

A Strategic Plan for the South Central Library System Community

Executive Summary:

- The South Central Library System Community is made up of 52 statutory member public libraries and several hundred contractual member libraries of other types. This strategic plan is based on the belief that, as a community, we can do many things that none of us could successfully undertake alone. The plan is based on the results of a survey completed by the member public libraries in mid-2005. The strategic initiatives listed are not intended to be an exhaustive list of all that the South Central Library System Community plans to do. They are instead key priorities that will form the core of the detailed 2007 annual plan that the system is required to submit to the Department of Public Instruction in accordance with statute.

Strategic Goal:

- To ensure that the South Central Library System Community provides services that are both relevant and essential to the public.

South Central Library System Mission Statement:

- To help member libraries provide the best possible service to the public

Strategic Initiatives:

1. The South Central Library System Community will seek to ensure that there is adequate funding available to provide high quality service at both the system and the local library levels.

The South Central Library System will:

- organize and undertake grass roots advocacy efforts in cooperation with member libraries.
- seek out alternative funding sources including grants and entrepreneurial activities.
- participate in consortia with other library systems and information agencies.
- create a South Central Library System Foundation to seek private donations.

2. The South Central Library System Community will continue to adapt to a rapidly changing technological and social environment.

The South Central Library System will:

- undertake a leadership role in processes required to chart the future course of the system library community.
- reach out to provide goods and services to the public wherever they are, in terms both of location and of information seeking behavior, rather than where we might wish them to be.
- investigate new developments in information technology and implement those most desired and of greatest worth to the public we serve.
- determine ways that selected new technologies can be implemented with available resources, or seek out new resources for such implementation.

3. The South Central Library System Community will target its resources toward those service areas deemed most important by the member libraries and the public.

The South Central Library System will:

- provide consulting and planning leadership in such areas as service to children and young adults, funding issues, library buildings and their development as community centers, new forms of library governance and organization, cross border borrowing, cooperative efforts with other libraries and agencies, staff development and training, library programming, new and non-traditional ways of serving the general public directly, and services to minorities and immigrants.
- offer goods and services that meet at least some of the needs of each unit of our diverse member population.
- cooperate with member libraries to offer a wider spectrum of online electronic resources to the public.
- pursue innovative ways to cope with constantly increasing interlibrary loan and delivery volume without reducing patron service.

4. The South Central Library System Community will regularly seek input from the public that it serves.

The South Central Library System will:

- seek to understand the changing nature of the public we serve, especially with regard to such factors as age, generation, economic status, and changing world view.

- utilize professional survey and research services as required and as feasible to reach this understanding.
- seek input from all member libraries, in the belief that there must be many open forums throughout the South Central Library Community to reflect the needs and views of every library and unique community, no matter how large or how small.
- tell the library story to the public at large, in order to maximize usage of the services we offer individually and cooperatively, and in support of the other initiatives listed above.