

ATTACHMENT D

Expanding database resources for public libraries through a pooled purchase model.

Background: A working group of staff from 15 libraries, MLNC, MOREnet, and state library has been working since last August to 1) investigate what additional database resources are desired by public libraries, and 2) develop a pooled purchase model and method for contracting.

The working group first assessed the database subscriptions of the larger libraries in the state. Next, we conducted a phone survey of medium and smaller public libraries to determine level of interest in and preferred content for a pooled purchase of electronic resources.

Survey findings:

- Of 77 libraries, 31 currently subscribed to databases, 46 did not.
- Database content with highest interest for purchase were genealogy and auto repair.
- 70 of the libraries indicated interest in participating in purchase of additional content; but
- 29 said they could not contribute any funds to a shared purchase pool.

Based on survey responses, genealogy database was selected as a first project. Only ProQuest's Heritage Quest provides remote access. The Working Group has gotten a preliminary quote for a statewide license for public libraries. A number of issues relating to licensing and managing the project remain under discussion.

Funding: Working Group also developed and discussed several possible models for allocating the costs among public libraries. We are trying to build a model that can be used for additional database purchases in future. The best model so far allocates the cost share in tiers based on the tier structure used for REAL Program member fees to MOREnet.

The LSTA plan allows using funds for expanding access to databases. For the models, we have used LSTA funds to cover libraries with income below \$250,000; about 10% of current projected price quote. The smallest libraries have least ability to pay; have only a small percent of the state's population; and would contribute the smallest amount to the pool. The administrative cost to bill and collect cost shares below about \$150-\$200 is not cost effective. Other states also use LSTA funds to subsidize smaller libraries for statewide databases, generally at \$250 and below.

Discussion: What to consider in allocating LSTA funds to help smaller libraries with a cost share of database purchases, i.e., all libraries pay some amount? Some libraries pay part/LSTA pay part?