

TITLE: Reference collection development/services

NAME OF APPLICANT: Henderson District Public Library

ADDRESS: 280 Water Street, Henderson

DATE OF APPLICATION: 2 July 1990

DURATION: 1 year - FFY91

GRANT REQUEST: \$50,000

Henderson District Public Library serves the fastest growing city in Nevada. The past year the population has grown from 57,090 to 67,150, an increase of 18% in just one year. New patrons are being registered at the average of 250 a month the first five months of 1990. Circulation is beginning to reflect the results of a collection budget that went from \$89,000 in FY89 to an expenditure of local funds of \$126,000 in FY90, an increase of 42%.

During the month of March, the reference desk handled an average of 15 transactions a day. During the first ten weeks of 1990, the reference librarian completed 498 reference transactions in a five day work week.

Three library assistants participated in formal instruction of reference service with assignments and weekly classes. These individuals are scheduled at the reference desk along with the reference librarian in an attempt to provide reference personnel all open hours with the exception of Sunday afternoons.

Some of the major additions to the reference collection the past year have been New Grove Dictionary of Music, Oxford English Dictionary, numerous volumes of Gale's Literary Criticism, U.S. Code annotated, Best's ratings, a number of specialized directories and medical texts along with standard reference aids.

In April, the decision was made to replace Magazine Index with InfoTrac. The patron response has been favorable; the range of current information available in a quick and easy fashion attracts library patrons who use that resource only.

Two personal computer systems for public use have been purchased to provide CD Rom information services such as Mitchell Motor Repair manuals, Nevada Career Information System, Facts on File and others. The grant will be used to purchase some of these as well as others. The purpose of the grant is to accelerate the development of the reference/information collection to serve the needs of city government, business and industry and the public at large.

The grant request fulfills Council's number one priority of collection development, it meets the category number two for LSCA of service to areas with inadequate service and the library

masterplan of achieving what is generally accepted as a substandard objective of providing one book per person. The collection, which as yet to be vigorously weeded, is approximately 45,000.

The staff will begin to aggressively market the library collection and services as has not been possible in the past with the lack of materials and trained staff. It will be five years or so of major collection development effort before the residents of Henderson have a basic foundation of library resources to meet their needs.

Carroll S. Gardner,
Librarian

TITLE: Children's Collection Development

DURATION: one year - FY91

GRANT REQUEST: \$10,000

According to Chamber of Commerce figures, one thousand people each month are moving to Henderson. We currently serve 67,150, one quarter of whom are children. In the year that the new library has been open, two new elementary schools have opened in our district; one of the older schools went to a twelve month schedule. Forty to forty-five percent of our circulation is children's materials.

In FY90, approximately \$40,000 was spent on the children's collection. The picture book and non-fiction sections were weeded, and new books were bought in those areas. Using the Children's Catalog and Supplements, we acquired standard titles, duplicate copies in the case of picture books and easy readers.

Because we were lacking so many basic titles, and because of the influx of newcomers, \$40,000 did not go far. Though we are pursuing private donations, we are also requesting a grant to help us provide a standard collection. We are still working with the Supplements to the Children's Catalog, as well as AAAS science lists. Demands from teachers for science materials is heavy and increasing all the time. We haven't even gotten to fiction, in any systematic way, since it has taken every penny of the book budget to keep up with requests for non-fiction.

The grant request fulfills the Council's first priority - collection development. It also meets the needs of areas with inadequate services, as required by LSCA guidelines. In addition, it would help us achieve our own masterplan objective of providing one book per person. The amount we spent on children's books in FY90 only allowed us to buy one book for each new child to the area. We are still struggling to provide the most basic collection.