

*The State Council on Libraries and Literacy*  
*Report to the Governor and the Legislature*

January 2013



The Honorable Governor Brian Sandoval  
Office of the Governor  
Carson City, Nevada

Governor Sandoval:

As Chairperson for the Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy, it is my pleasure to present to you the Council's 2012 Report to the Governor and Legislature.

The Council serves in an advisory capacity for the State Library and Archives with regard to its many responsibilities relating to libraries and literacy. Council members are committed to supporting libraries of all types throughout the state, including promoting literacy programs and activities.

Since literacy is such a vital component of our charge, Council members are enthusiastic about your *Read by Third Grade Initiative* and, moving forward, are interested in participating in and supporting that Initiative.

The Council recognizes that Nevada libraries actively engage in contributing to the health and well being of the communities they serve and continue to be dynamic, vital informational and cultural institutions.

We look forward to your continued support for Nevada libraries.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Cummings  
Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy Chair

# The Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy 2013 Report

In 1965 the legislature created a council with the following declaration:

*"Policy of this State; purpose of chapter. It is the policy of this State to foster and further the establishment and proper maintenance of superior libraries and the acquisition of resources, facilities, professional staffs and auxiliary personnel fully to support such services. The purpose of this chapter is to provide the means for the overview and study of existing library facilities, resources and services and for the formulation of recommendations to strengthen and expand these components."*

NRS 380A.011.

The Council has advocated for libraries in Nevada for 48 years. In 1993 State Council on Libraries and the Governor's Literacy Coalition Advisory Council merged to form the State Council on Libraries and Literacy ("Council" or "SCLL"). Today the SCLL serves as the advisory council for the State Library and Archives with regard to its many responsibilities relating to libraries and literacy in the State of Nevada.

The State Council on Libraries and Literacy's broad range of duties is defined by Nevada Revised Statutes 380A.081:

1. Examine and overview the whole state of libraries, librarianship, library education, library resources, and all allied and cognate activities and prepare a record of its findings.
2. Require public libraries to provide necessary library statistics and reports and to make recommendations for the advancement of libraries.
3. Report biennially to the Governor and Legislature. The report must be filed on or before January 1 of each odd-numbered year.
4. Publish material pertaining to its work that it may order issued.
5. Review plans and applications submitted by libraries and political subdivisions for state grants-in-aid and make recommendations to the State Library and Archives Administrator concerning approval.
6. Examine and evaluate the programs for literacy in this State.
7. Establish a plan for coordinating programs and activities for promoting and increasing literacy in this State.

The SCLL is comprised of 11 members appointed by the Governor reflecting the diversity of the State. These members are from many public, as well as private sectors, all with a

relationship to libraries and literacy. In addition 6 ex-officio representatives of state government agencies share in the advancement of library and literacy goals. Current members as of December 31, 2012 include:

<p><b>Lynn Best</b> (service ended November 2012) College of Southern Nevada</p> <p><b>Elizabeth Markle</b> <b>Library Director</b> <b>Sierra Nevada College</b> (appointed November 2012) Sector: Academic Libraries</p>	<p><b>Sandra Marz</b> Sector: Special Libraries</p>	<p><b>Jeanette Hammons</b> (appointed November 2012) Library Director Elko-Lander-Eureka Library System Sector: Public Libraries</p>
<p><b>Jeff Mohlenkamp</b> Department of Administration Statute: Ex-Officio Designee: Kimberly Elliott</p>	<p><b>Judith Simon</b> Sector: Labor Organizations</p>	<p><b>Sharon Kientz</b> Sector: Classroom Teachers</p>
<p><b>Frank Woodbeck</b> DETR Statute: Ex-Officio Designee: Renee Olson</p>	<p><b>Daniel Ihnen</b> Coordinator K-12 Library Services Clark County School District Sector: School Libraries</p>	<p><b>Sheila Moulton</b> (appointed November 2012) Las Vegas-Clark County Library District Sector: Trustees</p>
<p><b>Kelly Chouinard</b> (service ended December 2012) Sector: Public</p>	<p><b>Dr. James Guthrie</b> Nevada Department of Education Statute: Ex-Officio Designee: Bill Strader</p>	<p><b>Steve Hill</b> Governor's Office of Economic Development Statute: Ex-Officio Designee: Vacant</p>
<p><b>James Cox</b> Department of Corrections Statute: Ex-Officio Designee: Kimberly Petersen</p>	<p><b>Michael J. Wilden</b> Department of Human Resources Statute: Ex-Officio Designee: Margot Chappel</p>	<p><b>Vacant</b> Sector: Persons with Disabilities</p>
<p><b>John Simmons</b> Sector: Private Sector Employment</p>	<p><b>Nancy Cummings, Chair</b> Sector: Private Literacy Organization</p>	

For more information including a current membership list, please visit the Nevada Council on Libraries and Literacy website at:  
[http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=539&Itemid=421](http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=539&Itemid=421)

**10,822,428 people in Nevada  
visited a local library in 2010.**

## NEVADA'S LIBRARIES

Libraries play a key role in healthy communities, economic development and job workforce initiatives. Nevada library users value their libraries as community gathering places and cultural centers, as resources for promoting reading and literacy, as quiet places to study and receive assistance with homework through online databases or tutoring programs, as resources for small businesses, as places for support in finding a job or getting a GED, and a place where technology and information is available to everyone, regardless of age, income level or literacy skills.

Nevada's libraries are more important than ever. As the economic crisis in Nevada continues to affect every resident and business, people struggle to make ends meet by cutting back on what they assess as non-essential items like computers in the home, internet service, books, newspapers and periodicals. More and more, the economically challenged turn to their local libraries to provide these items and services.

But libraries too, have seen hard times. As funding has been cut on national, state, county and local levels, libraries across the nation have been forced to reduce staff, reduce hours and raise fees for public space rental.

Library directors struggle to manage resources, maximize staff efficiency and leverage every dollar they receive to obtain a maximum return on the investment, all to ensure their library patrons have the best service possible and that the library meets community needs. As the economic hardship faced by many library patrons places great demand for services on the libraries, our libraries continue to see rises in circulation, use of computers, use of online databases and visits to local library programs.



Public libraries in Nevada are a study in diversity. The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District serves a population of over 1.5 million people in over 8,000 square miles (an area larger than the state of Connecticut). Its facilities include 14 urban libraries, 11 outlying libraries and 1 outreach library. In fiscal year 2011-2012, 6.6 million people visited their local branch, 13.4 million items were checked out and 1.5 million people used the public internet computers.

By comparison the Beatty Library District serves a population of 1032 from one library location. In 2010, the Beatty Library District had 5,790 library visits, a total circulation of 9,066 items and 3,685 people used the public internet computers.

In 2010, the Smoky Valley Library District listed the highest revenue per capita at \$525.94; the Pahrump Community Library listed the lowest revenue per capita at \$14.47.

Twenty-two public library entities serve Nevada: ten county libraries, nine district libraries, one city-county library, one municipal library district, and one tri-county library system. While public libraries serve all regions of the state, access to library services and materials vary greatly depending on local factors such as reduced library hours and limited or no access to electronic materials. Libraries found in universities and public school settings serve these populations and may fill some gaps. In addition, at least 35 special libraries offer varying levels of service to the public throughout the state.

All libraries in Nevada have one thing in common: the communities they serve depend on them.

*Public libraries in Nevada offered patrons 4,544,795 printed materials, 437,366 audio materials, 534,464 video materials, 79,647 electronic books, 1,051 databases and the use of 1,264 public internet computers. These libraries saw 10,822,428 visits, offered 24,790 library programs, served 758,320 people at those programs and had 3,204,578 people use the public internet computers*



## Nevada Literacy

No skill is more crucial to the future of a child, or to a democratic and prosperous society, than literacy.  
~ Los Angeles Times ~

The Nevada State Library and Archives (NSLA) works on various literacy projects to continue projects and collaborations, some of which have been in place for more than twenty years. The Council supports NSLA's efforts through the identification of potential projects that continue those ongoing collaborations and ways to promote literacy and lifelong learning.

Additionally, the Council supports the work of NSLA in its efforts to facilitate work by the public library community to implement literacy programs including working with the Nevada Department of Education Adult Basic Education program. Although typically associated with services to children, public library summer reading programs are an integral part of literacy efforts, with many libraries offering a way for people of all ages to remain involved in reading and literacy throughout the year.

Ongoing literacy programs include summer reading which occurs in Nevada's public libraries; El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros held in April of each year in recognition of Nevada's large Hispanic population (26.5% of total population in 2010); and the Nevada Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book, which implements literacy programs designed to address reflective thinking and other skills, for example, Letters About Literature.

The Council and NSLA, through the Nevada Center for the Book, partners with the school community through the annual Letters About Literature program (LAL). LAL is a national reading and writing promotion program for young readers sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and presented in partnership with participating affiliate state centers for the book (<http://lettersaboutliterature.org/>). The NSLA coordinates with the Department of Education to ensure that information about this inspiring program reaches all students in grades 4 through 10, whether in public school, private school, or being home schooled in the state. Board members evaluate and rank submissions in this school and student-centered activity.

Federal funding supports adult reading programs, fosters collaboration with adult basic education to support library activities that serve the unemployed in Nevada, and provides for the implementation of a statewide information literacy initiative. The grant project provides distribution of literacy methodology and techniques through the State Literacy Resource Center (SLRC), the Literacy Resources Directory, and the literacy data obtainable on the Nevada Center for the Book page and the State Data Center (SDC).

On May 29, 2008, the Council accepted Nevada's literacy plan, *Nevada Literacy Office Strategic Plan, June 2007*, a plan to improve literacy, collaborate with personnel in the Nevada Department of Education, school districts, and institutions of higher education, community partners, and Nevada families.

Although staffing challenges have prevented full implementation of the Strategic Plan, the Council is committed to assisting the NSLA in leverage opportunities to collaborate with other state agencies to create sustainable literacy programs. The Council receives periodic updates regarding NSLA's efforts to initiate a digital literacy project that will tie the work of the Department of Education and the Department of Training and Rehabilitation with the state librarian's work on Nevada's Broadband Initiative.

Representatives from the NSLA and Council are members of the Literacy Team, as created by the Nevada Department of Education to address K-12 literacy. The Literacy Team members participated in the development of the 2011 Nevada Literacy Plan (K-12), Striving Readers grant application and the review and process for the state subgrants.

The Striving Readers grant process awarded the Nevada Department of Education a \$15,000,000 to implement the 2011 Nevada Literacy Plan as developed by the Nevada State Literacy Team. From these funds, subgrants provided services over five years to more than 400,000 Pre-K-12 children and 22,000 teachers. Select subgrants recognized and included the local public library as a critical participant in their literacy efforts. The Clark County School District has incorporated public library field trips and facilitated signing-up for library cards for students in grades K-5 at the participating school sites.

The Council is very pleased to support Governor Brian Sandoval's Read by Three initiative which will leverage the Council's on-going support of NSLA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Library Card Initiative. Encouraging reading, literacy and use of the local public library's materials from from print to electronic resources, the NSLA 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Library Card Initiative helps to provide a fertile environment in which the Governor's Read by Three Initiative can thrive. We encourage Governor Sandoval to include literacy advocates as well as library administrators in assisting him to meet this goal.



During the 2011-2012 school year, the Clark County School District circulated over seven and half million items to its students and teachers.

Leaders in Nevada recognize the value of early childhood development as a way to give children the tools to live a healthy, productive life, succeed in school and contribute to an economically sound society. Examples of this type of library programming can be found in the following section that discusses Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) projects.

According to the Nevada Head Start Fact Sheet 2011, during 2009, the State of Nevada spent over \$25,000 per inmate at a rural state prison. During that same year the state disbursed \$9,000 per Head Start child. Since Head Start children are significantly less likely to have been charged with a crime than their siblings who did not participate in Head Start programs, for every dollar spent on early childhood programs, the State stands to save up to \$16,000 down the road.

Believing increased literacy to be the key to Nevada's future, the SCLL is making it a priority to be more involved in advocating for full implementation and funding for NSLA's literacy plans and programs and other literacy plans and programs. We will continue to examine and evaluate the programs for literacy in this state and support the NSLA's ability to be a center for collaboration and innovation. A literate citizenry is the key to Nevada's future.

In 2010, 32,758 children participated in a summer reading program through their library and the libraries saw 1,373,316 items of children's material circulated during that program period.

## LSTA

2012 saw the development of the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) Five-Year State Development Plan for 2013-2017. A copy of the plan may be viewed at: [http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/dmdocuments/nvlstastateplan2013\\_2017.pdf](http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/dmdocuments/nvlstastateplan2013_2017.pdf)

The LSTA is a federally funded grant program administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). It is the only federal program exclusively for libraries. Funds are awarded annually to the Nevada State Library and Archives (NSLA) to meet the goals identified in the LSTA state plan. All types of libraries, including academic, public, school, government agency libraries, eligible information centers, and special libraries with public access may apply. As part of the process, they have to certify that they meet eligibility criteria. NSLA provides training to aid in submission of successful grants. Recommendations are made to the State Librarian, by Council members, after having a chance to ask grant applicants questions in a public forum. The State Librarian then makes final funding decisions. In the past two years grants have been awarded in the following categories:

### 2011 Mini-Grants - \$5,000 or less

Henderson District Libraries	Bright Starts: Supporting Preschool Teachers
Sierra Nevada College Library	What's in Our Past - Local History Digitalization
Mineral County Library	On the Road Again
Beatty Library District	Technology Upgrade
Pershing County Library	Playaways
Elko-Lander-Eureka Library	Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children
Lyon County School District	Increasing Use of Nonfiction
CLAN	Have Training - Need Travel
Amargosa Valley Library District	Technology Upgrade
Carson City Library	Lego Technology Program

### 2012 LSTA Mini-Grants - \$5,000 or less

Henderson District Public Libraries	Storytime to Go: Storytime kits...
Washoe County Library	Fax Service for the Public
Carson City Library	Youth AV Collections
Beatty Library District	Computer and Software upgrade
Pershing County Library	Series completion - Youth & Large Print
Elko-Lander-Eureka Library	Travel Guides and Country Collection

### 2011 Competitive Applications (\$5000-\$100,000)

Carson City Library	Overdrive Downloadable Audio Books
CLAN - Cooperative Libraries	Public Computing Centers – Printing
Elko County Library	Tri-County Library Needs Assessment
Henderson District Public Libraries	Hawaiian Cultural Collection and Connection
Henderson District Public Libraries	Read, Play, Grow: A Family Literacy Project

Henderson District Public Libraries  
 Las Vegas-Clark Co Library District  
 Nevada State Libraries & Archives  
 Sierra Nevada College, Library  
 Univ. of NV, Las Vegas – Lied  
 Univ. of NV, Reno - Oral History  
 Washoe County Library  
 Washoe County School District

60 Days to Better Health  
 Customer Connect  
 Recording Nevada for Talking Book Clients  
 Sustainability Resource Center  
 Dreaming the Skyline: Resort Architecture...  
 Oral History Audio Conversion  
 Self Service Kiosks @ the Library  
 Computers for 21st Century Learning

**2011 Innovation Applications**

Carson City Library

Boys and Girls Club Automated Branch

**2012 Competitive Applications**

Carson City Library  
 Elko County Library  
 Henderson District Public Libraries  
 LV-CCLD  
 LV-CCLD  
 Nevada Historical Society  
 Sierra Nevada College Library  
 UNLV Lied Library  
 Washoe County Library

Expanding Services through RFID  
 Microfilm Access  
 Business Center and Knowledge...  
 Business Launch @ the Library  
 Mesquite Collection Enhancement  
 Emil Billeb Collection  
 Community Read  
 Documenting the African American Experience  
 Your Library Card Now!

Focus on education has become one of the goals for the next biennium as evidenced by Governor Sandoval’s Read by Three initiative. In an effort to improve reading skills, increase access to reading materials and increase literacy, libraries have traditionally had storytimes and worked to increase access to users. The two grant projects described below take traditional library programs a step further in giving the children of Nevada the skills to read.



One of the grant projects, Boys and Girls Club Automated Branch, extended library access and built upon the idea of a summer reading program. This Branch provides currently underserved patrons with access to library materials and programs who would otherwise not have access to relevant, current library resources to improve educational attainment in the Carson City community. This grant project was created by the Carson City Library.

The automated branch is similar to a vending machine/kiosk with a 17 inch touchscreen monitor, library card reader and thermal receipt printer and is located at the Boys and Girls Club. The collection is relevant to youth ages 7 to 18 and their caretakers. Several programs were offered in connection with the automated branch. As a result, approximately 72% of the youth attending the Boys and Girls Club signed up for the summer reading program and more

than half were between first and third grade. This same group of first through third graders read more than 330 hours.

While this automated branch does not take place of librarian assistance, it does provide library materials to young readers and their caretakers at a place they frequent on a regular basis. In addition to collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Western Nevada, the Carson City Library was assisted by donations from two local foundations for this project: The Hop and Mae Adams Foundation and The Carson City Library Foundation. While this grant project reached out to children, 7-18, and their caretakers, it had a big impact on those learning to read, first through third graders.

Another grant project, Read, Play Grow: A Family Literacy Project offered several programs to reach out to families and educate parents on how to share books with their children, placing an importance on literacy in the home and family. This grant project was created by Henderson District Public Libraries.

Part of the program was to have story times at two libraries. One of the libraries worked with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension on the family storyteller program. Participants learned the importance of sharing books with their children (regardless of the reader's level of literacy) in an effort to break the cycle of illiteracy and prepare children to excel in school. Participants learned how to effectively share books and other activities with their children to increase literacy. The total number of participants in programs associated with this grant was 530. Participants responded well to the programs. A comment from one of the participants, "I never knew how important it is to read to NoElle!" This comment was from a 17-year-old sister of a pre-school participant. The library that worked with Cooperative Extension will continue with this collaboration in the future. This grant project helped prepare children to become good readers.



The NSLA leverages LSTA funds to develop statewide initiatives. Statewide reading programs are an example of NSLA's statewide initiatives. Designed to support and encourage reading for Nevadans of all ages, statewide reading programs are critical services that support the development of strong reading skills. Included are programs that address issues of early literacy, English language learning and family literacy. Specific programs for younger readers are Summer Reading programs and El Dia de los Ninos. With LSTA support, libraries are able to extend programming and reach more participants. There are many factors that impact a child's ability to read by the third grade. Some of these (summer reading programs, access to books, and family storytime programs) have been core activities that libraries have provided to their communities for years. With the assistance of federal, state and local government funding and local private organizations, Nevada libraries have been able to increase literacy –related programming in these areas and will continue to play an important role in the Read by Three Initiative.

## 2012 Setbacks

In May 2012, Storey County Commissioners chose to end funding for the Storey County Library forcing it to close. As a result of this closure, the nearly 4,000 patrons formerly served by the library are now forced to travel to Carson City or Reno for library services. Efforts are underway in the community to reopen the Storey County Library but, without a space for the library and money to fund it, it will remain closed indefinitely. The book collection of the library remains in storage and residents of Storey County are doing what they can to find a way to reopen their library.



A failed ballot funding initiative during the 2012 election requested by the Henderson Library District has forced the immediate closure of the Galleria and Malcom branch libraries in Henderson. The Henderson Library District has seen a reduction of nearly \$10 million in its budget and has recently taken the necessary step of closing all libraries on Mondays.

Carson City voters also declined to fund the Carson City Knowledge and Discovery Center. The Carson City Library partnered with Carson City, the Hop and Mae Adams Trust and the Carson Nugget among others to plan a learning and business center promoting technology and media literacy skills, communications skills, cross-disciplinary thinking skills, health literacy skills, financial and business skills which would also house the Carson City Library. Because the land donation was contingent on voters approving the funding, this project will not go forward as planned.

Research shows that quality school library programs supervised by a certified/licensed school librarian result in higher levels of academic achievement as evidenced by improved standardized reading and writing test scores. It is concerning to see certified school librarians being eliminated in schools to close budget gaps when improving literacy is such an important goal.

## Moving Forward to a Stronger Nevada

The SCLL understands the financial crisis that continues to plague Nevada. However, continued cuts to library and literacy services undermine so many important elements essential to economic growth and fiscal stability in Nevada. We ask that no further cuts be made to these services so that libraries can continue to assist not only with the Governor's literacy agenda, but contribute to the rebuilding of a strong Nevada economy and a State that offers the quality of life that we want for our citizens.

Fully 91% of Americans ages 16 and older say public libraries are important to their communities; and 76% say libraries are important to them and their families.

Findings of the Pew Center study –Library Services in the Digital Age

(<http://libraries.pewinternet.org/2013/01/22/library-services/>)

"Libraries offer, for free, the wisdom of the ages - and sages - and, simply put, there's something for everyone inside."

Laura Bush, Former First Lady of the United States

(<http://libraryquotes.org/quotes/politicians>)

*For more information on the programs mentioned in this report, please see:*

Nevada State Council on Libraries and Literacy

[http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=539&Itemid=421](http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=539&Itemid=421)

Improving Literacy for a Strong Nevada from the Department of Education:

<https://bighorn.doe.nv.gov/sites/CommonCore/ccss/Striving%20Readers/NSLP%202011%20FINAL.pdf>

Nevada Literacy Office Strategic Plan, June 2007

<http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/dmdocuments/masternloleracystrategicplan.pdf>

Head Start:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/headstart.htm>

LSTA Administration

[http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=537&Itemid=475](http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=537&Itemid=475)

LSTA 5 Year Plan

[http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/dmdocuments/nvlstastateplan2013\\_2017.pdf](http://nsla.nevadaculture.org/dmdocuments/nvlstastateplan2013_2017.pdf)

Library Statistics and Comparisons: Institute of Museum and Library Services website:

<http://www.ims.gov/>

School Library Impact Studies Information for Other States:

<http://www.lrs.org/impact.php>