

## **Mission Statement**

Guided by 22 V.S.A. §601-635, the mission of the Department of Libraries is to provide, administer, and maintain access to information in a variety of formats to the three branches of State government, libraries statewide, the general public, and Vermonters with special needs; to support, strengthen, and foster new means for statewide cooperation and resource sharing among all types of libraries and government agencies; to lead a service of advice and consultation to all libraries, in order to assist them in realizing their potential; and to increase public awareness of libraries and their services.

Inherent in this mission is the belief that libraries are essential to the general enlightenment of citizens in a democracy and that every person who lives in the State of Vermont should have access to the educational, cultural, recreational, informational, and research resources of libraries.

## **Executive Summary**

To fulfill its mission the Vermont Department of Libraries provides:

- reference services, interlibrary loan service, and direct access to the Department's physical and online resources to State employees and Legislators;
- State Library collections focused on Vermont legislative history, Vermontiana, management, children's literature, federal documents, public policy, and library science;
- library materials to Vermonters who are incarcerated or who reside in State psychiatric facilities; and
- direct library services to Vermonters with qualifying visual and physical disabilities through the ABLE Library (Audio, Braille, Large Print, and Electronic resources).

The Department supports resource sharing among Vermont's public, academic, and school libraries by providing electronic resources to all Vermonters including the:

- Palace Project App, a statewide platform providing access to a growing collection of digital eBook and eAudiobook titles that supplements the online collections of local public libraries;
- Vermont Online Library, a collection of vetted, licensed digital resources including full-text periodicals, online reference books, health and medical information, small business resources, language learning, and auto repair manuals;
- Udemy, an online learning platform with more than 20,000 instructional videos and classes; and
- Peterson's Career and Test Prep, an online learning platform with skill-building resources in reading, writing, math, and science; college admissions exams; occupational licensing tests; workplace skills improvement and career exploration; CDL licensing; medical licensing; and SAT, LSAT, and GRE test preparation.

The Department encourages the sharing of physical library materials statewide the state's interlibrary loan (ILL) program by:

- providing an online ILL system (CLOVER) with easy and direct access to the holdings of Vermont's libraries;
- coordinating the statewide ILL courier system;
- providing annual courier grants to public libraries that participate in ILL; and
- obtaining materials requested by Vermonters from libraries in other states and throughout the world.

The Department supports excellence in library services statewide by:

- offering a robust schedule of Continuing Education programs for library staff and trustees including the Certificate of Public Librarianship;
- providing personalized consultation services to public and school library staff and public library trustees;
- collecting data and administering state and federal surveys to benchmark current levels of library service in Vermont;
- granting funds annually to the Community Legal Information Center (CLIC) program at Vermont Law and Graduate School which provides Vermonters with access to legal information and legal reference services; and
- granting funds annually to support public libraries in providing high-quality, topical programming encouraging community dialog.

The Department promotes youth educational attainment statewide by:

- providing statewide summer reading program by issuing annual non-competitive summer reading grants to public libraries and providing thematic promotional materials to support the program to public libraries;
- providing all Vermonters with access to a collection of high-quality, high-interest online reading materials to encourage a love of reading and help maintain reading gains;
- providing continuing education, training, and consultation services focused on library service to youth;
- facilitating the Vermont Youth Book Awards to engage youth in reading and in voting for their favorite new titles; and
- providing continuing education to youth services libraries to encourage the provision of library programs and services for children, teens, and their families that foster early childhood literacy, STEAM learning, a lifelong love of reading, school readiness, and school success.

The Department administers local and federal grant funds to strengthen the capacity of Vermont's libraries to deliver quality services, build partnerships, strengthen community connections, and improve public access to information, including:

- Vermont's Grants to States annual allotment from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS);
- \$16.4M in funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury's Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund for States, Territories & Freely Associated States for public library capital improvements addressing critical building projects that support library patron access to high-speed Internet enabling work, education, and health monitoring; and
- \$10M in Congressionally Directed Funding (CDS) for Public Facilities Preservation Initiative Grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to enable small, rural public libraries to address capital project needs.

To further its goal of ensuring all Vermonters have equitable access to modern library services, the Department works with:

- The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) which provides the Department with substantial annual funding through its Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States program, benchmarks library services nationally, and supports best practices in librarianship;
- The Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) the Council of State Library Agencies in the Northeast (COSLINE): two communities of practice for State Library Administrative Agencies supporting excellence among State Library Agencies in the development and implementation of library services.

The Department presents the Vermont Book Award in partnership with Vermont Humanities.

The Department also regularly works with the American Library Association (ALA); Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL); Catamount Library Consortium; Green Mountain Library Consortium (GMLC); National Federation of the Blind of Vermont; National Library Service (Library of Congress); Northeast Organic Farming Association VT (NOFA); Preservation Trust of Vermont; Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI); Vermont Community Foundation; Vermont Council on Rural Development; Vermont Consortium of Academic Libraries (VCAL); Vermont Council of the Blind; Vermont Council on the Arts & Vermont Creative Network; Vermont Folklife Center; Vermont Historical Society; Vermont Humanities & Center for the Book; Vermont Library Association (VLA); and Vermont School Library Association (VSLA).