Rhode Island

Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006

- 25% Human Capital Development
- 12% Library Service Expansion and Access
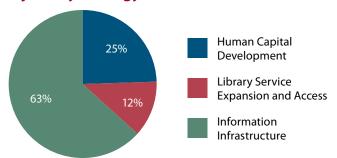- 63% Information Infrastructure

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	Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services
Agency governance	A division of the Department of Administration
Population served in 2006	1,058,991
FY 2006 total expenditures	$13,171,000
Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006	$3,882,773
Chief Officer	Howard Boksenbaum, Chief of Library Services
Web site	www.olis.ri.gov

Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Howard Boksenbaum

Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:
"Without LSTA, the Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) might have gone down the drain! LSTA lets us do several things; the biggest is continuing education for librarians. We wouldn't have been able to develop the K–12 network without LSTA. It provides a subsidy for statewide delivery to 193 locations. Without that subsidy delivery would halt. And, we have relied on LSTA funds for participation in NELINET; LSTA lets us be a part of the national scene."

Delivery of Library Services:
"Rhode Island is small. All the public libraries are in one consortium; all academic libraries including a few outside Rhode Island in another, and a consortia of K–12 school libraries (representing 40 percent of the students) are in a third consortium. The three major consortia represent 99 percent of the library activity in the state. That's a

Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Rhode Island	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
Total allotment	$823,812	$962,139	$1,020,285	$1,076,537	$3,882,773
Number of projects reported	12	11	11	12	46
Largest project amount	$258,417	$277,988	$392,844	$383,105	
Median project amount	$32,193	$53,654	$20,000	$47,317	

blueprint for a plan of where we invest LSTA. Most recently we've focused on school libraries. Ultimately, if we could use more LSTA, we could federate the three consortia, have a unified search tool. This structure lets us use LSTA more efficiently than we could without the structure; it lets us provide umbrella services and take advantage of scale on a statewide basis.

"OLIS is about development; there's no bricks and mortar State Library. OLIS administers grants in aid to municipalities for providing library services. Local libraries can receive up to 25 percent of their expenditures in state aid; the percentage includes expenditures beyond operations. While OLIS administers it, it isn't in the OLIS budget, so it's not a part of the maintenance of effort."

Challenges in the Coming Five Years:
1. Continuing education is a challenge because we can't do it as a goal with LSTA. We'll have to continue to do continuing education, but find funding elsewhere.
2. Facilities are a challenge: we have a lively construction program that hasn't suffered yet, but there are lots of aging buildings and noncompliant ADA facilities.
3. We need to employ Web 2.0 as a tool—training, custom programming, increasing the capacity, and developing local resources.
4. We need to do public relations for understanding, creating a foundation for people to understand what they can do in a library. People need to know why they should pay for things when the Internet is free. They need to know what Tutor.com can do for kids. People don't understand the interactive tools that they could use. Libraries are good for kids and for economic development.

Program Goals for 2008–2012
- Provide library services to people with disabilities in Rhode Island.
- Enhance services that libraries in Rhode Island provide, particularly those provided to traditionally underserved populations.
- Effect collaboration and cooperation of a multitype

nature among public, academic, school, and special libraries, including those in museums and historical repositories.
- Provide statewide those services more cost effective or beneficial at the statewide scale than as provided by individual libraries.

Exemplary Project: Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services

Project title	World Wide Web/Publications
Library	Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS)
LSTA Funds Expended FY06	$43,104
Total Cost FY06	$132,832
Program Category	Information Infrastructure, Library Service Expansion and Access

OLIS created and maintains two Web sites: the OLIS Web site at www.olils.ri.gov and the State of Rhode Island Government Information Services at www.info.ri.gov. The mission of the OLIS Web sites is to support the agency's mission through the use of Web technology and to enhance the OLIS's value to its many audiences both within and outside the library community and the community of state government staff. The OLIS Web site disseminates information about state programs, services and resources for Rhode Island libraries. It serves as a clearinghouse for information on the Library of Rhode Island network, and presents accurate information in a format that is user-friendly, easy to navigate, and accessible. The purpose of the State Government Information (INFO) Web site is to provide Rhode Island residents, state government staff, and other interested parties with a user-friendly interface for state, state government and human services information. The information can be accessed by categories, by agency names, or by a well-thought-out topical index. Users seeking government services who may not know which departments, agencies, or quasi-agencies to turn to find the topical index most helpful.