

LSTA Project Report

State: *Vermont*

Fiscal Year: *2012*

General Information

Title: Public Library Statistics: Bibliostat Collect Software

State Project Code: LIB-12_14

Start Date: 07/01/2012

End Date: 09/30/2013

Abstract:

The Department of Libraries (VTLIB) requires public libraries to submit an annual statistical report and to complete an annual application for the "Minimum Standards for Vermont Public Libraries." For years, VTLIB sent out a paper report form each year so that public libraries could report data on library use, collections, expenditures, funding, etc. as well as complete a paper standards application. In FY10 VTLIB began to collect this data electronically, using Bibliostat Collect, a product of Baker & Taylor Inc. The purposes for moving from print to electronic data collection were these: (1) to make it easier for libraries to report their data and submit data on time; (2) to make it easier for VTLIB to collect and analyze data; (3) to have a consistent and clear way to help libraries interpret individual data elements, with easily found definitions and explanations imbedded into the collection tool; (4) to offer a tool for libraries to easily calculate data and compare data from one year to the next; (5) to eliminate the need for printing and mailing paper forms; and (6) to improve data collection and increase library participation, with fewer errors, or the need for extensive follow-up with individual libraries. The Department of Libraries submits this public library statistical data each year to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for their national "Public Libraries Survey." VTLIB uses data elements agreed upon nationally, as well as data elements that VTLIB has added for use in our state.

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

Project Director

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Grantee

Vermont Department of Libraries

Project Outcomes

List any important findings or outcomes from your project:

Vermont has 183 public libraries. In order to be eligible to receive grants from VTLIB, libraries are required to submit an annual statistical report and must meet minimum standards. In 2013, continuing to use Bibliostat Collect, 156 libraries submitted annual reports and standards applications on their FY2013. The report written based on that collection of data is available in print and online at: <http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/stats/plstats>.

Please briefly describe importance of findings.

The annual public library report provides highly valuable data that is used at the federal level (IMLS annual public library report), in our state library agency, and in towns across the state. The comparative data is useful for leveraging local budgets, for assessing services and library use, for comparing building size and staffing, etc. In recent years the Department of Libraries relied on data showing increased use of public computers, WiFi access, and progress in automating libraries. We continue to encourage libraries to use the data in their budget presentations and in their strategic and technology planning, both their own library data collected across years, and comparing their library to like libraries in the state.

What methods did you use to determine your findings?

Survey

Review of Administrative Data

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.

While Bibliostat has improved efficiencies, we have learned that we need additional methods to compile and present data from various sources to tell the stories in the most effective ways. We note that some state library agencies are leading the way in this area, and we would benefit by implementing more training in our agency and in our public libraires to best leverage the information being captured, as well as learning more about how to capture pertinent data.

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

Do you anticipate any change in level of effort? No

Please briefly describe any changes in the level of effort. Include information about whether you intend to use LSTA or Match funds.

We will be offering more presentation of data such as information graphics and other ways to compare and contrast across libraries, states and topics.

Do you anticipate any change in the project's scope? No

Do you anticipate any other changes in the project No

Additional Materials

- <http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/stats/plstats>

Intent(s)

Improve library's operations.

- Research & Statistics

Project Tags

Statistics; Public Libraries; Bibliostat; Library Standards

Did your project include any of the following? :

Compliance with IMLS Grant Conditions

Advertising, Public Relations, and/or Promotional Materials	No
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
Travel		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies/materials		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Services		\$4,250.00	\$0	\$0	\$4,250.00
TOTALS		\$4,250.00			\$4,250.00