401.00
g. Construction					
h. Other - room rental	\$163,950.00				\$163,950.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	\$11,150,209.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,150,209.00
j. Indirect Charges					
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i-6j)	\$11,150,209.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,150,209.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

SECTION C – NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES					
(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS	
8. BTOP - Public Computing Center	\$229,078.00	\$	\$2,123,050.00	\$2,352,128.00	
9					
10					
11					
12 Total (sum of lines 8-11)	\$229,078.00	\$0.00	\$2,123,050.00	\$2,352,128.00	
SECTION D – FORECASTED CASH NEEDS					
	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$3,951,134.00	\$2,729,780.00	\$407,118.00	\$407,118.00	\$407,118.00
14. Non-Federal					
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$3,951,134.00	\$2,729,780.00	\$407,118.00	\$407,118.00	\$407,118.00
SECTION E – BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF PROJECT					
(a) Grant Program	(b) year1	(c) year2	(d) year3	(e) fourth	
16. BTOP - Public Computing Center	\$3,951,134.00	\$2,423,473.00	\$2,423,473.00	\$	
17.					
18.					
19.					
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16-19)	\$3,951,134.00	\$2,423,473.00	\$2,423,473.00	\$0.00	
SECTION F – OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION					
21. Direct Charges: "Contractual" includes both costs for trainers and installers and for statewide online resources		22. Indirect Charges: waived			
23: Remarks: All hardware and software will be purchased in the first year. Subsequent years' charges are for training and online database subscriptions. Section D does not include non-federal cash needs because our match is all in kind donations.					

23. Remarks All of the software and hardware charges will be incurred at the beginning of the first year and after that the charges will be
Authorized for Local Reproduction

It be for annual subscriptions to online services and for training. Section D does not include non-federal cash needs because

all of our matching is in kind donations.



State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE Box 44243
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-4243

MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

August 4, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Dear Rebecca:

I am determined to increase broadband internet access for the people of Louisiana because this is a critical tool for competition in a 21st Century economy. As the Lieutenant Governor, I oversee the State Library of Louisiana, and I am committed to the effort to increase broadband adoption via the State Library's work with Louisiana's 340 local public libraries.

Louisiana ranks 11th worst in the nation in residential broadband adoption according to an NTIA report from 2008. This is significant because in today's global economy it is imperative that all citizens be connected to the world for economic opportunities, education, commerce, and communication. It is critically important that the citizens of our state have access to higher bandwidth, well-equipped hardware, and up-to-date software, as well as the training to take advantage of what the public libraries offer.

Additionally, Louisiana has a long history of underemployment, low literacy rates, crime and poverty. Education and economic opportunities are the only answers to the problems that Louisianans face. Libraries are uniquely positioned to provide all of our citizens with access to the world of information available. Libraries serve those who are disenfranchised—the people who cannot afford a computer or Internet access—both children and adults of all ages.

The State Library of Louisiana has long partnered with parish libraries to foster effective library services for the citizens of our state. For nearly 85 years, the State Library has led the way for library development and progress statewide. The partnership between the public libraries and the State Library has great value to the citizens of Louisiana. Libraries, with their free and equal access to information and their public access computers, are, for many of our citizens, the one place that they can have access to free Internet, training and the resources needed to improve their lives.

Our organization has a solid track record as stewards of federal funds and grant dollars. When this initiative is funded, our organization will make the successful implementation of this program a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mitch Landrieu".

Mitchell J. Landrieu
Lieutenant Governor



G.R.E.A.T
POSSIBILITIES

LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS NETWORK

3042 Old Forge Road • Post Office Box 14115 • Baton Rouge, LA 70898-4115
225-925-9500 • 1-800-270-6185 (V/TT) • 225-925-9560 (FAX) • <http://www.latan.org>



August 11, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Hamilton
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

On behalf of the Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network (LATAN) Project, I am writing in support of your public computing center application for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program funds.

There is a great need in Louisiana's public libraries to make computers and the Internet accessible to those unable to read standard print.

We, at LATAN, wholeheartedly support placing a CCTV reader and a JAWS workstation in every parish and at least one computer equipped with ZoomText in every branch library. We think this will benefit those in each community for whom broadband has been largely inaccessible until now.

We appreciate the work the State Library of Louisiana is doing for the citizens of the State and, if funded, LATAN will work with the State Library to make our constituents aware of the new services.

Sincerely,

Maria Yiannopoulos
Public Information Officer



LATAN assists individuals with disabilities to achieve a higher quality of life and greater independence through increased access to assistive technology as part of their daily lives.



Pam Allen, *President*

605 University Blvd. Ruston, LA 71270
Tel 800 234 4166

Greater Baton Rouge Chapter
Baton Rouge
Greater Lafayette Chapter
Lafayette
Northwest Chapter
Natchitoches
Twin Cities Chapter
Alexandria
Northeast Chapter
Lake Providence - Tallulah
Greater Ouachita Chapter
Monroe, Bastrop
Columbia, Rayville
North Central Chapter
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Jerry Hemphill Chapter
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Lake Area Chapter
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Caddo-Bossier Chapter
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Opelousas-Ville Platte
Greater New Orleans Chapter
New Orleans
Acadiana Chapter
New Iberia
Bayou LaFayette Chapter
Lafayette
Louisiana Center For The Blind
Alumni Chapter
Statewide
Student Chapter
Statewide
Parents of Blind
Children Division
Statewide

August 11, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Library of Louisiana
701 N. 4th St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

I am writing to express our support for your Public Computing Center application for funding through the NTIC Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Access to technology is critical in today's ever-changing world. Blind and visually impaired citizens deserve the same opportunities as their sighted colleagues. There is a huge demand to make technology in Louisiana's public libraries accessible to those who cannot read standard print. The proposed project would place a CCTV (closed circuit television) and a JAWS workstation with screen access software in each parish. The funding would also support placement of at least one computer with screen magnification software (ZoomText) in each branch library. The availability of adaptive technology in our local libraries will enable our legally blind citizens to access broadband services which they could not have previously utilized. Since adaptive technology is costly, many individuals cannot afford to purchase their own equipment. Granting the requested funding for this project will enable blind and visually impaired residents of our state greater access to the excellent resources at local libraries.

We truly appreciate the outstanding work of the State Library of Louisiana. If funding is granted for this proposal, we will continue to work together with library staff to make our members aware of this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Pamela Allen, President

National Federation of the Blind of La.

(Voice of the Nation's Blind



Louisiana Library Association

8550 United Plaza Boulevard, Suite 1001, Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Telephone: (225) 922-4642 Fax: (225) 408-4422 E-mail: office@llaonline.org
Website: www.llaonline.org

August 11, 2009

Ms. Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
701 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

The Louisiana Library Association (LLA) wholeheartedly supports the State Library of Louisiana's application for the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act's NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. The State Library of Louisiana is to be commended for its efforts to seek the establishment of computing centers and sustain broadband adoption for years to come.

Computers and the Internet have become essential tools for everyone in society. Louisiana is striving to improve its rankings in many areas and in particularly the area of education. Every day public libraries in Louisiana are seeing an increasing demand for computer and Internet resources. Public libraries are playing a vital role in helping students of all levels with homework while also helping adult learners with continuing their education, searching for employment, preparing resumes and filing for government aid. In many areas of Louisiana, the public library is the only resource for many people. If funded the State Library of Louisiana would be able to assist the public libraries by addressing directly the critical areas of workforce development, digital divide, and economic recovery.

Libraries have always had an important role of ensuring free and open access to government information. As a government information librarian, I see that it has become even more critical for libraries to provide this vital service as more of our local, state and federal government agencies are placing more information online rather than in paper format. As this becomes the norm, it's crucial for the people of Louisiana who do not own or have home access to computers or the Internet have an alternative in their local communities.

As President of the Louisiana Library Association and on behalf of the Executive Board, I support the State Library of Louisiana and stand willing to help. I'm proud of the work

that you as State Librarian and your staff do to continue to provide to the public libraries of the state. I am confident that this grant will benefit library patrons in the state of Louisiana and will be able to meet the challenges ahead to make them lifelong learners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie Sims". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

Melanie Sims
President 2009-2010
Louisiana Library Association

Government Information Librarian
Paul M. Hebert Law Center Library
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

August 10, 2009

Rebecca Hamilton
State Librarian
State Library of Louisiana
P.O. Box 131
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Rebecca,

This letter is to express my enthusiastic support for the State Library of Louisiana's application for a NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunity grant for sustaining broadband adoption and for computing centers.

Here at Louisiana Economic Development, we are acutely aware of Louisiana's ranking in nationwide information technology infrastructure.

Our mission is to strengthen the state's business environment and to create a more vibrant Louisiana economy. As a part of this, we also enhance economic opportunities for all of the citizens of Louisiana. In order to attract businesses to our state, we strive to help businesses find the resources they need, which includes an educated and informed citizenry. While we boast a healthy technology-driven business climate, we must be able to offer business the prospect to hire qualified employees from our residents.

When a corporation is deciding on a state to locate their company, they examine the technology infrastructure and look for a state that has enhanced educational and cultural opportunities for their employees. The public library has always played a large part in making a community family friendly.

Public libraries are a growth industry. They are anchor institutions that contribute greatly to workforce development. An educated and competent workforce will in turn attract industry to Louisiana.

The Louisiana Economic Development Department fully supports and endorses the State Library of Louisiana's application for a grant under the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program.

Sincerely,



Kristy McKearn
Undersecretary of LED