

# Promising Practices in Technology LSTA Funded Projects

## Public Libraries

**Title:** Paving the Way for Customers with Special Needs

**Type:** Public– Pueblo-City County Library District (PCCLD) - Rawlings Public Library

**Summary:**

The project's goal was to make PCCLD's staff, collections, meeting rooms, programs, and public Internet workstations more available to all of its customers by reducing barriers to people with vision, hearing, and learning or mobility challenges. Efforts to reduce these barriers included providing an efficient, effective, and easy to use assistive technology at the Rawlings Public Library (RPL) – that included the implementation and/or provision of:

- customer friendly use tip sheets coupled with volunteer assistance from the community for using the project's two assistive technology workstations.
  - the first public internet accessible workstation is equipped with easy to use and accessible hardware/software that provides persons with visual and mobility assistance, and
  - the second public internet accessible workstation is equipped with easy to use and accessible hardware/software that provides persons with learning/reading and mobility assistance;
- new and easier to use TTY equipment for improving the Library's Reference and Readers Advisory staff to communicate more effectively with deaf persons in the community;
- a variety of FM assistive listening systems and portable assistive listening devices for use by persons who have hearing loss;
- staff training on how to provide and assist customers who have special needs to improve their access and use of the project's assistive technology workstations, TTY equipment, and its assistive listening systems and listening devices;
- disability etiquette staff training on techniques for improving customer service to persons who have special needs;
- staff training for PCCLD's web site designer to learn about current techniques and tools available for redesigning the Library District's web site and online catalog for Section 508/ADA compliance;
- current library materials for reference and circulation use for persons of all ages with special needs;
- an "Accessibility Awareness Day" at the RPL organized collaboratively by PCCLD and other agencies and support groups to raise awareness of the Library's new services and resources for person with special needs; and
- three programs developed collaboratively by PCCLD and community agencies and support groups targeted for persons with special needs.

**Title:** Room to Grow: Building an Environment that Encourages Teen Learning

**Type:** Public – Pueblo City County Library District – Rawlings Public Library

**Summary:**

The Rawlings Library believes teens in Pueblo County have long been underserved. The library staff and Teen Advisory Board believe that a Teen Center can provide resources and programs that encourage teens to see the value of education. Including a high-tech appeal and adding a touch of outreach has drawn teens to a

place where they have found the resources that support their recreational, educational, and life skills needs.

Library staff ordered needed materials and equipment and implemented the Teen Central design with a grand opening date of January 20th, 2007. LSTA funds supplied a printer, two video editing and six audio editing workstations that also supported word processing and database research functions. Tables and chairs to support the new workstations were also included. Teen Advisory Board members helped to relocate the collection to Teen Central. Two part-time teen clerks were hired with LSTA funds (Oct. 2006 ~ May 2007) to assist staff in providing service to and the monitoring of Teen Central. Two teen interns provided by Rocky Mountain SER of Workforce received training and monitored the Teen Central desk from March ~ August 2007. Two teen interns provided by the Pueblo Community College Upward Bound program received training and monitored the Teen Central desk from June ~ July 2007. Four Teen Advisory Board members received training and continue to monitor the Teen Central desk on a voluntary basis.

The Teen Services Librarian facilitated discussion with and surveyed teen users to evaluate experiences using Teen Central. To improve student searches for information, staff provided multiple training sessions on the use of electronic educational databases as well as print reference resources both in-house and during school visits. A Podcast Academy providing instruction on use of the podcast-related software available in Teen Central was offered on March 6th. Area art teachers were invited to display the work of teens with a monthly rotation beginning in January, 2007. Public School District 60 has implemented two programs that offer online coursework. Software for these programs has been installed on the eight computer workstations in Teen Central and students have been trained to use it. Public School District 60 Middle School Media Specialists held a meeting in Teen Central on April 4th in order to discuss possible collaborations in the future. Public School District 60's Heaton Middle School held two research nights in Teen Central, inviting students and their parents to learn to research together. The Jr. Latino Chamber of Commerce occupied Teen Central each week day through June to teach ten freshman students how to write their own business plan. Each Boy's and Girl's Club location visited Teen Central for a special Career Tour, discussing the many occupations within a library. These tours happened on July 16th, 17th, and 23rd. Innovative monthly programs designed to encourage library participation among teens such as live concerts and break dancing demonstrations draw an average of 24 participants, with popular programs bringing as many as 120. Implementation of a summer-long fine reduction program titled Smart-Off Your Fines. Over \$500 in overdue fines were forgiven, reinstating over 100 teen library accounts to a functional status.

**Title:** Technology Empowerment Program

**Type:** Public – Denver Public Library – Central Branch

**Summary:** This program ensures that customers of the Central Denver Public Library have improved access to computers, computer training classes and individual assistance in support of education and lifelong learning for students and adults. Funding was partially used to hire part-time paid interns from the Masters in Library Science programs at Emporia State University and the University of Denver. These interns helped provide customer service and training in a new technology training room that was developed as a part of the project.

**Title:** Virtual Library Services for Rural Communities

**Type:** Public – High Plains Library District (HPLD)

**Summary:**

The High Plains Library District provides library services for people living throughout the 4,000 square miles of Weld County and extends into Boulder, Larimer, and Adams counties. Approximately 15,000 Weld County residents live more than five miles from a physical library. In addition, existing internet service providers in those rural areas are limited in terms of coverage/type of connection offered and the cost of high speed internet connectivity for rural residents is often prohibitive for low income households. Therefore, many rural residents are not only a geographic "distance" disadvantage but are also unable to access the HPLD resources remotely.

This demonstration project was designed to test the effectiveness of using an unstaffed kiosk located in an underserved area to increase usage and awareness of HPLD services and resources. The 3M eBranch Library kiosk provides users with access to the District website as well as other online resources, where users can engage in the following activities:

- Browse the library catalog and place items on hold (requested items are mailed directly to the patron's home address);
- Browse online library calendar of events;
- Conduct research using online databases;
- Request items through interlibrary loan;
- View local news, events, government information;
- Manage individual library account; and
- Print any information accessed via the kiosk.

HPLD tested this project in the unincorporated community of Galeton, which is approximately 7 miles east of the Eaton Public Library. Roughly 500 residents live in unincorporated Galeton and 150 students are enrolled in the Galeton Elementary School. Previously existing library services to the Galeton community were limited to twice monthly visits by the Bookmobile. After discussions with Galeton community members and school staff, the goal of this project was to increase access to virtual library services and resources to a minimum of 40 hours per week. In addition to the eBranch's virtual services, a book drop and "take one, leave one" shelf were incorporated into the plan.

The final result of the project is a single unstaffed location where rural residents can

- access physical materials of the High Plains Library District via online requests;
- access virtual materials available via the HPLD Web site;
- return any HPLD materials to a book drop; and
- access district selected (and community requested) websites, i.e, school district, news, local government, 4-H, employment, and others.

**School Libraries**

**Title:** Alamosa High School Wireless Mobile Computer Lab

**Type:** School – Alamosa RE-11J Alamosa High School Library

**Summary:**

The Alamosa High School librarians requested funds to create a successful collaborative partnership with teachers by utilizing a wireless mobile computer lab. Teachers from all subject areas are now able to implement computer- based assignments and projects using this resource. The library is extremely small, with only enough room for 20 to 30 students and space for ten desktop computers. In

order to offset the limitations of the library, a wireless mobile lab of 15 computers now allows a class to have additional computer access in the library or have access in the classroom.

The mobile lab provides students and staff with anywhere, anytime computer-based learning and enables students to access:

- the library's online catalog;
- online subscription databases;
- Internet resources;
- Web sites from Adams State College, Southern Peaks Public Library and Trinidad State Junior College;
- and word processing tools.

Alamosa High School is located in a rural, high poverty county in Colorado's San Luis Valley. It is geographically isolated by rugged mountains. This results in very limited exposure to advanced educational and cultural experiences. Due to the economics of poverty, many students do not have access to computers at home. 60% of Alamosa School District students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches. The poverty rate is higher than this data indicates because 34% of middle school students and 60% of high school students do not complete the Free and Reduced Program application. 58% of the students are Hispanic, 40% are Caucasian, and 2% are other.

The goals of the project were:

- To increase the collaboration of librarians and teachers by integrating information literacy and educational technology into regular classroom activities.
- To assist students in achieving their highest level of abilities using activities that develops higher-level thinking, and problem-solving skills.
- To improve literacy for Alamosa High School students, with emphasis on the economically disadvantaged, students with limited English proficiency, and special education students. (These are the three subgroups that have not made Annual Yearly Progress for three years).

**Title:** Using Audio Technology to Enhance Learning

**Type:** School – Del Norte C-7 Del Norte High School Library

**Summary:**

By using the technology hardware and software programs necessary to create podcasts and other audio projects in various high school courses, Del Norte students:

- Learned and utilized the techniques and processes necessary to record, transfer, edit, and post audio files from a digital media player to a website;
- Learned and utilized steps necessary to download posted audio files to digital media players for individual listening;
- Used these techniques to create classroom projects that have been collaboratively planned to incorporate both content area and information literacy standards; and
- Shared classroom projects via Internet sites to make them available to parents and other community members.

Equipment (5 laptops, 5 microphones, 20 headphones, 15 digital voice recorders) and audio editing software was purchased with LSTA funds.

Activities that occurred during the project:

- Civics students recorded speeches for Voice of Democracy contest;
- Spanish students completed and recorded oral pronunciation assessments,

- files downloaded to the instructor's computer for assessment, Students self-assessed by playing back the recorded files, files were saved in electronic folders as part of their course portfolio;
- River Ecology students planned walking tour of Rio Grande. Student researched history of the river, flora/fauna, and water testing procedures and then wrote a script for each station. Students recorded information for each station and took pictures to correspond to the information in the recording. Library Media Specialists combined audio files into one mp3 file. Microsoft Photo Story was used to complete a multimedia presentation of the river information;
  - Chapters from science textbooks, available in audio form, were downloaded onto mp3 players and made available for overnight checkout;
  - Drama students used equipment to record monologues for class assessment and performance auditions;
  - Teachers used recorders for various purposes throughout the school year.

**Title:** Using Digital Media and Storytelling to Improve Literacy

**Type:** School– Penrose Elementary Library Media Center

**Summary:**

Students at Penrose Elementary improved literacy skills through writing stories and scripts which they used to produce digital media projects. Purchased equipment included: 15 digital cameras, 15 flip video cameras, 2 full-size video cameras, 2 DVD burners.

Students engaged in the following activities:

- Started Digital Media Clubs for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders running twice a week.
  - Students have learned to use digital cameras and digital video cameras, how to download and print media.
  - Students have learned how to create movies with Microsoft Photo Story and Microsoft Movie Maker.
  - They have learned how to incorporate music and sound effects from the internet while observing copyright.
  - Digital Media Club students have become the technology experts for the school, taking pictures and video at many events including Math Day, Jump Rope for Heart, etc.
- Monthly meetings to collaborate with teachers now include discussion on how to incorporate digital media into content areas.
- Completed projects include:
  - Fourth graders made movies about Native American tribes from Colorado incorporating Microsoft Photo Story.
  - First graders made movies entitled "If I Was the President" in honor of the inauguration using video cameras.
  - Fifth graders made "About My Life" Kidspiration documents which were then imported to Microsoft PowerPoint. Students used the digital cameras to take pictures.

## Academic Libraries

**Title:** Building Colorado Story by Story: The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Collection

**Type:** Academic – University of Colorado, Boulder - Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences Library

**Summary:**

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Collection project has cataloged, digitized and made available via the Internet 346 maps on 2385 individual sheets. The collection represents 79 principal cities in 52 Colorado counties covering the years 1883-1922. In cooperation with the Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC), the Libraries trained librarians and library workers from across Colorado in how to read and use maps and, more specifically, how to use the digital Sanborn collection. Only three libraries (Denver Public Library, Colorado Historical Society, and University of Colorado Libraries) in Colorado hold significant collections of original copies of the Sanborn maps and all collections are in the Denver/Boulder area. The University of Colorado at Boulder (CU-B) Libraries is the only near complete collection. Through this project the maps from 1883 – 1922, representing counties throughout the state have been made available via the Internet, eliminating the need to come to Boulder to use the collection. Because of the sometimes fragile nature of historical maps and oversize format, collections of historical maps often require special handling. The Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences and Map Library, while open 80 hours per week to the University community and the general public, provides access to the Sanborn maps by appointment only. Due to the physical condition of maps and limited hours, digitization provides opportunities for making these resources available without damaging the historic maps. Digitization will also respond to the way students do their research.

Over the last decade Colorado libraries have built a collection of electronic resources that expand and enhance the existing print collections in our libraries. The CU-B Libraries have previously digitized music scores, aerial photographs of Colorado, and are currently working on folk music audio files. The Sanborn maps will be added to the resources available to other Colorado libraries for use with their patrons. Coloradans can gain access through the University Libraries' Digital Asset Library (DIAL) and will be able to search for the maps through the Colorado State Library's Colorado Virtual Library, the Collaborative Digitization Program's (CDP) Heritage West database, OCLC's WorldCat, Prospector, CU-B's online catalog (Chinook), and the emerging databases of metadata for digital resources, such as the University of Michigan's OAISTER. Librarianship is technologically demanding and ever changing. Maps unlike other primary resource materials are unfamiliar to many staff. Therefore, the project included a training program that introduced the use of maps as a resource as well as how to search and retrieve maps on the DIAL system. Collaborating with the Colorado Library Consortia (CLiC) we developed in-person workshops and online training for in school, public, and academic libraries.

**Title:** Connecting Information Literacy to Learning

**Type:** Academic– Johnson & Wales University / Denver School of Science and Technology

**Summary:**

The goals of this project were to enlarge the University's computer lab, equip it, and train library staff in a manner that ensured each of their students develop fluency in obtaining, evaluating and using information in an effective and socially responsible manner. Librarians also worked with faculty to integrate computer, library and information ethics skills into the instructional content of the first year seminar and three additional required courses.

**Title:** Fort Lewis College Research Commons

**Type:** Academic– Fort Lewis College, John F. Reed Library

**Summary:**

An electronic collection of original student work consisting of research papers, portfolios, and creative works was created with funding through this grant. This institutional repository (IR) serves as a publishing, research and learning instrument for students. Classes were developed for both faculty and students on how to use the repository for their research needs.

**Title:** Mobile Learning Center and Laptop Loan Program

**Type:** Academic – Adams State College-Nielsen Library

**Summary:**

The Mobile Learning Center and Laptop Loan Program has two purposes. Using the ten laptops purchased with LSTA funding, the Mobile Learning Center (MLC) teaches technology literacy to the underserved area of the San Luis Valley (SLV). Training sessions are offered at public schools, community centers, retirement centers, and nursing facilities. The MLC is used to train current and potential business leaders on the basics of web design and market research. When the laptops are not in use for the MLC, they are stored in a laptop cart and available for checkout to students, faculty, and staff of Adams State College for use in the library. The circulation of the laptops in the library is the Laptop Loan Program (LLP). Both programs have increased technology literacy in the SLV, including not only the residents of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties, but also the students of Adams State College.