

# More than Ever, Federal Library Funds are a Lifeline for Oklahoma Libraries and their Communities

State and local budget problems are making it difficult for Oklahoma libraries to provide services. 75% of our public libraries are located in communities of 10,000 or less and have a median budget of only \$48,500. School budget problems in the state mean many school libraries have little to no budgets to acquire materials.

## Federal funds bring in-depth, accurate information and resources to Oklahoma libraries of all sizes

The Oklahoma Department of Libraries uses LSTA dollars to purchase statewide access to online resources for all public, school, and academic libraries. In FY2016, Oklahomans performed more than 50 million information searches on these databases. In addition, Oklahoma children and teens sat down to use the *Britannica School* online encyclopedia almost 500,000 times last year.

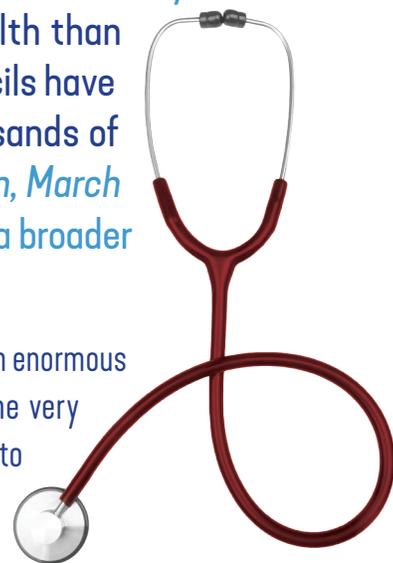


**From public and school librarians** ➤ “Many people who use our resources are looking for jobs, creating resumes, etc. The business resources are used a lot.” ▪ “I can’t afford to buy encyclopedias anymore, so these databases are especially wonderful.”

## ODL’s Health Literacy Project is a model for the nation

The United Health Federation has ranked Oklahoma as one of the five least healthy states. Poor health literacy is a stronger predictor of a person’s health than age, education, background, or ethnicity. 23 libraries and literacy councils have initiated and/or expanded programs in the past five years, and thousands of Oklahomans have benefited. *The Independent LSTA 5-year Evaluation, March 2017* stated: “ODL’s Health Literacy project is truly unique and has had a broader impact than other health literacy efforts we have observed.”

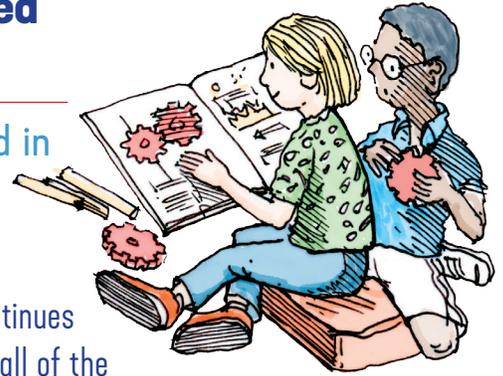
**From local program coordinators and participants** ➤ “This project has had an enormous impact in the lives of our literacy students. This project is changing lives.” ▪ “One very important aspect of the grant was that people were introduced to easy, basic ways to improve (their) health.” ▪ “We said we would consider it (Route 66 Virtual Walking Tour) successful if we had participation from 20 individuals and three businesses. We ended up with 282 people and 16 teams walking a total of 106,225 miles!”



## Summer Reading keeps our young people engaged with learning during the vacation months

More than 98,000 children, teens, and preschoolers enrolled in summer library programs, and thousands more attended summer programs at their community library.

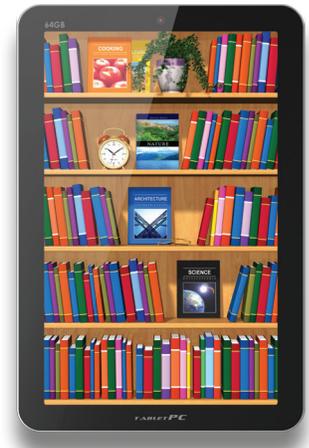
From public librarians ↗ “ODL is doing a great job in this area. I hope it continues to have the funds to continue this program.” ▪ “A great big *thank you* to all of the ODL staff who support summer reading. We couldn't do it without the support.”



## Federal dollars bring electronic books to small libraries that could never afford the service on their own

The OK Virtual Library consortium helps even small public libraries offer ebooks and audio books to their communities. ODL provides LSTA funds to the consortium to purchase additional titles.

From users of OK Virtual Library ↗ “Having a newborn makes it hard to get out of the house. I love using this service instead now!” ▪ “I have arthritis, so it's hard to hold a book, but with my eReader I can read or listen as often as I want.” ▪ “I can't see well, and this allows me to read.” ▪ “I don't live in town, so it's more convenient to get them online.”



## The Oklahoma Department of Libraries is an excellent steward of federal library funds

From *Independent LSTA 5-year Evaluation, March 2017* ↗ “ODL has been remarkably successful in (using LSTA funds) through a combination of the careful selection of projects that match the needs of the state's libraries, concerted efforts to maximize the impact of projects and activities by linking them together, leveraging productive, mutually-beneficial partnerships and, last, but certainly not least, through the hard work by a shrinking, but extremely devoted state library administrative agency staff.”