



# Utah Library Association

To: **All Utah State Legislators**

Re: **Funding for the Utah State Library**

Date: **November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

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**Whereas** libraries are essential in providing for the informed citizenry that is necessary for a functional democracy; and

**Whereas** in the last year Utah's public libraries and bookmobiles recorded:

- 12.4 million visits,
- 33.7 million items checked out,
- 3.7 million uses of Internet-capable library computers,
- At a per capita operating expenditure of only \$31.96; and

**Whereas** the current economy has increased demand for library services from those seeking employment, starting their own business, and from those among the 25% of Utah residents who lack Internet access at home; and

**Whereas** the Utah State Library improves the value that Utah's public, school, and academic libraries add to their communities through Utah State Library programs such as:

- Pioneer: Utah's Online Library, which provides even the smallest of Utah libraries access to world-class educational, vocational, business, and health databases,
- Community Library Enhancement Fund grants, which supplements local library budgets,
- Expert consultants assigned to each Utah library for training and development,
- Bookmobiles that provide books and Internet access to rural areas,
- Programming and resources for special populations, including Spanish-speaking residents and those who are blind or disabled; and

**Whereas** the Utah State Library's budget was cut by \$600,000 (11%) for the year 2009, affecting local Utah libraries by:

- Reducing the Community Library Enhancement Fund for public libraries by 19%,
- Cancelling literature and newspaper subscriptions provided through Pioneer,
- Reducing the budget for large-print books for the blind and disabled by \$10,000,
- Eliminating training for library services to children and teens; and

**Whereas** any additional cuts would further impede the ability of the Utah State Library to support Utah libraries;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Utah Library Association urges Utah legislators to preserve current funding levels for the Utah State Library, without making additional cuts in the coming budget cycle.

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Adopted November 4, 2009 by the Utah Library Association Board of Directors. The Utah Library Association is an independent organization representing Utah's librarians, library boards, and those who feel passionately about Utah's libraries.