

AGENDA ITEM: CLSA System Reference Program

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CURRENT STATUS: The CLSA System Reference Program supports regional reference services in all 15 CLSA Cooperative Public Library Systems. All 15 Systems have submitted their Plans of Service for this and other CLSA System level programs for the 2001/02 fiscal year. A complete summary of the Plans will be provided for the Board's review in August.

PROGRAM TRENDS: The \$28,000 augmentation to the CLSA System Reference Program budget remains in the May Revise of the Governor's proposed budget for 2001/02. The amount proposed is for the net increase in membership for newly formed independent library jurisdictions that have joined Cooperative Library Systems since July 1997. Since this proposal was submitted, the Board approved at its February 2001 meeting the membership of Irwindale Public Library with MCLS. It is staff's recommendation that the Board not request the State Library to prepare a Budget Change Proposal for the System Reference Program for 2002/03; but instead focus on the transitioning of the program to the Library of California.

TRANSITION PROCESS: Staff requests guidance from the Library of California Board in preparing a plan for the transition of this program and its funding to the Library of California for Board consideration, including when to stop requesting additional funds for the CLSA budget. The System Reference Program supports three separate components of reference service (general improvement of local reference, improvement of reference services to the underserved, and interlibrary reference). It appears that funding for the CLSA System Reference Program supports objectives included in the stated intent of the Information and Referral services (Reference) and Training and Continuing Education mandatory program elements of the Library of California. Although not a requirement, each Regional Library Network may apply to the LoC Board for funds to support underserved programs on a region-wide basis. These program elements would be the most likely target areas for transitioning this particular CLSA program into the multitype network of the Library of California.

RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

1. Consideration of 2001 System population and membership figures (August).
2. Summary of 2001/02 System Plans of Service (August).

3. Consideration of 2001/02 budget (August).

4. Consideration of the transition process into a LoC funded program.

Relevant Committee: Access Services

Staff Liaison: Sandy Habbestad

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