



# LSTA Grant - Technology

2017 Proposal

## **2017 LSTA Library System Technology Grant (\$26,900 noncompetitive) – Proposal**

In 2017 WVLS will be working to help member libraries update Managed Wireless infrastructure and to begin a multi-year update and standardization process focused on “network edge” equipment. The application and reporting processes for LSTA grants have become more complex and involved over the past few years. To minimize project management overhead, we propose leveraging the bulk of LSTA Technology Block grant funding for capital acquisition, configuration, and implementation at member libraries’ facilities.

We propose to include approximately \$22,000 towards capital acquisition, and approximately \$4,900 toward project support, including configuration, implementation, and education.

## **Turning our eye to other opportunities**

In recent years, WVLS has focused the investment of the Technology Consultant’s time and effort on cultivating its core technology services platform. That platform is still growing, now in partnership with IFLS, and has matured to the point where its resources might be leveraged to lend weight, along with that partnership itself, to the competitiveness of our grant applications. The Technology grants line-up in the LSTA program for 2017 look to match very well with the direction of services and the core support framework we’ve built over the past seven years.

There is a risk of time lost toward proposal creation in the case we are not awarded the grant. In the past, this risk has been weighed, and found to be greater than the potential “reward” of a meaningful grant award in many of the various competitive technology categories we’ve reviewed over the years. This year, the award potentials are higher and the proposal generation efforts can be minimized by focusing very narrowly on acute, high-impact projects which enhance efforts already being planned.

## **2017 LSTA Content Creation Grant (\$20,000 - \$30,000 competitive) – Proposal**

In 2017 WVLS and IFLS plan to work with member libraries to leverage existing Creative Technologies equipment to engage in Content Creation projects. This intent synergizes with The LSTA Content Creation Grant. WVLS and IFLS propose seeking funds in this category which may (among other things) enhance existing Content Creation capital, add relevant software licensing for Content Creation tools, establish content creation event opportunities, and/or contract with subject experts to complete a specific project. We are seeking input from WVLS and IFLS members to establish a specific project goal and a set of intended outcomes.

### **2017 LSTA Digitization of Library Historical Material Grant (\$10,000 competitive) – Proposal**

In 2016 WVLS and IFLS have been leveraging existing infrastructure and growing data storage capabilities to establish the ION project for hosting digital content collections crafted by libraries from local historical documents. WVLS and IFLS have a record of strong involvement and leadership in various forums and projects related to digitization of local history. Both systems were a part of the WPLC Digitization Work Group. The 2015 ILEAD team "Enrich the Future, Tap Into the Past," led by Inese Christman and made up of members from the WVLS region, developed a process template for capturing local history digitally.

WVLS and IFLS propose seeking funds in this category which may (among other things) enhance existing traditional content digitization capital, establish Local History Digitization event opportunities to accelerate the digitization of local history in Northern Wisconsin, and/or contract with subject experts to complete one or more specific projects. We are seeking input from WVLS and IFLS members to establish a specific project goal and a set of intended outcomes.

### **2017 LSTA Outcome Measurement Support (\$5,000 noncompetitive) – Proposal**

This grant is labeled as noncompetitive. WVLS proposes seeking funds in this category to assist as many libraries as possible in acquiring and implementing technology to capture actual counts of user visits (eg with door counters). A goal of 90% of libraries implementing this technology will be set, as meeting such will qualify the system for further funding of other Outcome Measurement strategies in subsequent years.