



**Southern
Ontario
Library
Service**

**SOLS' CONTRIBUTION TO LIBRARIES
2007-2008**

STRONGER LIBRARIES

STRONGER COMMUNITIES



SOLS Contribution to Libraries: 2007/2008
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SOLS' Contribution to Libraries 2007/2008

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 to the 320 library systems province-wide. SOLS has an annual budget of about \$4.3 million and a staff of 34.7 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 2007/2008.

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 215,009 ◆ Number of libraries borrowing 173 (90%) ◆ Number of borrows from non-public libraries and libraries outside Ontario 18,424
	◆ Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating 100 (52%) ◆ Number of items received in libraries 49,963 ◆ Proportion of total collection by type:¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large print 40% Video 46% Talking Book 65% Multilingual 45% DVD 30%
	◆ COOL (Consortium of Ontario Libraries)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating in COOL province-wide (excluding ebooks) 78 (24%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 66 (34%) ◆ OLS-N 12 (9%) ◆ Number of electronic products available to libraries through COOL 29 ◆ Proportion of libraries' electronic products secured from COOL 16%¹ ◆ Without COOL, 31% of libraries report that they would not subscribe to all the products they do now. Another 29% report that they do not know if they would.¹
	◆ Ebooks/Audiobooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating in ebook/audiobook collection province-wide 159 (50%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 115 (60%) ◆ OLS-N 44 (34%) ◆ Number of titles available from COOL depends on year that the library joined and ranges from 3,637 to 7,989 ebooks and 761 audiobooks.
	◆ First Nations Donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries receiving materials 19 (100% of FN libraries) ◆ Number of volumes added to collections 87
Improve or Expand Library Facilities or Equipment	◆ Internet Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries province-wide with improved Internet access: 203 (63%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS: 120 (63%) ◆ OLS-N: 83 (65%)
Facilitate Program Development and Delivery	◆ TD Summer Reading Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of program kits provided 142,000 ◆ Number of libraries receiving program kits 169 (88%)

¹ Based on responses from 51% 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 132 (69%) ◆ Number of training topics for staff / trustees 29 ◆ Number of training locations for staff / trustees 77 ◆ Number of staff / trustee registrations 1,753 ◆ Number of hours of training provided to staff / trustees 5,748
	<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 114 (36%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 83 (43%) ◆ OLS-N 31 (24%) ◆ Number of EXCEL registrations province-wide 384 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 302 ◆ OLS-N 82 ◆ Number of EXCEL graduates province-wide 32 (665 since program began) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 27 ◆ OLS-N 5
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 200 (63%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 153 (80%) ◆ OLS-N 47 (37%) ◆ Number of inquiries 1,175 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 1,046 ◆ OLS-N 129
	<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 150 (78%) ◆ Number of inquiries 693
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS Website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of visits to Website 193,529
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 41 ◆ Number of libraries participating 153 (80%) ◆ Number of participants 371
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Listservs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of subscribers 3,499 to 49 lists

² Based on responses from 51% 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 \$ 57,326 ◆ Other \$458,946 ◆ Dollar value of savings to libraries through consortia purchasing of electronic products (excluding ebooks) \$119,336³
	◆ CPAs (Charitable/Consortia Purchasing Agreement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Number of libraries participating in CPAs 147 (77%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ SOLS 137 (71%) ◆ OLS-N 10 (8%) ◆ Number of vendors 12 ◆ Dollar value of purchases \$691,697 ◆ Dollar value of savings \$158,012³
	◆ Pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dollar value of pool acquisitions \$69,929 ◆ Dollar value of savings to libraries through pool purchasing \$13,985⁴
	◆ Internet Connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dollar value of services purchased \$428,555
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 11⁵ ◆ Dollar value of library fundraising supported by SOLS \$383,457⁵
Secure Resources from Other Sectors	◆ Donations and Non-Ministry Grants ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Value of materials and in-kind donations \$8,652 ◆ Grants \$8,664 ◆ Donations \$13,669

³ Based on list price.

⁴ Based on an average discount of 20%.

⁵ Based on responses from 51% of our libraries.

⁶ Excludes Club Amick.