



**Southern  
Ontario  
Library  
Service**

**SOLS' CONTRIBUTION TO LIBRARIES  
2005-2006**

**STRONGER LIBRARIES**

**STRONGER COMMUNITIES**



## **SOLS' Contribution to Libraries 2005/2006**

Southern Ontario Library Service is a transfer payment recipient of the Province of Ontario with a mandate to increase cooperation and coordination among information providers. We work closely with the 192 library systems in southern Ontario and offer some of our services province-wide. SOLS has an annual budget of around \$4 million and a staff of 35.

The purpose of this report is to present the contributions that SOLS makes to libraries in a way that is meaningful to our funders and key stakeholders. This report identifies three broad categories and nine contributions that capture the benefits of SOLS' services to local libraries. They are:

**Enhance Programs and Services for the Library User.** Some of SOLS' initiatives directly contribute to the library services received by the user of the local library. While the local library is still the delivery agent, it is in these areas that SOLS comes closest to directly affecting the actual library user by enhancing their access to services. The potential range of services defines the three Contributions: (1) expanding collections, (2) improving or expanding facilities or equipment, and (3) facilitating programs.

**Contribute to More Effective Library Staff and Trustees.** SOLS contributes to the ability of library staff and trustees to effectively perform their duties and therefore to meet the needs of their users. These are contributions to staff and trustee skills and information that assist with job responsibilities. The Contributions in this category are of three types: (1) training library staff and trustees, (2) providing information, advice and specialized assistance, and (3) facilitating networking among staff and trustees.

**Improve Access to Financial Resources for Library Services.** SOLS enhances the resources of the local library. This financial Contribution can be made in three ways: (1) through consortia purchasing where the benefits of economies of scale are realized by the local library, 2) by directly or indirectly assisting local libraries to generate funds in their communities, and (3) by securing resources from other sectors for programs that benefit local libraries.

The following charts identify SOLS' services and measures for each category and contribution. The figures are for SOLS' libraries unless otherwise noted and represent SOLS' contributions for the fiscal year 2005/2006.

**Enhance Programs and Services for the Library User**

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Service or Initiative</b>	<b>Contribution Measures</b>
Expand Collection	◆ Interlibrary loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Number of borrows <b>192,411</b></li> <li>◆ Number of libraries borrowing <b>170 (89%)</b></li> <li>◆ Number of borrows from non-public libraries and libraries outside Ontario <b>21,850</b></li> </ul>
	◆ Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Number of libraries participating <b>102 (53%)</b></li> <li>◆ Number of items received in libraries <b>51,653</b></li> <li>◆ Proportion of total collection by type:<sup>1</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Large print 40%</b></li> <li><b>Video 47%</b></li> <li><b>Talking Book 41%</b></li> <li><b>Multilingual 39%</b></li> <li><b>DVD 34%</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	◆ COOL (Consortium of Ontario Libraries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Number of libraries participating in COOL province-wide (<i>excluding ebooks</i>) <b>110 (57%)</b></li> <li>◆ Number of electronic products available to libraries through COOL <b>59</b></li> <li>◆ Proportion of libraries' electronic products secured from COOL <b>87%</b><sup>1</sup></li> <li>◆ Without COOL, <b>37% of libraries report that they would not subscribe to all the products they do now. Another 25% report that they do not know if they would.</b><sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
	◆ Ebooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Number of libraries participating in ebook collection province-wide <b>149</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SOLS 107 (56%)</b></li> <li>◆ <b>OLS-N 42 (33%)</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Number of ebooks available from COOL depends on year that the library joined and ranges from <b>2,388 to 4,858</b></li> <li>◆ Proportion of libraries' ebooks secured from COOL <b>Almost 100%</b><sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
	◆ First Nations Donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Number of libraries receiving materials <b>19 (100% of FN libraries)</b></li> <li>◆ Number of volumes added to collections <b>1,517</b></li> </ul>
Improve or Expand Library Facilities or Equipment	◆ Internet Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Number of library locations province-wide (main and branches) with improved Internet access <b>151</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SOLS 86 (45%)</b></li> <li>◆ <b>OLS-N 65 (51%)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Facilitate Program Development and Delivery	◆ TD Summer Reading Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Number of program kits provided <b>126,147</b></li> <li>◆ Number of libraries receiving program kits <b>167 (87%)</b></li> </ul>
	◆ First Nation Reading Circle Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Number of kits provided <b>56</b></li> <li>◆ Number of libraries receiving program kits <b>8</b></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Based on responses from 61% of our libraries.

**Contribute to More Effective Library Staff and Trustees**

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Service or Initiative</b>	<b>Contribution Measures</b>
Train Library Staff and Trustees	◆ All formal training programs except EXCEL (e.g., workshops and clinics, INFO, Kempenfelt course for County Library staff, First Nations Gathering etc.)	◆ Number of libraries participating in training for staff / trustees <b>148 (77%)</b> ◆ Number of training topics for staff / trustees <b>16</b> ◆ Number of training locations for staff / trustees <b>58</b> ◆ Number of staff / trustee registrations <b>716</b> ◆ Number of hours of training provided to staff / trustees <b>3,521</b>
	◆ EXCEL: A Certificate Program in Managing a Small Public Library	◆ Number of libraries participating in EXCEL province-wide <b>110</b> ◆ SOLS <b>87 (45%)</b> ◆ OLS-N <b>23 (18%)</b> ◆ Number of EXCEL registrations province-wide <b>485</b> ◆ SOLS <b>408</b> ◆ OLS-N <b>77</b> ◆ Number of EXCEL graduates province-wide <b>71 (594 since program began)</b> ◆ SOLS <b>39</b> ◆ OLS-N <b>32</b>
Provide Information, Advice and Specialized Assistance to Staff and Trustees	◆ Publications (SOLS-authored materials)	◆ Percentage of libraries consulting materials <b>93%<sup>2</sup></b>
	◆ Help Desk	◆ Number of libraries using Help Desk province-wide <b>189</b> ◆ SOLS <b>158 (82%)</b> ◆ OLS-N <b>31 (17%)</b> ◆ Number of inquiries <b>1,421</b> ◆ SOLS <b>1,365</b> ◆ OLS-N <b>56</b>
	◆ Information, Advice and Assistance	◆ Number of libraries receiving advice or assistance from staff other than Help Desk <b>116 (60%)</b>
Facilitate Networking Among Staff and Trustees	◆ SOLS Website	◆ Number of visits to Website <b>297,682</b>
	◆ Trustee Councils, Coordination Meetings, Interest Groups	◆ Number of meetings for staff / trustees <b>32</b> ◆ Number of libraries participating <b>136 (71%)</b> ◆ Number of participants <b>355</b>
	◆ Listservs	◆ Number of subscribers <b>3,665 subscribers to 52 listservs</b>

<sup>2</sup> Based on responses from 61% of our libraries.

### Improve Access to Financial Resources for Library Services

Contribution	Service or Initiative	Contribution Measures
Organize Economies of Scale in Purchasing	◆ COOL (Consortium of Ontario Libraries)	◆ Dollar value of consortia purchasing of electronic products by public libraries province-wide ◆ <b>Ebooks \$65,525</b> ◆ <b>Other \$1,073,026</b> ◆ Dollar value of savings to libraries through consortia purchasing of electronic products (excluding ebooks) <b>\$228,176</b> <sup>3</sup>
	◆ CPAs (Charitable/Consortia Purchasing Agreement)	◆ Number of libraries participating in CPAs <b>135 (70%)</b> ◆ Number of vendors <b>13</b> ◆ Dollar value of purchases <b>\$480,500</b> ◆ Dollar value of savings <b>\$81,245</b> <sup>3</sup>
	◆ Pools	◆ Dollar value of pool acquisitions <b>\$63,977</b> ◆ Dollar value of savings to libraries through pool purchasing <b>\$19,193</b> <sup>4</sup>
	◆ Internet Connectivity	◆ Dollar value of services purchased <b>\$439,772</b>
Assist Libraries to Diversify Funding Resources	◆ Clearinghouse for funding development	◆ Number of libraries using information received from SOLS to support funding development <b>47</b> ◆ Dollar value of library fundraising supported by SOLS <b>\$975,012</b>
Secure Resources from Other Sectors	◆ Donations and Non-Ministry Grants	◆ Value of materials and in-kind donations <b>\$19,246</b> ◆ Grants <b>\$28,137</b> ◆ Donations <b>\$16,180</b> ◆ Funds contributed to the shared ebook collection <b>\$37,500USD from universities and \$27,946 CDN from colleges.</b>

<sup>3</sup> Based on list price.

<sup>4</sup> Based on an average discount of 30%.