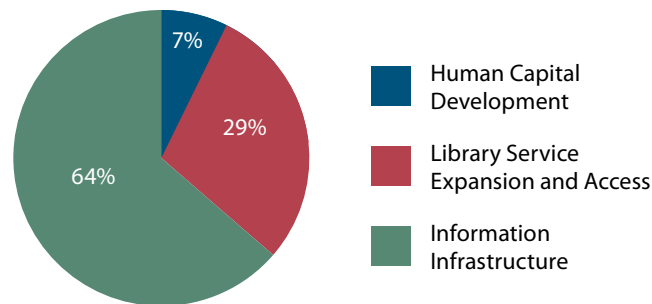


# LSTA GRANTS TO STATES PROFILE: ARKANSAS



## Projects by Strategy, FY 2003–2006



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

<b>Agency name</b>	Arkansas State Library
<b>Agency governance</b>	Under the Department of Education
<b>Population served in 2006</b>	2,804,199
<b>FY 2006 total expenditures</b>	\$9,431,000
<b>Grants to States allotment total for FY 2003–2006</b>	\$6,852,768
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Carolyn Ashcraft, State Librarian
<b>Web site</b>	www.asl.lib.ar.us

## Interview Highlights with the Chief Officer, Carolyn Ashcraft

### Greatest Program Impact in the Last Five Years:

“It would have to be the statewide databases (Traveler is the name of the program). We have 1,200 libraries participating and we’re getting a good response.”

### Delivery of Library Services:

“Rather than expend our limited LSTA dollars administering small grants, we concentrate on projects that have statewide impact or projects that serve the state through the State Library.”

### Challenges in the Coming Five Years:

1. Demonstrating the economic value of libraries to local governments. Projects like Traveler (the statewide database program) enable us to promote the value of libraries.
2. Technology. With Gates grants, 97 percent of the

## Program Data by Fiscal Year, FY 2003–2006

Arkansas	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	All Years
<b>Total Allotment</b>	\$1,568,332	\$1,704,034	\$1,760,329	\$1,820,073	\$6,852,768
<b>Number of projects reported</b>	15	15	13	13	56
<b>Largest project amount</b>	\$630,518	\$650,557	\$666,299	\$685,906	
<b>Median Project Amount</b>	\$26,428	\$21,179	\$57,094	\$59,140	

public libraries now have computers, but we need to improve broadband access.

3. Maintaining State Library services. We're moving five blocks away from the Capitol and will need to encourage more state workers to use our resources electronically.
4. The Hispanic population in the state is growing. Meeting the information needs of this growing population will be a challenge.

### Program Goals for 2008–2012

- Link Arkansas libraries electronically with educational, social, or information services.
- Encourage Arkansas libraries of all types in all areas of the state to establish consortia and share resources.
- Provide access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats for individuals of all ages.
- Promote targeted library and information services to Arkansans having difficulty using a library.
- Provide leadership and services to carry out the purposes of the Library Services and Technology Act.

### Exemplary Project: Arkansas State Library

<b>Project title</b>	Traveler (Statewide Database Project)
<b>Library</b>	Arkansas State Library
<b>LSTA Funds Expended FY06</b>	\$685,906
<b>Total Cost FY06</b>	\$685,906
<b>Program Category</b>	Library Service Expansion and Access

Traveler provides access to full-text databases and indexing services to all types of libraries statewide. This year the subscription expanded to include a collection of eBooks. A total of 1,175 libraries are registered for Traveler for 80 percent of the libraries of the state. 100 percent of each of the following types are registered: Public Library Headquarters, Special Libraries, Academic two-year, Academic four-year, and K–12 schools. There are now 33 parochial schools enrolled. Membership and usage continue to increase with every registration period. The databases cost approximately \$670 per library. It would cost each individual library more than \$125,000 to duplicate the same subscription.