

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY BOARD

Budget Reduction Impact

Fact Sheet

Budget reductions since 1988 have caused inestimable damage to the integrity of the State Library's core collections and to the Library's ability to provide quality information services to its many constituencies. Following are some of the most significant losses and their impacts.

- **Loss:** 63 permanent full-time positions. Currently 101 positions are authorized, but only 94 are funded. **Impact:** Reductions in hours and quality of service, and elimination of services. Examples: Saturday hours eliminated in 1990; access to Veteran's Bonus Records stopped; direct service hours reduced in Archives and Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; elimination of 3 statewide services: Books-by-Mail, Interlibrary Loan Center, and 16mm Film Service. **Remedy:** Restoration of funds to allow filling all currently authorized positions plus restoration of 3 professional-level information services positions.
- **Loss:** \$700,000 in purchasing power for library and information materials lost through failure to keep pace with inflation and direct dollar reductions. **Impact:** Degradation of depth, scope, and quality of research collections; elimination of critical legal titles and key periodicals and newspapers; inability to acquire access to new information resources in all media, but especially in electronic formats. **Remedy:** A special Bond Authorization was approved for payback of \$700,000 over 4 years (\$175,000 per year beginning in FY1994); need to assure this stays in FY1995 budget and is included in the FY1996-1997 budget. At the same time, adequate annual inflationary increases must be assured or ground will continue to be lost--e.g., materials budget was cut and no inflation authorized for FY1994.
- **Loss:** Opportunity to acquire essential automation capability for the Library. Computers and telecommunications are essential tools for libraries in our increasingly information-dependent environment. **Impact:** Staff reductions require an offsetting productivity and efficiency capability which could be provided by a library automation capability. We cannot maintain existing levels of service with existing manual operations. We are unable to access the increasing number of information resources available solely in networked electronic formats. **Remedy:** Approval of necessary funding to allow the State Library to join the CONSULS Library Automation System at the Connecticut State University.
- **Loss:** Capability for provision of adequate "Library Development" functions--i.e., consulting services to libraries, statistical and trend analysis, grants administration and coordination, joint strategic planning with other agencies and library organizations, etc. **Impact:** "Library Development" staff have been severely reduced and programs and services eliminated as the result of overall staff reductions. Severe reduction in support for and liaison with libraries and library organizations throughout the state. Budget reductions affecting "library development" jeopardize the required maintenance of effort (MOE) for approximately \$1.2 million in federal funds received annually to support library services statewide. **Remedy:** Restoration of funds to allow filling all currently authorized positions plus restoration of 5 consulting and support staff positions. Assurance of the level of funding required to meet the annual MOE requirement, without forcing the transfer of funds from other operational areas of the State Library budget.

Loss: Major service and regulation enforcement capability in the State Archives and Public Records Administration. Perennially underfunded and understaffed, these two functions have suffered severe reductions in staffing, making it virtually impossible to meet even minimum statutory requirements. **Impact:** Regular consulting with town clerks and inspections of town records vaults is no longer possible; vital state agency records are in danger of being lost through lack of oversight by Public Records Administrator; vital historical records lost to State Archives due to lack of adequate staff to acquire and process the records; reduction in hours of access to archival records. **Remedy:** Restoration of funds to allow filling all currently authorized positions plus restoration of 2 professional-level positions in each of the State Archives and the Public Records Administration programs.

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