

## History of Lewis & Clark Library System Consulting

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When the Lewis & Clark Library System was established, it had two main purposes. To assist the member public libraries as needed and to expand public library service into unserved areas. One way the System staff fulfilled this two-fold mission was with a consulting service. The consulting service provided the membership, originally only public library members, with advice, in-depth research and hands-on experience on a myriad of subjects.

### Consulting Topics

As local libraries changed in their needs and as other types of libraries joined the System, the Lewis & Clark Library System consulting service evolved to meet the members' needs. Over the past 45 years, consulting questions have moved from a concentration on collection development and library establishment to focus on space planning, technology, intellectual freedom, privacy, personnel management and budgeting. The following is a non-exclusive list of consulting topics regularly handled by the consulting staff since 1965.

- Adult Programming
- Advocacy
- Annual Reports
- Board Relations
- Budgeting
- Building Construction & Renovation
- Children's Programming
- Collection Development
- Copyright
- Ethics
- Financial Planning
- Friends Groups
- Grant Development
- Information Literacy
- Intellectual Freedom
- Internet Access
- Internet Filtering
- Legal Issues
- Library 2.0
- Library Conversion to District
- Library Establishment
- Library Service Development
- Library Service Evaluation
- Library Theft
- Literacy
- Marketing
- Media Interviews
- Non-Residents
- Patron Privacy
- Personnel Benefits
- Personnel Management
- Policy Development
- Problem Patrons
- Promoting Reading
- Public Library Standards
- Reciprocal Borrowing
- School Library Standards
- Space Planning & Utilization
- Staff Training
- Statistical Analysis
- Taxes and Tax Revenue
- Technology
- Unserved
- Young Adult Programming
- Web Presence
- Weeding the Collection
- Wireless Networks & Safety Issues

## Consulting Projects

Along with one-on-one consulting, the LCLS consulting staff developed various projects to assist and benefit the membership. These projects might have developed from repeated questions, such as the administrative calendar, or as a cooperative project, such as the cardinal baseball tickets for summer reading. This is a sampling of the consulting projects over the past 45 years.

- Administrative Calendar
- Administrative Issues
- Background Checks \*
- Cardinal Baseball Tickets
- Conduit \*
- [Consulting Video](#)
- Expedition newsletter
- Law Library
- [LCLS Orientation Video](#) \*
- Library District Handbook \*
- Library Tax Levies and their Uses \*
- New Librarian's Helper \*
- [Our Library, Our Choice Video](#)
- Intellectual Freedom and Filtering \*
- Planting the Seed grants
- Rams Readers
- Secret/Mystery Shopper
- Site Visits
- Summer Reading Programs
- Storytelling Training
- Tips and Hints for the IPLAR \*
- Tips and Hints for the Per Capita Grant (Public and School) \*
- Tracking Library Tax Revenue and Analysis

## Establishment of Municipal and/or District Library

A primary function of Illinois Library Systems was the reduction in the number of residents without tax-supported public library service. One method to bring library service to the unserved was and is the establishment of public libraries or public library districts. Since 1965, the System (both Lewis & Clark and the former Kaskaskia Library System) helped establish over a dozen public libraries.

- Brighton
- Centreville
- Coffeen (Failed)
- Doyle
- Fairview Heights (KLS)
- Farmersville-Waggoner
- Frank Bertetti Benld
- Germantown (KLS & LCLS)
- Glen Carbon
- Maryville
- Roxana
- Shiloh (Preliminary)
- Smithton (KLS)
- South County
- Swansea (Failed)
- Tri-Township
- Valmeyer (KLS)
- Washington Park
- Worden

### Conversion to Library District

Another method of bringing public library service to the unserved, are library districts. The System (Lewis & Clark and/or Kaskaskia) assisted with the following conversion from municipal library to library district.

- Bethalto
- Bunker Hill
- Cahokia
- Caseyville
- Daugherty (KLS)
- East Alton
- Grand Prairie of the West
- Hartford
- Hayner
- Litchfield
- Mississippi Valley
- Roxana
- Six Mile
- Valmeyer (KLS)

### Annexation by Public Library Districts

Once various library districts were established, the consulting staff continued working with the libraries during annexation projects, bringing even more service to Illinois residents. The following library districts, working with System consultants, annexed territory to their service area.

- Bethalto
- Cahokia
- Caseyville
- East Alton
- Grand Prairie of the West
- Hayner
- Mississippi Valley
- Six Mile
- Smithton
- Tri-Township
- Worden

### Public Library Tax Rate Increases

Illinois library law sets a public library's general fund tax rate (known as the mil rate or the levy rate) at .15% (.0015), unless the library's voters increase the rate level, or in the case of a home rule community, when the home rule municipality increases the rate. Over the years, the System consultants worked with several public libraries seeking a tax rate increase from their voters.

- Breese
- Cahokia
- Hayner
- Jerseyville
- Wood River

## Building Construction/Renovation

Lewis & Clark Library System members have over 200 buildings providing library service in public, school, academic and special library situations. The consulting staff provided space planning and utilization advice, building program guidance and construction grant development since the System was established. Some of the libraries benefiting from this service include:

- Auburn PL
- Belleville PL
- Bethalto PLD
- Bond County CUD
- Brighton PL
- Bunker Hill PLD
- Case-Halstead PL
- Caseyville PLD
- Columbia PL
- Doyle PLD
- Edwardsville PL
- East St. Louis PL
- Fairview Heights PL
- Farmersville-Waggoner PLD
- Frank Bertetti Benld PL
- Germantown PLD
- Gibault HS
- Gillespie PL
- Glen Carbon PL
- Grand Prairie of the West PLD
- Greenfield PL
- Greenville PL
- Hayner PLD
- Highland CUD
- Jerseyville PL
- Litchfield PLD
- Louis Latzer PL
- Madison PL
- Mississippi Valley PLD
- Morrison-Talbott PL
- Nokomis Township PL
- O'Fallon PL
- Roodhouse PL
- Smithton PLD
- Tri-Township PLD
- Valmeyer (combined facility)
- Witt Township PL
- Wood River PL
- Worden PLD

## Consulting Work with Grants

Often, Lewis & Clark Library System sought and received grant funding to finance specific projects. Rarely was Lewis & Clark the final beneficiary of the grant funding, most grant projects were developed for System-wide and/or state-wide benefit. For example, the Project Plus grants, and later Demonstration grants, awarded to Lewis & Clark were used to demonstrate and establish library services to unserved areas within the System such as the Maryville and Tri-Township areas. Another example with state-wide impact was the Library Leaders Prepared for Disaster grant. This grant brought over a dozen libraries together to learn about First Responders, library security and disaster recovery.

- Access to Justice + (National Center for State Courts)
- [Delivery Best Practices Video](#)+
- How to present with Karen Thornbush
- Lewis & Clark Preparing for Discovery Kits +

- Library Centers for Effective Non-Profits (Kellogg Foundation)+
- Library Contribution to the Community +
- Library Leaders Prepared for Disaster +
- Library Services Demonstration Grants
- Lighting the Fire
- LLSAP Grants
- Project Plus Grants
- Putting Illinois on the Map +
- Ready, Set Teach – Teaching Adult Learners+
- Researching Communities to Prepare for the Future +
- WebJunction Illinois +

### Cooperative Projects and Consulting

The consultants were involved with other cooperative and collaborative projects, benefiting libraries across the state. One such major project in the early 1980's was the state-wide summer reading program which evolved into the iRead, now operated by the Illinois Library Association. Other cooperative projects include:

- ILA Conference Presentations
- ISLMA Conference Presentations
- LibraryLearning
- LibraryU
- Lighting the Fire
- [Project12](#)
- State-wide Summer Reading Program

### LCLS consultants over the years

Since its beginning, the System has provided its members access to consulting services, the following are the Lewis & Clark Library System Consultants.

Alexi Fosse	Jan Eakins Jones	Sarah Heuertz
Amanda McKay	Joyce Reid	Susan Fremming
Charm Ruhnke	Judy Rake	Susan Lucco
Cheryl Gruneich (Goltz)	Julie Reiner	Tina Hubert
Chris Deweese	Juliette Douglas	Vincent Schmidt
Colleen Richards	Kelly Meier	William Rogers
Dena Wilson	Kevin Becker	William Stevens
Gary Stone	Opal Stephenson	

\* Shared statewide

+ Statewide project