

**ARKANSAS STATE LIBRARY  
900 WEST CAPITOL, STE 100  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3108**

**STANDARDS FOR STATE AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

Authorized by Act 489, Acts of Arkansas, 1979

**1.0 ORGANIZATION**

- 1.1 All county libraries, including those in county or regional systems, shall be organized in accordance with Act 244 of 1927. All city libraries, including those in county or regional systems, shall be organized in accordance with Act 177 of 1931.
- 1.2 County and city libraries shall provide evidence to the State Library Board of organization and operation as a department of county or municipal government.
- 1.3 Public library systems composed of county and/or city libraries shall provide evidence to the State Library Board of organization and operation under the provisions of a formal interlocal agreement, as provided in Section 90, Act 742 of 1977.

**2.0 GOVERNANCE**

- 2.1 Policies for city, county, and regional library systems shall be established by legally constituted administrative boards, comprised of trustees serving designated terms, conducting regularly scheduled meetings, preferably not less than quarterly, and functioning with recorded bylaws and policies which are on file with the State Library.
- 2.2 The library shall comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and shall provide library service for all residents.
- 2.3 The library director shall submit quarterly, annual, and special reports as required to the State Library and to local boards.
- 2.4 City, county, and regional library systems shall provide the State Library with a copy of a current long range plan developed for the purpose of guiding the public library administration in the attainment of goals and future planning.

### **3.0 FINANCE**

- 3.1 The State Library Board supports the concept that libraries or library systems serving populations greater than 50,000, with budgets in excess of \$250,000, can render more efficient, effective library service, and preference of support shall be given to the development of such systems.**
- 3.2 All libraries shall maintain the one mill county or city library tax on real and personal property as authorized in Amendments 30 and 38 of the Arkansas Constitution.**
- 3.3 All cities and counties should restore the library tax to the maximum permitted by law by not later than July 1, 1991.**
- 3.4 Libraries should receive additional local support.**
- 3.5 The annual budget for city, county, and regional libraries shall be filed with the State Library. The budget should reflect an amount equal to the previous annual budget, plus growth, with the allocation for materials reflecting comparable growth.**

### **4.0 PERSONNEL**

- 4.1 City, county, and regional library systems participating in the State Aid to Public Libraries program shall be administered by a qualified librarian. A Master's degree in Library Science awarded through a program accredited by the American Library Association is recognized as the minimum qualifying degree.**
- 4.2 Systems employing a new head librarian or director after September 1, 1988, must provide the State Library Board with evidence of a qualifying library degree in order to continue participation in the State Aid to Public Libraries program.**
- 4.3 Public library staff members should be well trained and qualified for their position. They should be encouraged to participate in continuing education and training programs to improve library skills.**
- 4.4 All libraries should have adequate support staff, with no employee receiving less than the current minimum wage.**

### **5.0 FACILITIES**

- 5.1 The county or city government shall provide a suitable building for headquarters operation and adequate quarters for necessary branches.**

## **6.0 RESOURCES AND RESOURCE SHARING**

- 6.1 The library shall maintain a current collection of materials to serve all citizens.**
- 6.2 The library shall agree to provide interlibrary loan service to other libraries in Arkansas.**
- 6.3 The library shall coordinate services for the blind and physically handicapped with the sections of the Arkansas State Library which administer these services.**

## **7.0 NOTIFICATION**

- 7.1 If the State Library Board determines that a city, county, or regional library or system fails to qualify for participation in the State Aid to Public Libraries program, the State Librarian shall notify the board chairman and the library director via certified mail not later than fifteen working days following that determination.**

## **8.0 RIGHT OF APPEAL**

- 8.1 Upon determination by the State Library Board that a city, county, or regional library or system fails to qualify for participation in the State Aid to Public Libraries program, the library or system shall have the right to appeal that decision at the next scheduled meeting of the State Library Board. Intent to appeal must be filed in writing with the State Librarian not more than thirty days following receipt of a notice of failure to meet the standards.**
- 8.2 All appeals shall be presented to the State Library Board in an open hearing, with the final determination to be made by the State Library Board.**
- 8.3 The State Library Board may provisionally approve a city, county, or regional library or system for a period of time they deem sufficient to rectify deficiencies. The Board may grant additional waivers upon acceptance of satisfactory evidence of progress.**