

School Library State Agency Activities [state]

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This section provides a brief review of state agency activities and a listing of state agency personnel involved in the administration and advisement of school library media centers. The editors of *School Library Media Annual* wish to thank the various administrators for reporting their state activities so that this information could be shared with the profession.

In general, there have been many organizational and personnel changes in state agencies over the past year. At present, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Tennessee do not employ administrators with direct responsibility for school library media programs in their states. Colorado's Library Media Specialist position is currently vacant and may be so for some time. However, many state agency reports are positive. Alabama is among those states that have reorganized their department of education and added a library media education specialist. Alaska, formerly without an administrator, is currently in the process of interviewing, and Delaware has reformulated its Information and Technology administrative position as a Library/Media and Technology specialist. The Louisiana Department of Education has appointed a new State Supervisor of School Libraries. As with a number of other states, New York's education department was reorganized. Library media personnel remained intact, but bureaus were eliminated and reformulated into interdisciplinary teams based on subject content. A Director of Library Media Services has been hired by the Texas Education Agency's Division of General Education. Its activities included the development of a statewide union catalog and testing the feasibility of providing the full text of magazines and newspapers to schools. Virginia has reorganized its Student Service section as the Division of Technology. Its library media specialist is now a part of Instructional Media and Technology. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction awarded the state library a grant to begin a school library media center program. The 10-month grant will include developing, coordinating, consulting, networking, and technical support to school library media centers. This pilot project is expected to receive permanent funding.

Many of the agencies initiated information-sharing conferences and activities. The Arkansas Department of Education sponsored Resource Arkansas (a resource sharing group of school, academic, public, and special librarians) in September 1994. The Department's Library Media Services Specialist made presentations to librarians at 15 Regional Educational Coops. Colorado sponsored training for Information Literacy trainers, an Information Literacy/Resource Based Learning Teleconference, and a Colorado Model for Information Literacy Guidelines. The District of Columbia offered numerous workshops on integrating library media programs into the curriculum and staff development programs for library media specialists in the D.C. Public Schools Five-Year Curriculum Renewal Initiative. Indiana provided direct staff development and services for media specialists and library coordinators in collaboration with the Indiana Cooperative Library Service Authority, particularly in the area of library media automation.

Louisiana sponsored a conference called "Wired for the Future," for district library supervisors, focusing on the technological and informational needs facing school library media systems around the state.

Technology and telecommunications are no longer buzz words of the future for state agencies. Hawaii placed its statewide School Library Network database online with access through the State's FYI system for Department of Education schools. Maryland revised its annual report to identify the use of technology in its library media programs, sponsoring a conference, "Creating a Virtual Library," for school libraries, and participating in task groups to implement SAILOR, an online information network, in collaboration with its division of library development and services and with other members of the library community. Plans were initiated to establish a Maryland school library media data site on the department's Internet World Wide Web server. Ohio's library media consultant reports continued work on the Information Network for Ohio (InfOhio), a statewide library automation project. Seventy-two New Jersey high school library media centers received grants to connect to the Internet. New Jersey's state library will provide one year of unlimited searches on the OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc., FirstSearch service, to selected elementary school library media centers. In addition, New Jersey has continued to develop the New Jersey Library Network and New Jersey Link, which provides free access through the state library. North Carolina's Media and Technology services division devised a technology plan for its schools. West Virginia is involved in Library Media Technology Planning for Internet connections. Wisconsin began to develop a Goals 2000 state technology plan and proposed certification requirements for district technology coordinators. The Virgin Islands have been working on a school automation project.

A number of states have revised or are in the process of revising and implementing guidelines. Hawaii has issued guidelines for School Library Instructional Technology Centers. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education began working to revise the state library media center guide; completion is slated for fall 1995. Maine's media and school library administrators have been involved in distance education/telecommunication issues and are working on automation standards and school library assessments. Maryland also has been working with school library media administrators in 24 local education agencies to promote the implementation of standards for its school library media program. Minnesota's standards specialist has worked on relating graduation standards to the library media program and on redesigning media licensure to fit these standards. Montana has been working with library media specialists to implement a new Library and Information Skills Model Curriculum Guide. New Jersey reports that they will also be revising state guidelines during the 1995-96 school year. Washington state provided support for library media programs and direction in compliance with state legislation and administrative codes.

Several state agencies were very involved in reading projects and state collection development. Indiana sponsored Project REAP (Reading Excitement and Paperbacks), funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc., which provided grants to schools to establish large collections for independent reading and to heighten teachers' awareness of literature-based instruction; and RIF (Reading is Fundamental), funded by local and federal agencies, which provided targeted groups with paperback books at no cost. Nevada's agency and the State Library Association cosponsored the Nevada Young Readers' Awards and the Review Book Program.

Publications were issued by several states to enhance communications and informational resources. Louisiana launched a new quarterly departmental newsletter for school library media specialists. Nevada prepared *Information Power-Nevada* for publication, which provides standards for media center programs. Wisconsin published a resource and planning guide for instructional telecommunications.