

**LSTA Project Report****State:** *Vermont***Fiscal Year:** *2012***General Information****Title:** Library Development: ARSL Conference Scholarship Grants**State Project Code:** LIB-12\_03**Start Date:** 07/01/2012**End Date:** 09/30/2013**Abstract:**

The Department of Libraries (VTLIB) has a strong interest in supporting continuing education and professional development opportunities for Vermont library workers. This is especially true since in Vermont's 183 public libraries there have only 66.24 FTE employees with an MLS degree. In 2013 the VTLIB made available six scholarships (\$1300 each, though one of them used only \$892.90) to attend the fall conference of the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) in Omaha Nebraska, held September 25-28, 2013. The six applicants were selected in a competitive application process and were required to attend conference programs, network with their peers from other states, and share their experiences and learning with other Vermont library workers via a written report and participation in a continuing education activity in Vermont. The six attendees were accompanied by a Vermont Department of Libraries' consultant who also attended the conference.

**State Goal:** Vermonters will have access to a wide range of high quality library services to meet their lifelong learning, informational, recreational, and occupational needs and interests

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Vermont Department of Libraries

## Project Outcomes

### **List any important findings or outcomes from your project:**

Attendees were overwhelmingly positive in their reports on attending the ARSL conference, citing high value found in attending programs led by well-known speakers and their colleagues from across the nation, and getting to know the other Vermont librarians from regions other than their own. The VTLIB regional consultant who accompanied them provided an important role, giving them background, context and counsel. In addition to their written reports, the attendees presented as part of a VTLIB webinar to explain what they learned, how it will help them in their jobs and why they found participation in a professional conference such a positive experience for them and for their libraries.

### **Please briefly describe importance of findings.**

This is the second round of ARSL scholarships for staff in small, rural libraries, made possible with LSTA funds. Attendees continue to be among the more active librarians in our state, open to innovation and willing to try new ideas. They continue to step up to initiatives such as EDGE Benchmarks and can be counted on to participate in professional activities throughout the state. VTLIB will again offer scholarships in 2014 in the belief that attendance at the ARSL annual conference is beneficial to the communities represented by these librarians and to the profession statewide in the building of new leaders.

### **What methods did you use to determine your findings?**

Review of Administrative Data

Participant Observation

Other

### **Based on outputs, outcomes and/or other results, explain any significant lessons learned from these findings for either the SLAA or others in the LIS field.**

Once librarians in small Vermont libraries complete the Vermont Department of Libraries' Certification Program, they have fewer professional development opportunities -- or occasions to meet with their colleagues in other regions of the state. Library Directors may attend county meetings; VTLIB also seeks to sponsor events in Vermont where librarians from small (including one-person) libraries can learn from and share with those in like-sized or otherwise similar libraries outside their own regions. Most scholarship recipients have never attended a national library conference and they return to Vermont energized and inspired.

**Do you anticipate continuing this project after the current reporting period ends?**    Yes

Do you anticipate any change in level of effort? No  
 Do you anticipate any change in the project's scope? No  
 Do you anticipate any other changes in the project? No

**Additional Materials**

- ARSL scholarship recipients 2013.doc
- <http://arsl.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2013-Conf-Program-Final-9.11.13.singlepage.pdf>

**Intent(s)**

Enhance library's workforce.

- Library Infrastructure & Capacity

**Project Tags**

ARSL; Association of Rural and Small Libraries; Conferences; Scholarships

Did your project include any of the following? :

Compliance with IMLS Grant Conditions

Advertising, Public Relations, and/or Promotional Materials Yes  
 Fund raising and/or Proposal writing No  
 Lobbying and/or Advocacy No  
 Food and/or Entertainment No  
 Construction and/or Renovation No  
 Indirect Costs (Overhead) No

**Budget Information**

|                 | Description | LSTA | Match - State | Match- Other | Total |
|-----------------|-------------|------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| Salaries/Wages  |             | \$0  | \$0           | \$0          | \$0   |
| Consultant fees |             | \$0  | \$0           | \$0          | \$0   |

|                           |   |                   |            |            |                   |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| <b>Travel</b>             | ARSL<br>Conference<br>registration,<br>lodging,<br>and travel | \$7,392.90        | \$0        | \$0        | \$7,392.90        |
| <b>Supplies/materials</b> |   | \$0               | \$0        | \$0        | \$0               |
| <b>Equipment</b>          |   | \$0               | \$0        | \$0        | \$0               |
| <b>Services</b>           |   | \$0               | \$0        | \$0        | \$0               |
| <b>TOTALS</b>             |   | <b>\$7,392.90</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$7,392.90</b> |