

Office of Library & Information Services

Framework for 2023-2027 Comprehensive Strategic Plan

Vision

Rhode Island libraries inspire and transform lives.

Mission

The Office of Library and Information Services strengthens, connects and empowers libraries to advance knowledge, connect communities and enrich the lives of all Rhode Islanders.

Principles

- I. Access. Facilitate access to library materials and information resources in physical and digital formats.
- II. Learning. Support the continuing education of librarians, library staff and trustees and the development of statewide programming for the public.
- III. Engagement. Empower libraries to be incubators for economic, educational and cultural development, civic discourse, and healthy communities.

Goals

- I. *Access. Facilitate access to library materials and information resources in physical and digital formats.*
 - a. Resource Sharing – delivery, interlibrary loan, AskRI (Library of RI)
 - b. Talking Books Library – services for people with visual/physical disabilities
 - c. Digitization – materials and historic documents
 - d. Preservation & Disaster Preparedness
 - e. **Public Library Construction – facility improvement/development**

- II. Learning. *Support the continuing education of librarians, library staff and trustees and the development of statewide programming for the public.*
 - a. Continuing Education - programs and learning cohorts; includes multiple pathways for learning (remote, in-person)
 - b. Communities of Practice – peer to peer networks for sharing and support (Children, YA, Adults, Special Collections, Urban Libraries, Small Libraries)
 - c. Library Management – budgeting, PR, marketing, advocacy, planning, evaluation, leadership, trustee education and support
 - d. Reading and Literacy – early and childhood literacy, formal and informal reading programs for children, teens, adults. (SRP, KRARI, RARI, RICBA)
 - e. Statewide Programs – programs on digital, information, media, financial, health, and other literacies, plus topics of statewide interest

- III. Engagement. *Empower libraries to be incubators for economic, educational and cultural development, civic discourse, and healthy communities.*
 - a. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility – support library staff in developing programming and resources that serve all community members (marginalized populations, veterans, people who are incarcerated, have disabilities, are new English language speakers, etc.)
 - b. Digital Equity – support libraries in providing access to technology and digital skills training (bridge the digital divide)
 - c. Community Connectors – establish partnerships to support adult education, workforce development, small businesses, health, well-being
 - d. Local Library Development – build library capacity (grants, consultant services, data collection and analysis)
 - e. Leadership – develop strategic vision and collaborative environment to advance library services
 - f. [State Aid to Libraries – funding and standards for service](#)

Items in blue are state projects only.