



**Southern
Ontario
Library
Service**

**SOLS' CONTRIBUTION TO LIBRARIES
2006-2007**

STRONGER LIBRARIES

STRONGER COMMUNITIES



SOLS Contribution to Libraries: 2006/2007
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SOLS' Contribution to Libraries 2006/2007

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 191 library systems in southern Ontario and offer some of our services to the 319 library systems province-wide. SOLS has an annual budget of about \$4.6 million and a staff of 35.8 full time equivalents.

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 2006/2007.

Enhance Programs and Services for the Library User		
Contribution	Service or Initiative	Contribution Measures
Expand Collection	◆ Interlibrary loan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of borrows 203,692 ◆ Number of libraries borrowing 170 (89%) ◆ Number of borrows from non-public libraries and libraries outside Ontario 20,422
	◆ Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating 99 (52%) ◆ Number of items received in libraries 51,537 ◆ Proportion of total collection by type:¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large print 36% Video 40% Talking Book 46% Multilingual 40% DVD 35%
	◆ COOL (Consortium of Ontario Libraries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating in COOL province-wide (<i>excluding ebooks</i>) 97 (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 91 (48%) ◆ OLS-N 6 (5%) ◆ Number of electronic products available to libraries through COOL 44 ◆ Proportion of libraries' electronic products secured from COOL 42%¹ ◆ Without COOL, 31% of libraries report that they would not subscribe to all the products they do now. Another 39% report that they do not know if they would.¹
	◆ Ebooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating in ebook collection province-wide 162 (51%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 116 (61%) ◆ OLS-N 46 (36%) ◆ Number of ebooks available from COOL depends on year that the library joined and ranges from 1,624 to 9,337
	◆ First Nations Donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries receiving materials 18 (100% of FN libraries) ◆ Number of volumes added to collections 432
Improve or Expand Library Facilities or Equipment	◆ Internet Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of library locations province-wide (main and branches) with improved Internet access 168 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 103 ◆ OLS-N 65
Facilitate Program Development and Delivery	◆ TD Summer Reading Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of program kits provided 132,255 ◆ Number of libraries receiving program kits 173 (91%)

¹ Based on responses from 58% of our libraries.

Contribute to More Effective Library Staff and Trustees

Contribution	Service or Initiative	Contribution Measures
Train Library Staff and Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ All formal training programs except EXCEL (e.g., workshops and clinics, INFO, Kempenfelt course for County Library staff, First Nations Gathering etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating in training for staff / trustees 113 (60%) ◆ Number of training topics for staff / trustees 21 ◆ Number of training locations for staff / trustees 56 ◆ Number of staff / trustee registrations 834 ◆ Number of hours of training provided to staff / trustees 3,758
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ EXCEL: A Certificate Program in Managing a Small Public Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating in EXCEL province-wide 113 (35%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 85 (45%) ◆ OLS-N 28 (22%) ◆ Number of EXCEL registrations province-wide 368 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 297 ◆ OLS-N 71 ◆ Number of EXCEL graduates province-wide 38 (633 since program began) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 30 ◆ OLS-N 8
Provide Information, Advice and Specialized Assistance to Staff and Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Publications (SOLS-authored materials) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Percentage of libraries consulting materials 93%²
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Help Desk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries using Help Desk province-wide 208 (65%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 160 (84%) ◆ OLS-N 48 (38%) ◆ Number of inquiries 1,430 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 1,277 ◆ OLS-N 153
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Information, Advice and Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries receiving advice or assistance from staff other than Help Desk 143 (75%) ◆ Number of inquiries 531
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of visits to Website 169,114
Facilitate Networking Among Staff and Trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Trustee Councils, Coordination Meetings, Interest Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of meetings for staff / trustees 42 ◆ Number of libraries participating 157 (82%) ◆ Number of participants 402
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Listservs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of subscribers 3,814 subscribers to 52 listservs

² Based on responses from 58% 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dollar value of consortia purchasing of electronic products by public libraries province-wide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ebooks \$91,900 ◆ Other \$436,550 ◆ Dollar value of savings to libraries through consortia purchasing of electronic products (excluding ebooks) \$88,578³
	◆ CPAs (Charitable/Consortia Purchasing Agreement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating in CPAs 129 (68%) ◆ Number of vendors 12 ◆ Dollar value of purchases \$642,836 ◆ Dollar value of savings \$207,695³
	◆ Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dollar value of pool acquisitions \$55,829 ◆ Dollar value of savings to libraries through pool purchasing \$11,166⁴
	◆ Internet Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dollar value of services purchased \$343,160
Assist Libraries to Diversify Funding Resources	◆ Clearinghouse for funding development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries using information received from SOLS to support funding development 25⁵ ◆ Dollar value of library fundraising supported by SOLS \$1,675,944⁵
	◆ Donations and Non-Ministry Grants ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Value of materials and in-kind donations \$3,888 ◆ Grants \$7,618 ◆ Donations \$12,200 ◆ Funds contributed to the shared ebook collection \$12,022 from colleges.

³ Based on list price.

⁴ Based on an average discount of 20%.

⁵ Based on responses from 58% of our libraries.

⁶ Excludes Club Amick.