

South Dakota
Libraries:



a public agenda

South Dakota Library Association
South Dakota Library Network
South Dakota State Library

2007

Dear Friend of Libraries,

It is with great anticipation that the enclosed document is being shared with libraries and their constituencies across South Dakota.

South Dakota Libraries: A Public Agenda represents the ideals and achievable goals for libraries in South Dakota held in common by three organizations: the South Dakota Library Association, the South Dakota Library Network and the South Dakota State Library.

Library service for our state in the twenty-first century requires cooperation, innovation, and a common vision that builds upon previous successes. As we move forward, excellent and equitable library services must be a shared endeavor.

We invite library trustees, library friends groups, and other library support organizations to endorse this agenda and adopt appropriate local strategies that will benefit all citizens.

Sincerely,

Greta Chapman
President, South Dakota Library Association

Ronelle Thompson
Chair, South Dakota Library Network Advisory
Council

Dr. Eric Abrahamson
Chair, South Dakota State Library Board

sdla

The South Dakota Library Association strives to promote library service of the highest quality for present and potential SD library users; to provide opportunities for professional involvement of all persons engaged in any phase of librarianship within the state; and to further the professional development of SD librarians, trustees, and library employees. SDLA is a chapter of the American Library Association and a state member of the Mountain Plains Library Association. The Association is funded by membership dues from individuals and libraries.

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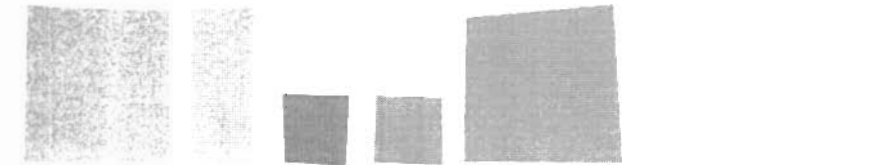
The South Dakota Library Network is a consortium created by librarians to facilitate and promote the sharing of library materials. SDLN is member funded and receives no direct state aid. Today there are more than 200 school, public, private, academic, tribal, medical, government, and corporate member libraries. Together they operate a shared integrated library system with an operations center located in Spearfish. Through the generosity and work of its member libraries, SDLN provides a seamless information structure publicly accessible to all residents of South Dakota.

sdsi

The South Dakota State Library provides leadership for innovation and excellence in libraries and works to meet the information needs of state government. With a citizen board appointed by the governor overseeing policy, and administration supervised by the Department of Education, the State Library strengthens local libraries, expands access to library services, develops specialized collections that supplement the resources of other libraries, and serves the employees of the state. The programs and activities of the State Library are funded with state and federal tax dollars.



South Dakota Citizens Deserve:

- ♦ A network of adequately funded, readily accessible school, public, and academic libraries that support a learning society and informed community
 - ♦ Friendly library service in modern, safe, accessible and inviting buildings
 - ♦ The guidance and assistance of skilled information professionals
 - ♦ Access to library service in their communities, schools, colleges, and workplaces
 - ♦ The ability to use a library days, evenings and weekends and to use a virtual library 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year
 - ♦ Convenient access to a community library and access to a virtual library of up-to-date information in all its forms
 - ♦ Library collections that are current, relevant and responsive to the interests of the community
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- ◆ Library collections reflecting the languages of community members and students, including non-English languages, Braille, and closed captioned
 - ◆ High-speed broadband access to the resources on the World Wide Web using state-of-the-art technology
 - ◆ Community-centered library programs that encourage discussion, debate and civic engagement
 - ◆ Libraries that value reading and create and sustain collections that encourage users to read for pleasure, information or enlightenment
 - ◆ Library services that support businesses, other workplaces, and economic development to create an information literate and competitive workforce
 - ◆ The opportunity to provide ideas and suggestions on the operation and future of their libraries and to volunteer for advocacy and support
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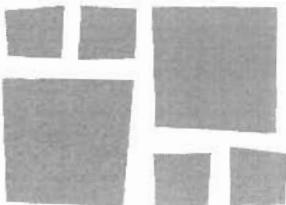


1 Libraries Preserve the Past and Provide a Bridge to the Future.

Libraries preserve South Dakota's culture providing a link to the past and a bridge to the future. Our heritage is currently at risk, with hundreds of books, documents, and archival materials lost every year through deterioration, disaster and neglect. Technology offers the promise of preserving these documents for posterity but, digital resources themselves are fragile, and digital documents, images and audio and visual recordings have already been lost through inaction.

Agenda items:

- ◆ Support conservation and digital preservation efforts
- ◆ Establish and train a team of digital information and preservation professionals
- ◆ Provide funding for digital preservation
- ◆ Identify what needs saving
- ◆ Create a collaborative plan to develop a statewide digital repository



2 Libraries Build and Strengthen Communities

Communities that invest in their libraries understand that the services, resources, technology and staff provided enrich the quality of life. School libraries play a central role in supporting the K-12 educational community with research demonstrating that children with access to school libraries achieve greater educational success. At the college and university level, libraries that are central to campus life become a hive for intellectual activity and inquiry bringing faculty and students together to explore new territory. Public libraries play an essential role in bringing disparate groups of people together where they can debate hot topics and create stronger communities that celebrate diversity.

Agenda items:

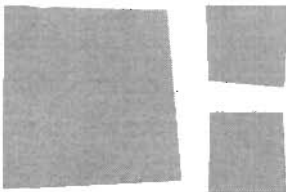
- ◆ Develop innovative approaches to providing library services that are shared and equitable
- ◆ Provide support to ensure that libraries are open sufficient daytime, evening and weekend hours
- ◆ Create and promote a statewide virtual library with access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year
- ◆ Establish a voluntary statewide library card program

3 Libraries Support Lifelong Learning

Libraries offer an opportunity for everyone in South Dakota to succeed, regardless of income, ethnicity or language. Learning is a lifelong process that doesn't end with the conclusion of formal education. Learning takes place in many different ways – by experience, reading, listening, and viewing, through conversation, participation and dialogue. Libraries in schools, colleges and universities and in our communities offer unique opportunities for users to embark on a lifetime of learning and self discovery by using library resources, attending a library program, or seeking the assistance of a skilled information professional.

Agenda items:

- ◆ Support efforts to create opportunities for educational success for every child and adult in South Dakota
- ◆ Provide a certified school librarian in every publicly funded K-12 school
- ◆ Provide trained librarians in every public library
- ◆ Partner with early childhood education and literacy programs
- ◆ Support after school homework help



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Libraries Create Information and Technology Literate Communities

Technology offers unprecedented opportunities for critical thinking, information sharing, information access and social networks. Great libraries offer opportunities for all people to use new technologies and participate in the information society. Libraries in our communities, schools and universities should be trusted destinations for cutting edge technology that provide for innovation, creation and connection.

Agenda items:

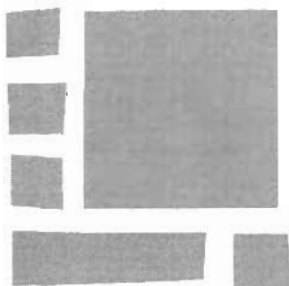
- ◆ Provide universal access to high-speed broadband for libraries
- ◆ Promote wi-fi hubs in all libraries
- ◆ Ensure that all libraries have the technology needed to support an information literate community through technology replacement funding programs
- ◆ Support ongoing technology training for staff
- ◆ Incorporate libraries via funding and training into the support and information network for federal and state e-government services
- ◆ Establish libraries as resources for emergency responders

5 Libraries Encourage Economic Development

South Dakota's information-based economy requires a highly trained and competitive workforce. Many people use distance education and nontraditional programs to obtain the skills needed to participate in a 21st century workforce relying on local libraries to supply the resources needed. At the same time the increase in small businesses, home-based businesses and entrepreneurship finds many who relied on research libraries seeking the assistance of local libraries when it comes to securing competitive intelligence, information about business start-ups, and business planning.

Agenda items:

- ◆ Support and build a 21st century workforce by providing up-to-date resources to encourage small business growth and development in all libraries
- ◆ Support small business development and growth through the development of business incubators in libraries
- ◆ Participate in economic development through partnerships and joint initiatives



6 Libraries Support Democracy

Our founding fathers believed that an informed electorate was essential to a healthy democracy. If our free society is to survive, it must ensure the preservation of records and provide free and open access to this information. South Dakota must ensure that citizens have the skills necessary to participate in the democratic process and must allow unfettered dialogue and guarantee freedom of expression. Communities need safe spaces for public discourse and access to the products and processes of governance.

Agenda items:

- ◆ Create a universal access environment in all libraries – broadband and state-of-the-art technology, 21st century information literacy skills, content, transparency, inclusiveness
- ◆ Encourage libraries' role to support widespread and active participation in our democracy through civic engagement and dialogue
- ◆ Expand and protect access to information by creating content, organizing existing local resources, and providing widespread access
- ◆ Ensure that every library has the tools it needs to protect the intellectual freedom and privacy rights of all users
- ◆ Encourage libraries to provide a diversity of perspectives and ideas

Notes...

South Dakota Libraries: A Public Agenda was adapted from the American Library Association's National Agenda to be released at the ALA National Legislative Day on May 1, 2007 in Washington, DC.