

Public Mandates and Priorities

PMAP - 10: Exploring Cooperative Services among Libraries

The Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform in their final report entitled *Streamlining of Local Government* acknowledges a number of longstanding statewide, regional and local arrangements for the provision of joint training, purchasing, and services among Indiana's libraries. Local units of government are encouraged to identify and engage opportunities for cost savings through economies of scale.

Opportunities for Indiana's libraries to expand cooperation include but are not limited to:

- Enhanced joint purchasing agreements.
- Shared financial and capital planning.
- Consolidation of services such as Administration, Finance, Human Resource Management, Information Technology, Technical Services, and Facilities Management.
- Shared Integrated Library System for digital access to unique collections in local libraries throughout the state.
- Expanded use of Open Source Software.
- Digitization of special print and microform collections.

Funding cuts at the state and federal level will result either in service cuts and/or increased local costs. School Media Center programs in Indiana have been decimated by reductions in spending for both staff and materials. Most school systems no longer have paid professional staff in their media centers despite national data showing the positive correlation between the performance of students and the quality of their school media center program.

Implications for JCPL

- JCPL could be a local provider in the area of Administration, Finance, Human Resource Management, Information Technology, Technical Services and Facilities Management
- JCPL could investigate partnerships to digitize local unique collections in the JCPL, Johnson County Museum, county and local government.

- JCPL should look at cost recovery for such value added services as InterLibrary Loans and extensive Reference and Genealogy research that could be offered by existing professional staff.