Alabama

Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006

- Human Capital Development
- Library Service Expansion and Access
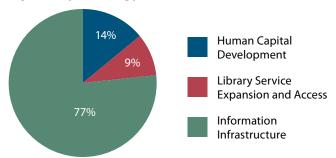- Information Infrastructure

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This fact sheet provides information about the State Library Administrative Agency, LSTA Grants to States programs by category, expenditures by fiscal year (2003–2006), interview highlights with the chief officer, and the program goals for 2008–2012.

State Library Administrative Agency Information

Agency name	Alabama Public Library Service
Agency governance	An independent administrative agency that answers to a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor of Alabama
Population served in 2006	4,587,564
FY 2006 total expenditures	$13,934,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	$10,043,837
Chief Officer	Rebecca Mitchell, Public Library Service Director
Web site	www.apls.state.al.us

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Rebecca Mitchell

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:
"Homework Alabama was a successful pilot project. It's been so successful that the state legislature gives us about 40 percent of the cost to continue the program as a statewide initiative. Homework Alabama brings public libraries to the forefront in providing educational assistance for our students. It's available only after school hours, but it covers K-adult education."

Delivery of Library Services:
"Libraries in Alabama are extremely independent. We have 218 public libraries. We have IT 'circuit riders' who go out to provide computer services at no charge and the state is also divided into 8 districts with professional consultants assigned to each district for 'hands on and telephone consulting'."

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:
"Technology continues to be major challenge; being able to

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Alabama	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total Allotment	$2,369,145	$2,507,472	$2,556,671	$2,610,549	$10,043,837
Number of projects reported	105	98	84	130	417
Largest project amount	$493,267	$530,277	$571,296	$816,845	
Median Project Amount	$6,140	$10,000	$9,399	$4,500	

move on from where we are now to new things; trying to stay ahead of the curve in technology."

Program Goals for 2008–2012

- Strengthen communities by assisting public libraries to: (a) serve as community activity and learning centers, (b) serve as central sources of information about their communities and about community services, (c) partner with other community agencies, institutions, and organizations to improve the quality of life for all of their citizens, (d) cooperate with their local governments and associated agencies to assist in the economic development of their communities, and (e) promote awareness of community services and awareness of the intrinsic value of public libraries.
- Strengthen information services through the provision of library materials and informational programs for all Alabamians.
- Strengthen information technology in public libraries by: (1) establishing or enhancing electronic linkages among or between libraries, (2) electronically linking libraries with educational, social, or information services, (3) accessing information through electronic networks, (4) paying the costs for libraries to acquire or share computer systems and telecommunication technologies, (5) paying the costs for libraries to acquire other technologies to record, save and retrieve information, and (6) training library staff, and users.
- Strengthen youth and family by targeting library and information services: (1) to youth (from birth through 17) in underserved urban and rural communities, including youth from families with incomes below the poverty line, and (2) to the parents and caregivers to improve their child-rearing knowledge and skills.
- Develop and strengthen partnerships with other units within state government, private industry, and the nonprofit sector to help provide (1) information and educational resources for public libraries and the people they serve and (2) information for government officials so that they can better perform their work in serving the people of Alabama.

Exemplary Project: Jefferson County Library Cooperative

Project title	Library Technology Year 1-General
Library	Jefferson County Library Cooperative (JCLC)
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	$51,200
Total Cost FY06	$64,000
Program Category	Information Infrastructure

This project allowed the Jefferson County Library Cooperative to add to and enhance its virtual services for current patrons and to attract new patrons by providing immediate, easy online access to its electronic databases, its bibliographic and holdings information, and its Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) reservation system. With this grant, the library was able to purchase and install software products that allow prospective patrons to register for a library card directly on the JCLC Web site and to have immediate access to JCLC online databases. These software products also allow library staff to create new bibliographic records directly in the OPAC so that patrons can place reserves on new and pre-publication titles, as well as allowing patrons to post reviews to the OPAC.