

How do we work together to take our regional network and excellent library services into the 21st Century?

<http://www.stls.org/about/planofservice.htm>

At this web address you will find information about the discussion:

Documents
Background Information
Summaries of County discussions
2007 – 2011 STLS Plan of Service
STLS By-Laws

Southern Tier Library System Services

STLS strives to work with you to make your library the most current, professional library possible to serve your community:

- Provides multiple resources such as books, movies, technology and support, reference and more, and brings these resources to your library and your patrons
- Continually looks for grant and other resource opportunities for member libraries, monitors current trends and technology innovations (downloadable books) in the field, helps to keep libraries current
- Provides cost savings through economies of scale for many things that an individual library could not afford
- Offers professional resources for library directors, trained and untrained; someone they know and can call for any questions and assistance

How do we work together to take our regional network and excellent library services into the 21st Century?

A discussion series:

August 5 – Montour Falls 6 pm
August 11 – Friendship 6 pm
August 12 – Bath 6 pm
August 13 – Chemung County
Library District – Finance Committee
August 18 – Penn Yan 6 pm

Be part of the process – join the Member Contributions Committee, comprised of local trustees, library directors, Directors Advisory Council members, STLS trustees and staff to meet four times: August – October.

Key Questions

What services does STLS offer?

What services do our libraries offer?

What new services will patrons need?

What do residents want us to keep doing?

How should the system evolve in the coming years?

How can it continue to grow as a public service partnership for us all?

How will services change?

How do members contribute toward costs?

What do other library systems do?

What has STLS done to control costs?

What are funding alternatives?

How should STLS be accountable to member libraries?

How can trustees be involved?

How should trustees be informed of the process?

Key Information

The Southern Tier Library System was founded by local library trustees. Local libraries chose to join as they realized that “together we are better and stronger than we are individually.” Libraries continue to be members on a voluntary basis.

The System exists to help libraries work together to expand services, and benefit from centralized services.

State funding is shrinking. Albany’s long-time attitude toward library funding is reflected in the fact that annual aid for services has not increased since 1998, was reduced in 2008 and again reduced this year.

State funding for the central services, adjusted for inflation, has fallen more than 20%, even as costs for utilities and materials have increased, while demand for computers and electronic resources has increased.

STLS has improved efficiencies, reduced costs in the service center, and reduced staff through layoffs and attrition.

Member libraries contribute 10 – 12% of costs for centralized services through electronic services cost-share and processing fees.

Continued collaboration is needed for the greater good of all our members.