

## Washington State Library Budget Talking Points

- Washington State Library has had a 36.4% decrease in funding since the 1999 – 2001 biennium, while the Consumer Price Index went up by 33%.
- With current cuts, the staff will be reduced by 51.3% from 1999-2001 levels.
- In 2001, the State Library was moved to an expensive building in Tumwater. The rent and utilities went from \$794,703 at the Pritchard Building on campus to \$2,029,644 in Tumwater, an increase of 155.4%.
- The percentage of library budget taken by facility costs increased from 4% to 18%.
- Despite increased costs and decreased revenue, customer service transactions have increased from 1,155,326 transactions in 2002 to 2,836,797 in 2009. This reflects increases in visitors, books checked out, web site use, and usage of online history books, newspapers, and maps. (All online collections are new since 2002.)
- WSL is providing vital resources and services to the state's most vulnerable populations through services such as the Hard Times Resource Guide, Renew Washington Grants, Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, branches in mental hospitals and correctional facilities, Ask-WA virtual reference, summer reading, downloadable audiobooks, Keepers of the Stories listserv for tribal libraries, Autism Awareness training, and early learning projects. For in-depth program descriptions go to: <http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/libraries/>
- See the WSL web site for the Legislative Factsheets, <http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/libraries/projects/factsheets/2009legislative.aspx> to see the services provided in each legislative district. In order to receive the \$3,547,140 in federal LSTA funds, WSL must meet the federal Maintenance of Effort requirement. \$987,000 must be restored in the supplemental budget.
- During the Great Depression government did not ignore history and culture, but supported and increased it. Stewardship of our state's cultural heritage should be more important during tough economic times.