

## Potential Sources of Income for Public Libraries

Libraries are funded from a combination of sources. These include:

### Local Funds:

- For municipal libraries, local funds come through the City's general funds. Sources of these funds vary from city to city, but include such sources as sales tax, local property tax, fees & permits, sale of water or electricity, and airport rental.
- For library systems, local funds are county property taxes. These funds are collected by the County and distributed directly to the system board.
- Fines and fees collected locally. These may include overdue fines, copier machine receipts, and rental fees for meeting rooms. In many instances, fines and fees collected by municipal libraries are returned to the City's general fund for distribution as part of the regular budget process.

### State Funds:

- State Aid funds are appropriated each year by the Oklahoma Legislature and placed in the Oklahoma Department of Libraries' budget for distribution.
- All qualifying non-system libraries receive a per capita grant based on their legal service area. For municipal libraries, this is generally the City limits even though the library may offer free service to a wider area. If the library agrees to serve the whole county they also receive at minimum 10% of the county square miles.
- System libraries (multicounty, metropolitan, city-county, single-county) receive State Aid per capita and an additional amount based on the geographic size of the system in square miles.
- ODL administers construction grants of State funds. These are competitive grants for new construction and for remodeling of existing facilities.
- Other State appropriations are made to ODL for the benefit of all public libraries. An example is the money appropriated for statewide access to electronic databases. While not a direct source of funds, these monies do support the mission of local public libraries.

### Federal Funds:

- Library Services and Technology Act funds are appropriated by Congress and sent to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for distribution. Some LSTA funds are used by ODL for support of statewide programs that benefit all libraries – such as Summer Reading Program and interlibrary loan services.
- ODL makes some LSTA funds available for competitive grants. These are as varied as grants for outreach services to new computers to travel money for staff to attend workshops.

### **Private Funds:**

- Private foundations and other charitable organizations make grants and donations to public libraries. This may be as simple as a local service club donating \$100 for the purchase of large print books to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation providing computers for public libraries throughout the state.
- Individuals make gifts and bequests. This might be \$25 for a memorial book or the donation of monies for the construction of a new library building.
- Friends of the Libraries groups that are 501©3 nonprofits. Contact FOLIO – Friends of the Library in Oklahoma - for more information and seed grants.  
<http://www.okfriends.net>