

PUBLIC LIBRARY MASTERPLAN UPDATES DUE IN MARCH

Have you updated your masterplan within the past two years? If not, it's time to reassess your goals and objectives in relation to specific needs in your community. The beginning of a new calendar year is a good time to take stock of achievements and revisit the dreams and aspirations reflected in our planning. Take a look around and ask, "What has been accomplished in the past five years, and what types of services and programs will be needed by the year 2000?"

Effective planning goes beyond projections for increases in traditional services, to envision the changing needs of people in your community. How can we find out what will be needed by library users a few years down the road? One way is to solicit input from residents of your service area. Some questions which might indicate future directions are: How do you envision library services and programs in the future? What aspects of library service could be changed or what new services could be added to meet your:

sentence: "By the year 2,000, I would like the public library to provide

Answers to these and other questions could be solicited by surveys sent via direct mail, published in newspapers, or personalized by one-on-one direct questioning of people in your community, including those who never use the library. Be sure to allow for open-ended responses. You may also want to arrange a public hearing for library planning, but keep in mind that people who attend these are self-selected, and their numbers are sometimes small.

In conjunction with taking input, let your public know what the library has provided

through careful planning. Describe your achievements in terms of how they answered specific needs of people in the community by giving examples with human interest, in addition to statistics. This information could be included in a press release about current planning efforts.

You may want to form a committee representing a cross-section of your community to evaluate your current plan in relation to projected needs. The committee should consider the information gathered from citizens and look at demographic information projecting population trends and characteristics. This information, along with current projections for development of services and businesses in your area, should be available from your local city or county planning department.

Shifting demographics and changing technological environments and formats demand constant reassessment of what types and levels of service will be needed in public libraries of the future. Libraries making application for LSCA grants must have a current plan on file at NSLA to qualify for funding.

LSCA PROPOSALS DUE APRIL 1

FFY96 LSCA Grant Applications will be mailed February 13, 1995, only to those libraries requesting them. If you have not received your packet by February 21, immediately contact:

Library Development
Nevada State Library and Archives
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710

(702) 687-8322 or FAX (702) 687-8311

The deadline for applications is April 1!