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MEMORANDUM

To: Don Boozer, Cleveland Public Library
Jason Buydos, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
Sean Creighton, SOCHE
Chris Wick, Clermont County Public Library

From: Missy Lodge, Head Library Programs and Development *MBL*

Subj: LSTA State Program Report

Date: January 6, 2008

As part of the LSTA State Program Report, the Institute of Museum and Library Services requests each state to designate 3-6 exemplary projects.

I am pleased to inform you that the State Library staff selected your project as an exemplary project for fiscal year 2008. Our criteria for selection includes furthering the goals of the LSTA Five-Year Plan, an ability to be replicated or serve as a model for other areas of the state, and the impact being made on the targeted population.

Selected projects were:

Clermont County Public Library for the Every Child Ready to Read at Your Library project. The CCPL was in a unique position to aid parents by instructing them on developing early literacy skills in their children and also to assist childcare providers in incorporating these skills into their classrooms. Staff is also aligning the Library's storytimes (babytime, toddler, preschool, and all-age) to address early literacy skill building. Library staff is becoming more active with other community organizations that support children, including early literacy activities. This project dovetails with the governor's initiatives and with the State Library's "Ohio Ready to Read" initiative and illustrates how a library can customize the state initiative to meet the local need.

Cleveland Public Library for the KnowItNow 24x7 Virtual Reference Project. This was the first full year that the KnowItNow project was administered and coordinated by CPL. The transition in administration was accomplished seamlessly and the project continues to be highly successful. A statewide coordinator has been hired to coordinate all aspects of the service as well as promoting the service at the library level. A significant development occurred in the spring when OhioLINK became a permanent KnowItNow partner. Additionally, CPL continues to work with L-Net (the Oregon statewide virtual reference service) on the implementation of an open-source platform for virtual reference (This platform was successfully implemented in FFY09).

Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to initiate a digitization project at the library. The focus of the project was to provide greater access to print materials with local significance, beginning with the City Directories for Hamilton County for the years 1819 through 1940. The project began as a collaboration between PLCHC and the Cincinnati Museum Center but led to the development of other organizational partnerships. Material is being loaned to PLCHC and digitized, thus expanding access to other library and historical society's materials. The PLCHC continues to make its equipment and expertise available to other libraries and institutions across the state.

Southwestern Ohio Consortium on Higher Education (SOCHE) to increase access to digitized textbooks for qualified students with disabilities. Institutional collaboration among the 13 SOCHE institutions participating in the project was the foundation of the project. SOCHE worked with OhioLINK who agreed to create a virtual library repository of electronic textbooks which will allow any disability provider to access textbooks already converted by participant institutions. Discussions are now underway among SOCHE, OhioLINK, and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission to secure funding to expand the project statewide to include all Ohio postsecondary institutions with OhioLINK membership.

I have included a copy of the description of your project which was submitted to Washington. I realize it is very cursory and does not fully reflect the commitment made by you, your staff, and your partners which made the project a success. However, the character/word restrictions limited us to providing only the essence of the projects.

Also enclosed is a copy of a press release that has been sent to daily and weekly newspapers in your county. This has been sent as part of the State Library's commitment to publicize the LSTA program in Ohio. I would encourage you to contact your area papers and request that they publish this article. You may also wish to provide them with additional information or pictures. I would also encourage you to use the information provided in the press release to publicize the exemplary project designation in library newsletters and in-house publications and share it with your project partners.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. And, once again, congratulations on your project.

- c. Bob Carterette (memo only)
- Holly Carroll (memo only)
- Kim Fender (memo only)
- David Mezack (memo only)
- Lisa Rhine (memo only)