

I. INTRODUCTION

A. About the Commission.

A Special Legislative Commission to Study the Current Strengths and Weaknesses of Library Services in the State of Rhode Island, first proposed in 2004, was reintroduced and authorized in 2006 ([2006-S2382](#); [2006-H7166](#)). Its purpose is “to make a comprehensive study of the current strengths and weaknesses of library services in Rhode Island and develop a proposal, including, but not limited to, legislation, that will address improvements in the future services provided for all types of libraries, for the betterment and benefit of people of the State of Rhode Island.”

More than 500 libraries serve Rhode Island’s cities, villages, colleges, universities, public and private schools, businesses, hospitals, law firms, and other institutions. Services at individual libraries are exponentially boosted by their participation in statewide consortia. For instance:

- [Ocean State Libraries](#) links 50 public library systems, giving over 520,000 registered users access to a combined total of 4.5 million items – plus free access to Providence Journal Bulletin archives and other full-text periodical resources.
- The [HELIN](#) consortium links 11 academic libraries and 14 health sciences libraries, giving over 70,000 students, faculty, and staff access to approximately 6 million items.
- [RILINK](#), with 89 schools currently sharing its automated catalog, serves 34% of RI public school students.
- [LORI](#), the Library of Rhode Island, interconnects the consortia and those RI libraries that are not consortially affiliated with systems that facilitate interlibrary requests and interlibrary delivery.

These figures represent tremendous increases in the power, scope, and convenience of library and information services in the age of the Internet. Libraries can fulfill traditional functions better than ever: eg., over 20% of the 6.9 million items borrowed from RI public libraries annually are sent through the state-wide interlibrary loan system. At the same time, libraries are taking on new or substantially changed functions. Just two examples:

- Grant support has enabled a few libraries to offer online tutoring homework help by contracting with agencies like tutor.com. Trained tutors coach students in a wide array of subjects, leveling the playing field for children who lack other homework support after school or on weekends; the service can be accessed in the library or through the library website.
- With the rapid growth of e-government, citizens are increasingly expected to interact with the Internal Revenue Service, the DMV and other federal and state agencies online.

Again, for those who lack high-speed Internet access – or the confidence and sophistication to use it – libraries are an essential support.¹

While traditional reference use may decline as many library users turn to [Google](#) and [Wikipedia](#) for quick-and-dirty answers, librarians are reinventing information services to meet new and rapidly evolving needs.

B. History of the Commission.

In 2003, RI's state library agency ([OLIS](#), the Office of Library and Information Services, a division of the State Department of Administration), in conjunction with other RI library organizations, convened a statewide task force to address an important objective of the state library agency's 5-year plan for LSTA, a primary source of federal funds. The plan promised to "Create a collective vision for libraries and museum services in Rhode Island." The task force, including representatives from a broad array of libraries, consortia, agencies, professional associations, and OLIS mounted two major events that energized support for a new planning initiative:

- A day long conference in May 2003, "Navigating the Future of Libraries: A Rhode Map," was attended by library directors, staffs, and board members, and followed by additional meetings to build consensus on goals and activities for statewide library development.
- The November 11, 2003 ISI Lazerow Lecture at [URIGSLIS](#) by James Gilmore, "The Experience Economy and the Future of Libraries," reinforced the group's eagerness to think outside the box.

Renamed the [Rhode Island LibFutures Steering Committee](#) and chaired by Cranston Public Library Director David Macksam, the group met at least fifteen times between 2004 and 2006, and hosted two Town Meetings. The first Town Meeting (December 6, 2004, at Bryant University) was facilitated by nationally recognized consultant Maureen Sullivan, and resulted in the formation of three work groups which met over several months, and produced white papers on the following three key service goals.

- **One Catalog²**
- **Statewide Databases³**
- **Lifelong Learning⁴**

These three priorities were thus identified by library leaders as having the strongest potential to benefit Rhode Island citizens. A single statewide catalog would help all the state's citizens locate and request the combined holdings of [Ocean State Libraries](#), [HELIN](#), and [RILINK](#). A statewide database collection would give all the state's citizens access to a vast array of reference sources and interactive learning resources online, many of them full-text. Support for lifelong learning – for children's homework, for business plans, for negotiating new options in Medicare – will level the playing field for all.

¹ See for example Jaeger, Paul T. (2005). Deliberative democracy and the conceptual foundations of electronic government. *Government Information Quarterly* 22, no. 4: 702-19.

² http://www.rilibraryfutures.org/working_groups/OneCatalogReportNov05.pdf

³ http://www.rilibraryfutures.org/working_groups/DBWGRReport.pdf

⁴ http://www.rilibraryfutures.org/working_groups/Community%20of%20Learners%20a.doc

[LibFutures](#), with the strong support of library supporters in the House and Senate, was successful in gaining General Assembly approval of a 21 member (see Appendix A for a membership roster) special legislative commission to study the current strengths and weaknesses of library services in the state and recommend appropriate legislation and funding options.

The Commission began at a meeting of the LibFutures Committee on July 25, 2006. Representative Elizabeth Dennigan reviewed the steps that would have to be taken to get the Commission operational and volunteered to work with the General Assembly to secure designation of the requisite number of representatives and senators.

Subsequently an organizational meeting was held on November 17, 2006 to discuss the specific objectives of the commission. Issues considered included creating a lifelong learning community, remaining sensitive to the diverse population of Rhode Island, current legislation affecting libraries, and how the Rhode Island library landscape would change as a result of the work of the commission.

The work of the Commission began formally at a January 3, 2007 meeting at which Representative Peter Lewiss was acclaimed as chair and Senator David Bates as co-chair. Dale Thompson of Providence Public Library volunteered to be recording secretary. The Commission established three subcommittees, 1) an Online Database Subcommittee chaired by Karen Quinn of the RI State Law Library, 2) a legislative Subcommittee chaired by Representative Elizabeth M. Dennigan and 3) a Regional Funding Options Subcommittee chaired by Peter Deekle of Roger Williams University. The Commission decided to take the name of Karla Harry, a recently deceased East Providence school librarian and community activist and to seek an extension of its tenure through June 2008.⁵

With help from the LibFutures Committee and the White Papers it had developed, the subcommittees reported out at the Commission's January 31, 2007 meeting. At that time, the Commission devised legislation to amend RIGL 29-6-9 to allow for funding of statewide online database subscriptions through OLIS (submitted as [S0390](#) by Senators Bates, Gibbs and Tassoni in the Senate, and as [H5589](#) by Representatives Lewiss, Dennigan, Savage and Shanley in the House and passed in both houses) and to extend the life of and name the Commission (submitted as [S0224](#) by Senator Bates in the Senate, and as [H5335](#) by Representatives Lewiss, Dennigan, Savage, Slater and Jacquard in the House and passed in both houses). No funds were appropriated to implement the database legislation.

The commission organized (with the help of Bob Aspri, executive director of the HELIN consortium) a 6-week demonstration of a core collection of online databases and e-learning resources, dubbed "SurfRI" available statewide from any Internet connected computer. An open house at the State Library in the State House on March 6, 2007 presented SurfRI to legislators and other State House denizens, and libraries of all kinds let their users know of the additional resources temporarily available.

⁵ For more detail and current information, see the Commission's web pages on the OLIS website site: <http://www.olis.ri.gov/news/commission/index.php>

At its August 7, 2007 meeting, two additional subcommittees were appointed, 1) Digitization and preservation subcommittee chaired by Tom Evans and 2) a School library standards subcommittee chaired by Phyllis Humphrey.

In the 2008 legislative session, the Commission saw to the introduction of [S2010](#) and [H7143](#) clarifying and updating language in RIGL Title 26, which speaks to OLIS and library services. A second demonstration of SurfRI began on April 4, 2008 with a reception at the State Library on April 8, 2008.

II. Legislative efforts & accomplishments

Legislation to date: The efforts of the Commission have led to the addition of a Statewide catalog of library holdings and Statewide Access to Databases to the responsibilities of OLIS and the extension of the Commission's tenure to afford time for additional study of the state's very complex library situation. In addition, future bills will clarify the language of RI law as it refers to libraries and the state library agency.

Future legislative efforts: The complexity of the library situation in Rhode Island and of the interrelationships among library service providers in the state coupled with the urgency of the state's financial situation during the Commission's tenure has led the Commission to proceed slowly within a limited scope. It has done so to date with considerable success. Additional needs for study including study of additional legislative needs are outlined later in this report.

Research and findings: The Commission took as its first challenges the implementation of the recommendations of the LibFutures Committee. To that end, it relied upon the research findings and recommendations prepared as LibFutures' three white papers referenced above.

- The One-Catalog effort was referred to OLIS, which, with the assistance of a consultant service grant from the [New England Library Network](#), convened a summit meeting of library consortia in RI and is proceeding to develop implementation strategies and agreements in anticipation of fundraising to interconnect electronic catalogs to create a single search and request system encompassing all.
- The Commission addressed the Statewide Databases with a legislative effort in 2007 resulting in the addition of a statewide catalog of library holdings and continuing statewide access to databases to the state's library responsibilities in [RIGL 29-3.1](#) and [29-6](#). A budget of \$1.6 million for database licenses was also proposed for FY2008, but did not pass. A similar request is contemplated for FY2009.
- Although acknowledging that establishing additional funding for lifelong learning would provide the greatest long-term benefit for citizens, the Lifelong Learning recommendations were not sufficiently concrete to pursue and the area is in need of further study.

Further study needed: the Commission and the LibFutures Committee made an excellent start in the consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of library service in RI and recommended further steps for study and action. Those strengths and weaknesses and those recommendations follow:

III. Findings

A. Library service has changed.

This is nothing new - library services have been changing for a long time. Sometime in the recent past, the last 5 years, the changes reached a watershed mark that requires libraries to substantively alter what they do.

There was a time when the public library was, for all practical purposes, the only source of information for a large part of the population. The same was true more or less of school, college, hospital and other libraries in the context of their more circumscribed communities. If one wanted to find the name of the president of Uruguay, the price of soy milk in Uganda, or the phone number for customer service at General Electric, they called the library, and a librarian found the answer for them. As the average income of the American family increased in a growing economy, and paperback books became readily available across all sectors of society, reference information services began to define public library services. No other agency was able to provide in an economical way, such a broad spectrum of information to the public. Reference services generated a tremendous volume of business. Students writing reports, business people researching financial questions, teenagers fixing cars, and listeners trying to win radio contests visited and called the library for specific pieces of information they needed to answer their questions.

What has changed is that the development of the Internet, the proliferation of computers and secure data communications have rendered information services profitable. These developments have led to the private sector taking over the ready reference business with startling alacrity. While the answers provided by library reference departments are more likely to be complete and reliable, it is clear that the information on the internet is considered "good enough". It is fast, convenient, cheap. It gets the job done for most of the people, most of the time. That business is gone from libraries.

This is not bad. Traditional library information services, especially ready reference, are remarkably expensive, requiring a staff of professionally trained librarians sufficient to staff both telephones and a public service desk all the hours a library is open. With the movement of these services to the private sector, we have an opportunity to reallocate resources and to renew our commitment to the essential mission of public libraries to serve the higher literacy and lifelong learning needs of our community.

The logic of economic development, the logic of quality of life, the logic of democracy requires higher levels of literacy in all of our communities and at all socio-economic levels. Although the classrooms of our schools and colleges can see to our credentials, only our libraries can provide the framework for lifelong independent learning that we need to ensure sustainability and growth for our state.

Our libraries must keep up with the changes if our culture and economy are to flourish. The economics of publishing, the advances of technology and changing demographics thus require a transformation of libraries into what has begun to be called [Library 2.0](#); to wit, the library that integrates the still significant elements of traditional services (*Library 1.0*) and electronic services into an institution comprising both brick and mortar and

virtual facilities. Public libraries, libraries in schools, colleges, hospitals, businesses and government agencies are all facing these same transformations, albeit in different forms. As libraries are stressed, so will the infrastructure of interlibrary cooperation that the state maintains through OLIS also be stressed by the transformation of library services.

1. Library 1.0 to Library 2.0 - What will be left of Library 1.0?

Books and media: Libraries will need to continue to maintain their collections to support independent lifelong learning, recreational reading and cultural development. The demand, for example, for reading/discussion groups is constantly growing. The demand for new media will also grow, as will the demand for books on CD and on line; for DVDs and, no doubt, for the next new medium. Libraries will continue to be important for browsing and locating out of print materials, especially those not deemed sufficiently important to be reproduced online. In libraries, the past does not go away. Libraries will always have a mandate to preserve the past that is as strong as the mandate to pursue the future.

Facilities: Libraries are also locations; often the center of the cultural community. A Library facility is a place of serendipity as well as a place of purpose. At the library are opportunities rarely offered anywhere else:

- Quiet places for contemplation and study
- Self-directed cultural exploration
- Early learning environment and activities for preschool children and the organizations and institutions that serve children
- Early/family literacy
- After school programs for kids including homework help centers for students
- Summer Reading Program which maintains children's school skills through the vacation season
- Programming as community development; venues for public discussions
- Electronic catalogs, preferably united through federated searching schemes that permit a single search to look into many libraries.

2. Library 1.0 to Library 2.0 - What will disappear from Library 1.0?

- *Ready reference.* The World Wide Web can answer most easy reference questions, such as "How many ounces in a liter?", "Who is the president of Ecuador?" or "Is the present King of France bald?" resulting in a great decline in demand for ready reference services.
- *Print periodicals decline in demand.* While popular magazines will continue to be staples of library display shelves, most periodicals will be accessible online.

3. What must be added to evolve Library 2.0?

Libraries, along with maintaining traditional collections, have a growing need for collecting, organizing and providing access to new media resources, especially online resources that include E-government, periodicals, interactive resources for learning languages, homework help, etc.

Onsite access to these things will require more and more sophisticated in-house computer facilities; wireless Internet with ever increasing bandwidth and the ability to

contract with providers that create and sell the requisite new services⁶. Most significant now, and for the foreseeable future, is to have library staffs that can stay up to date with the technologies of library service and how to use them.

The newest elements of Library 2.0 compose the virtual library, that portion of library services that resides in cyberspace. Among those elements currently available are web-based services such as

- On-line reference assistance like AskRI.org, which provides direct chat or e-mail interaction with reference librarians.
- Notification: “When my book has arrived”, “when the library gets a book I will like”, “when the library schedules a program related to my interests”, etc.
- Federated searching, in which one search utilizes a variety of catalogs and services, often coupled with the ability to request the sought item as part of the search (patron initiated interlibrary loan) and a home-delivery option.
- E-books & media, that can be read, watched or listened to online.
- Social tagging that allows interest groups within the community to share their ‘finds’.
- Interactive book reviews.
- Interactive book discussions.

Rhode Island libraries have begun the transition. Creating and utilizing tight, effective multi-type (public, school, academic and special libraries together) networking under the rubric of the [LORI](#) service maintained by OLIS and the several Rhode Island library consortia has been a good beginning. The resources to continue the necessary transition, however, are scant. Even with statewide economies of scale, the lack of adequate funding to satisfy the increasing demands for statewide e-resource licenses, technology replacement, software and services, continuing education and training for staff continue to be barriers to serving the needs of library patrons.

The Commission initially compiled five elements of library service statewide in urgent need of attention, and began to address them through legislation. These elements are:

- Statewide licenses to online databases and other online information and learning resources. This element was highlighted through the **SurfRI** demonstration project.
- Interconnection of RI’s computer-based library catalog systems into a virtual “One Catalog” and incorporation of the remaining library catalogs, those not yet computerized, into the result. The Commission’s **One Catalog** subcommittee was created to address this element.
- A plan to define, expand and support **Lifelong Learning** in libraries, including library-based literacy efforts.
- Building upon the considerable efforts of Rhode Island’s libraries in utilizing economies of scale to enhance **procurement activities**, especially in seeking to expand this strategy beyond the state’s borders.
- Reviewing and updating the existing **library statutes**.

⁶ The library world is currently roiling with new entrepreneurial efforts both for profit and not; see, for example, the nonprofit LOCKSS (<http://www.lockss.org/lockss/Home>) and CLOCKSS, (<http://www.clockss.org/clockss/Home>), and the for profit Serials Solutions (<http://www.serialssolutions.com/>) in the serials backfiles arena.

Later, two additional urgent elements were identified and subcommittees created to study them. They are:

- Reviewing, updating and implementing K12 school library and library **curriculum standards**.
- Creation and implementation of library/archival **digitization standards** to ensure resource preservation and access.

The Commission also defined and herewith puts forward an agenda for further study, with some recommendations for pursuing that study and ensuring it will have practical results to the benefit of the people of Rhode Island in their need for library services. This agenda follows in outline form:

B. Strengths of Rhode Island Library Services

The primary strength of Rhode Island's library services is the prodigious infrastructure of interlibrary cooperation that state library agency (currently OLIS) has built and maintained over the past four decades.

1. Rhode Island has a **great variety of library resources**, all **well organized** for collaboration and resource sharing.
 - a) **Rhode Island libraries:** over 10 million items are available in the 212 of Rhode Island's libraries that are organized into the Library of Rhode Island (**LORI**), a network of multi-type libraries that have agreed to share resources and maximize services available to their respective patrons. (Note: RI has more than 500 libraries of all types).
 - b) **LORI** is a function of the Office of Library and Information Services (**OLIS**). Rhode Island libraries become members by successfully undergoing an online certification process with established professional standards. LORI administers:
 - (1) An inter-library delivery service to 193 library locations. The service handles over 2 million items annually.
 - (2) Mediated interlibrary loan through agreements and standard procedures.
 - (3) An interlibrary loan clearing house for out-of-state requests via OCLC, Inc.. Other services include First Search online access to reference databases for library staff, subject reference help, assistance with e-rate federal funding, and, when funding is available, an incentive grant program for innovative interlibrary collaboration efforts.
 - (4) AskRI.org, an online reference service for libraries and library users provided through the Statewide Reference Resource Center at the Providence Public Library.

Through **LORI**, small libraries can provide the services of large libraries, while large libraries can maintain the intimacy of small libraries.

2. **Public Libraries:** act locally - interact globally.
 - a) **Access:** Everyone in Rhode Island has a public library irrespective of where they live; the state has total geographic coverage through 50 libraries with 76 locations (for a map see [RI Public Libraries Map](#)), and every municipality supports local public library service.
 - b) **State grant-in-aid support:** State grant-in-aid adds approximately 25% to local

library budgets.⁷

- c) **Local:** RI public libraries are municipal libraries, often village libraries; and are able to focus on local needs.
- d) **Ocean State Libraries:** All but one of the state's public libraries are organized as the not-for-profit Ocean State Libraries, Inc. ([OSL](#)), sharing a single turnkey catalog and circulation computer system (III Millennium). OSL is supported entirely by membership fees. Significant development funding has come from the Champlin Foundations. OSL boasts over 500,000 cardholders (1/2 the total state population) and provides access to more than 4.5 million items. Through LORI, these items are available to users of the other RI libraries.

3. K-12 School Libraries:

- a) **RILINK:** 93 school libraries are organized as the **Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids ([RILINK](#))**, which provides the [RICAT](#) union catalog and inter-library loan system. RILINK also offers group subscriptions with discounts on online databases and professional opportunities for growth such as a listserv, web site and newsletter.
- b) **Certification:** Rhode Island requires that all Library Media Specialists must be professionals and certified by the State of Rhode Island through the Department of Education.
- c) **RIEMA:** School library and technology professionals are organized into the **Rhode Island Educational Media Association ([RIEMA](#))**, which provides professional development resources and collaborative opportunities for growth including an annual conference, listserv, newsletter, web site, and workshops
- d) **Basic Education Program:** The RI Department of Education, through its Rhode Island Basic Education Program ([BEP](#)), requires that school districts provide a minimum level of school library staffing and resources.⁸

4. Academic Libraries:

- a) **HELIN:** The libraries of 11 of Rhode Island's institutions of higher learning⁹ are organized into the [HELIN Library Consortium](#), along with Wheaton College and the Dominican House of Studies. The 14 members of the **Association of Rhode Island Health Sciences Libraries ([ARIHSL](#))** are also part of the consortium. HELIN is supported entirely by membership fees. HELIN members share a single turnkey catalog and circulation computer system (III Millennium). HELIN serves over 760,000 students, faculty and staff, providing access to more than 4.8 million items. Through LORI, those items are available to users of the other RI libraries.
- b) **CRIARL:** The [Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries](#), founded in 1972, is a voluntary non-profit organization of 17 RI libraries that exists for the purpose of promoting cooperation among its members and strengthening library services and resources available to the academic and research community of Rhode Island. CRIARL is supported by membership dues.¹⁰

⁷ Title 29-6.2 sets state aid at 25% of municipal and local endowment funds appropriated and expended for library service two years prior.

⁸ See <http://www.ri.net/RIEMA/BEP/bep.html>

⁹ RI members are Brown University, Bryant University, Community College of Rhode Island, Johnson & Wales University, Providence College, Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, Salve Regina University, and University of Rhode Island. For more information see <http://library.uri.edu/screens/libinfo.html>

¹⁰ CRIARL comprises Brown University, Rhode Island Historical Society, Bryant University, Rhode Island School of Design, Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island State Library, Johnson & Wales University, Roger

5. Special Libraries

- a) **ARIHSL:** The [Association of Rhode Island Health Sciences Libraries](#) is an organization of health sciences librarians and libraries throughout the state. ARIHSL is critical to resource sharing and professional development in the Health Sciences. ARIHSL promulgates interlibrary loan agreements, policies and procedures additional to those of LORI to facilitate resource sharing as it specifically affects health sciences libraries.
- b) **9 additional special libraries** that participate in LORI include government and private libraries.
- c) **Other Libraries:** Previously, a small number of RI corporate, law firm and specialized libraries have been a part of the statewide resource sharing effort. The decline of state library resources, especially at OLIS, has reduced incentives for special library participation in LORI.

6. **RINET and OSHEAN:** The **Rhode Island Network for Educational Technology, Inc.** ([RINET](#)) fosters educational excellence in Rhode Island through the collaborative development and deployment of economical technology solutions for organizations that serve children. For the past 15 years, RINET has provided the telecommunications infrastructure to interconnect schools, libraries and municipal government throughout the state as well as to provide them with Internet access. The **Ocean State Higher Education and Administration Network** ([OSHEAN](#)), spun off from RINET, has similar functions with regard to academic and research institutions and provides the RI education world with Internet 2 capability. RINET and OSHEAN are supported primarily through membership fees.

7. **E-Rate:** The RI Department of Education and OLIS have facilitated the [E-Rate](#) and local [RITEAF](#) process for funding school and library telecommunications.

8. **Library and librarian associations:** Librarians and library advocates in Rhode Island have a history of banding together to share resources and ideas for professional development and mutual support. By strengthening the library community, the library associations strengthen library services. Consequently, they are an integral part of RI's library infrastructure of cooperation.

- a) **Coalition of Library Advocates:** Library Boards and Friends of Libraries across RI are organized as the Coalition of Library Advocates ([COLA](#)).
- b) **Rhode Island Library Association:** The Rhode Island Library Association ([RILA](#)) is a professional association of librarians, library staff, trustees and library supporters whose purpose is to promote librarianship and to improve the visibility, accessibility, responsiveness and effectiveness of library and information services throughout Rhode Island. RILA is a chapter of the [American Library Association](#) and the [New England Library Association](#). OLIS is an ex-officio member of the Board.
- c) **RIEMA:** The Rhode Island Educational Media Association ([RIEMA](#)) is a professional organization representing school library media professionals and support staff working in school library media, computer, and instructional technology programs. RIEMA is an affiliate of both the **American Association of School Librarians** ([AASL](#)) and the **Association for Educational Communications and Technology** ([AECT](#)). OLIS is an ex-officio member of the Board.

Williams University, Providence Athenaeum, Roger Williams University School of Law Providence College, Salve Regina University, Providence Public Library, Naval War College, Redwood Library and Athenaeum, University of Rhode Island, and Rhode Island College. For more information see <http://www.criarl.org/>

- d) **Other Organizations:** Rhode Island also boasts chapters of the **Special Library Association** ([SLA](#)) and the **Association of Jewish Libraries** ([AJL](#)).

9. Federal Funding:

- a) The **Library Services and Technology Act** (LSTA) administered by the **Institute of Museum and Library Services** ([IMLS](#)) provides approximately one million dollars to OLIS to support library services in accordance with a 5-year plan devised by the agency and approved by the Library Board of RI.

10. State Funding:

- a) The **Office of Library and Information Services** ([OLIS](#)) is a state agency established by [RIGL 29-3.1-1](#). It is supported by state taxes and is responsible for coordinating and improving library services statewide and administering state funding for library services of all kinds. OLIS is a division of the Department of Administration, with an executive director who reports to the Director of Administration, who in turn reports to the governor. The [Library Board of Rhode Island](#), appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, advises OLIS on policy and approves OLIS long range plans, distribution of grant-in-aid and use of federal funds.

b) Public Libraries:

- (1) Grant-in-Aid to Municipalities for Public Library Service is established in [RIGL 29-6](#) and provides 25% of municipal funds appropriated and expended for library services 2 years prior.
- (2) Grant-in-Aid also reimburses 25% of local endowment funds expended (or 6%, of endowment value, whichever is less) to public libraries with endowments. Together, public library grants-in-aid amount to approximately \$7 million annually.
- (3) Renovation and Construction is also reimbursed per [RIGL 29-6](#); there is currently a cap of \$5 million for any year's total reimbursements. Current level is approximately \$2 million.

c) State residential institutions and the [Rhode Island School for the Deaf](#):

[RIGL 29-6](#) also provides for support of libraries in state hospitals, correctional institutions, training school and the school for the deaf at the same rate as the municipalities, i.e., 25% of appropriations and expenditures 2 years prior.

- d) **Statewide Reference Resource Center at Providence Public Library:** [RIGL 29-6](#) also provides for an annual grant of approximately \$1 million to the Providence Public Library for a Statewide Reference Resource Center. The substance of that grant is negotiated annually between the PPL and OLIS and currently includes [AskRI.org](#), reference oriented professional development for library staff statewide, a modicum of online resources, and a digitization project. Future agreements will focus on online resources.

11. Municipal/local funding – a research need:

Municipalities provide funding for public libraries and for public school libraries. There is a need for a comprehensive study of the financing of public libraries, including consideration of possible economies of scale from combining library services both within those cities and towns that support more than one public library and among municipalities. Moreover, consideration should be given to the role of [Ocean State Libraries](#) and its funding. That study would also need to take into account funding from local endowments and from grant sources.

12. Private funding:

- a) Champlin Foundations have been extremely generous to RI's libraries, particularly

in regard to the continued development of OSL and to construction and renovation of library buildings.

13. Library Education - Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island ([URI GSLIS](#)):

Rhode Island is fortunate to have within its borders the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island ([URI GSLIS](#)), a fully accredited library school that trains librarians locally, attracting skilled and talented people. The presence of URI GSLIS also provides a convenient professional development path for RI library staff.

C. Weaknesses of RI Library Services:

- 1. RI libraries of all types report inadequate funding.**
- 2. Does Rhode Island have too many libraries? Who decides?**
- 3. OLIS support from state government has been declining for two decades.** The current level of funding (approximately \$12 million) and staffing (15 FTE) is approximately one third of what it was in 1990. As the state budget develops more problems, the decline continues. Consequently, OLIS will not meet federal maintenance of effort requirements for LSTA in FY2008 or FY2009 and will likely suffer a proportional decline in federal funding.
- 4. Embedded in Administration.** OLIS is further handicapped by its inclusion in the Department of Administration. There is a need for further study of OLIS governance and funding, particularly focusing on the potential of self-governance through the Library Board of Rhode Island. Because of its current governance structure, funding and staffing problems, the agency is unable to carry out its full legislative mandate.
- 5. Public Libraries.**
 - a) **Multiple library entities** in some communities are inimical to planning. The distribution of resources, including state grants-in-aid within a particular municipality, may often be more political than planned.
 - b) Many **facilities** are not ADA accessible and/or are otherwise inadequate to serve their populations.
 - c) **Additional ongoing funding** for technology refreshment, online resources, etc., has proven difficult to incorporate into library annual budgets
- 6. School libraries.**
 - a) The State Department of Education's **Basic Education Plan ([BEP](#))** is woefully out of date. The BEP must be updated to reflect current research results that determine new levels for school library staffing and resources to support student achievement.
 - b) Both the Rhode Island Board of Regents and the Department of Education have consistently failed to provide **open communication and commitment** to ongoing support for school libraries and school library media programs.
 - c) There is no **school library liaison or professional contact** within the Department of Education, resulting in the Department's serious lack of knowledge regarding school libraries and the benefits of school libraries towards student achievement.
 - d) Rhode Island lacks an up-to-date **statewide Library Curriculum**. A new statewide curriculum needs to be created and implemented by the Department of Education in collaboration with school library media professionals. The implementation of this curriculum, as well as the state requirements (PBGR, GSE/GLE, etc.), needs

- support from the Department of Education and the school library community.
- e) Most school districts do not have **K-12 Library Departments** and department heads/chairpersons, resulting in a lack of communication and vision for library programs.
 - f) Many school libraries are not automated and are not members of the statewide **Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids** ([RILINK](#)). These libraries cannot access the union catalog ([RICAT](#)) and cannot borrow resources from other libraries or utilize the OLIS Clearinghouse for the materials that their students need. **RILINK/RICAT** need to be fully funded by the State of Rhode Island and integrated into a One Catalog system.

D. Opportunities for Library Services in RI – special areas for further study and legislative consideration.

1. **URI GSLIS** could make greater use of Rhode Island as a laboratory, to the library community's mutual benefit. The Commission should seek funding to create a **Center for Interlibrary Cooperation** that would focus some of the University's resources on the state's very extensive infrastructure for interlibrary cooperation.
2. **OLIS**, if adequately funded, could create and coordinate **Library 2.0 services**. The following should be priorities for the Commission:
 - a) **One Public/Academic/Special Library Catalog** could be built on the existing resources of Rhode Island's library consortia. An investment of approximately \$2 million would provide seamless integration of the catalogs and circulation systems resulting in the RI library analog of Amazon.com. An additional \$4 million over 5 years would enable the automation of school library catalogs and their integration into the one statewide catalog. RI residents could log on from their homes, schools, businesses, community centers or public libraries, wherever the Internet is available, to locate and request books, CDs, DVDs, etc. and have them sent to the nearest library or, for a fee, directly to their home address.
 - b) **Statewide digital repository**. Rhode Island possesses a rich treasure trove of local materials that could become widely accessible were they to be digitized and incorporated into a standard digital repository. OLIS and the Providence Public Library have begun working with [NELINET](#) and the [Massachusetts Digital Commonwealth](#) to investigate the requirements of such an effort. At present, digitization efforts are underway at the [Rhode Island Historical Society](#) and various other institutions in the state. A unified effort to establish a framework for a digital repository would encourage local investment in making Rhode Island's priceless local resources available to all.
 - c) **Web services** for libraries and interlibrary cooperative efforts.
3. **RIDE/OLIS** cooperation could address a majority of the weaknesses of RI's K-12 school libraries and lifelong learning efforts. Neither RIDE nor OLIS is adequately staffed to pursue that cooperation at present. A legislative mandate, beyond the OLIS requirement in [RIGL 29-3.1-7\(ix\)](#) that it "cooperate with the commissioner of elementary and secondary education in supporting and encouraging effective school library media services and their integration into statewide library networking activities", requiring reciprocal cooperation from RIDE would be beneficial, particularly in addressing:
 - a) **K-12 library standards/curriculum/funding** and the upcoming revisions to the BEP

- b) **Adult Literacy training**, especially self directed programs in libraries and online
- 4. **Lifelong Learning programs** for independent learners, potentially a cornerstone of workforce development, are most effective in a library setting. Explore strategies for expanding library capacity to make lifelong learning possible. In particular:
 - a) Add to the responsibilities of OLIS a **Community of Learners competitive funding initiative** to support collaborative, innovative Lifelong Learning programs in libraries. Alternatively, fully fund OLIS through state appropriations so that 100% of federal LSTA funds could be allocated to public libraries.
 - b) Establish an annual per capita **Lifelong Learning funding formula** as a stable, additional source of state aid that is specifically earmarked for collaborative, innovative lifelong learning programs in all libraries.
 - c) Provide a stable, reliable funding level for the **Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative** ([RIFLI](#)), perhaps through a per capita funding formula for library literacy programs.
 - d) Provide, through a budget line item or legislative grant, a stable, reliable funding level for the [RI Center for the Book](#).

IV. Recommendations

A. Extend the Karla Harry Commission

1. Continue for 2 years to amplify this report with specific recommendations; budget for consultant study @ \$25,000.
2. Include in that study the question of whether or not the Commission should be made permanent.

B. Maintain and extend OLIS as the keystone in RI's infrastructure of interlibrary cooperation

1. In the short-term, hold OLIS harmless against:
 - a) A further decline in FTE positions.
 - b) Reducing appropriations below the level required for Federal LSTA Maintenance of Effort.
 - c) Reducing library grants-in-aid to municipalities and institutional libraries.
 - d) Reducing library construction funding.
2. In the long term, restore to OLIS the functionality mandated in [RIGL 29-3.1](#) by:
 - a) Establishing OLIS as an independent agency that reports to the Library Board of RI, rather than to the Department of Administration, by amending [RIGL 29-3.1-5](#) to have the Chief Library Officer appointed by and reporting to the Board.
 - b) Restore the OLIS budget to permit a full program of support for interlibrary cooperation and management of those library services that are best provided at the state level.
 - c) Add staff commensurate with the above goals.
 - d) Restore grants-in-aid to the level of "at least 25% . . .", as required by [RIGL 29-6-2](#).

C. Establish a Research Center at URI GSLIS

1. Investigate the creation of a **Center for Interlibrary Cooperation** at URI. In anticipation of the Center, URI and OLIS could explore with IMLS a leadership grant for "Advancing Learning Communities", in order to create a model state information literacy program to implement information literacy standards for K-16+.

D. Investigate Economies of Scale Among Libraries

1. Fund a comprehensive study of the financing of public libraries, including the consideration of possible economies of scale from combining library services within those cities and towns that support more than one public library and among municipalities. Consider both joint procurement arrangements and actual mergers. Consider also the role of Ocean State Libraries and its funding. That study would need to take into account funding from local endowments and from grant sources.

2. Add other types of libraries to the public library study.

3. Assess and confirm the continued value and importance of existing special libraries in Rhode Island.

E. Establish School Library Responsibilities within the Rhode Island Department of Education

1. Establish an Office of School Library Services to be responsible for:

- a) Updated K-12 library standards, curriculum and funding
- b) Early childhood literacy standards
- c) Creating a structure for collaboration, with OLIS representation.

F. Fund Surf-RI, as a function of LORI, beginning at \$1.6million per year to be administered by OLIS

Appendix A: Members of the Karla Harry Commission

The Commission is comprised of twenty-one members. Of these, there are two State Representatives, two State Senators, and representatives of various facets of the Rhode Island library community as stipulated in the resolution that established the Commission.

Commission Members

Representative Peter L. Lewiss, (D) Chairperson of the Karla Harry Commission on Libraries in Rhode Island, represents House District 37, Westerly.

Representative Elizabeth Dennigan (D) represents House District 62, East Providence and Pawtucket.

Representative John Savage (R) represents House District 65, East Providence.

Senator David E. Bates, (R) Co-Chair of the Karla Harry Commission on Libraries in Rhode Island, represents Senate District 32, Barrington and Bristol.

Senator Hannah Gallo (D) represents Senate District 27, Cranston.

William Allen represents the general public.

William Simmons represents the general public.

Dale Thompson, Director of the Providence Public Library, is the representative from a large public library.

Janet Levesque, Director of the Cumberland Public Library, is the representative from a medium-size public library.

Patricia Redfearn, Director of the George Hail Free Library of Warren, is the representative from a small public library.

Ruth Sullivan, Dean of Learning Resources at the Community College of Rhode Island, is the representative from an academic library at a public institution of higher learning.

Peter Deekle, Dean of University Library Services at Roger Williams University, is the representative from an academic library at a private institution of higher education.

Mary Ann Slocomb, Director of Libraries at Lifespan/Women & Infants Hospitals is the representative from a hospital library.

Grace Moorehead, Associate Director and Reference Services Librarian at the Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library in Johnston, is the representative from a special library.

Thomas Evans, RI State Librarian of The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, is the representative from a government or institutional library.

Phyllis Humphrey, School Library Media Specialist at Eldredge Elementary School in East Greenwich, is the representative from an elementary school library.

Suzanne Costa, School Library Media Specialist at Barrington High School, is the representative of a secondary school library.

Gale Eaton, Director of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island, is the representative from the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Library and Information Services (URI/GSLIS).

Howard Boksenbaum, Chief Library Officer of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, is the representative of Library Services from the Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS).

Karen Quinn, Chief Law Librarian at the Rhode Island State Law Library, is the representative from the state law library.

Also invited to participate in the Commission's deliberations have been:

Eileen Socha, Director of the East Providence Public Library.

Robert Aspri, Executive Director of the HELIN Library Consortium.

Appendix B: Chronology

- July 2002 OLIS 5 year plan includes Goal III, Objective B: Create a collective vision for library and museum services in RI
- May 2003 Day-long conference: Navigating the Future of Libraries: a Rhode Map results in Library Futures Task Force
- November 2003 Experience Economy and the Future of Libraries
- Feb 2004 S2250 introduced to create the Commission
- June 2004 Joint Legislative Resolution 04-R 306 creates the Commission
- 2004 LibFutures deliberates
- December 2004 First Town meeting; Staewide Databases, One Catalog and Lifelong Learning chosen as focus areas
- January 2006 Second Town meeting
- February 2006 Legislation extends Commission tenure to June 2008
- July 2006 Joint meeting of Commission and LibFutures
- November 2006 Organizational meeting; chair, co-chair, secretary selected; three subcommittees (Statewide Databases, Legislation, Regional funding) appointed
- February 2007 S0224 and H5335 introduced to extend the Commission through June 2008 with report due April 2008 and name it for Karla Harry
- February 2007 S 0390 and H 5589 introduced revising RIGL 29-6 to add statewide databases to OLIS responsibilities
- March 2007 SurfRI reception at State Library
- July 2007 Upon recommendation of Regional Funding Subcommittee, OLIS changes membership to Consortial sponsorship
- August 2007 Subcommittees on School Library Standards and Digitization and preservation appointed
- January 2008 S2010 and H7204 introduced into the House and Senate respectively to update language in Title 29
- April - May 2008 SurfRI reception at State Library
- September 2008 Commission meets and approves this report.

Appendix C: Enabling Resolution:

04-R 306 2004 -- S 2550 AS AMENDED Enacted 06/08/04

JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE CURRENT STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Roberts, Perry, Paiva-Weed, and Gibbs

Date Introduced: February 11, 2004

WHEREAS, In the 1980's, a study of library services in Rhode Island resulted in the creation of a legislative commission and of legislation that created the Library Board of Rhode Island and the statewide library network, and made major changes in state funding for libraries. Rhode Island needs a systematic plan to study the results of this legislation, evaluate the benefits of multiple types of libraries in the state, and develop policy recommendations to improve library services for all Rhode Islanders as we face the demands of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, More than 500 libraries serve the residents of Rhode Island, including: public libraries, academic libraries, school libraries and special libraries such as hospital, legal, business, government and institutional libraries; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island residents use different libraries throughout their lives. More than 500,000 Rhode Islanders have library cards. Rhode Islanders use public libraries as preschoolers, as students, as parents, as workers, as lifelong learners, and they use libraries as a place of recreation. They use school and academic libraries as students and special libraries such as institutional, hospital, or corporate libraries as workers. For libraries to meet the changing needs of Rhode Island residents in the future, they must have 21st century, cooperative mechanisms that allow them to connect users with the widest range of possible resources, regardless of which type of library provides this connection; and

WHEREAS, The state's demographics have significantly changed since the last comprehensive study of library services. Effective library programs provide services to people of all cultures, economic status, age, gender and physical and mental ability, no matter where they live. Since 1990, the total Hispanic population in the state has almost doubled, and Rhode Island is the home to the highest number of immigrants per capita in the country. Many new immigrants rely on libraries as their introduction to this country and use the library to learn English and obtain information about jobs and education. The percentage of population 65 and over in Rhode Island is 15%, compared to the national average of 12%. Seniors rely on libraries for social interaction, health information, and because many are on fixed incomes, for free information and programs. According to the 2000 Census, 40,117 children in Rhode Island live below the poverty line, a number that rose 30% since the 1990 Census. Libraries introduce children to literacy skills and give them a head start on their education; and

WHEREAS, Libraries are an economic development tool. Studies show that people change jobs an average of six times over their working lives, and libraries assist users in making career choices; and

WHEREAS, Strong library systems support a successful educational system, which leads to a better educated workforce, and contributes to a good quality of life in the state, factors companies examine when deciding where to locate a business; and

WHEREAS, Libraries have a unique opportunity to address the challenges people face in our contemporary society. Libraries have the ability to help all people access, use and understand information technologies, information and the Internet. Effective library programs bridge the digital divide between those who have access to technology and those who do not; and

WHEREAS, Advances in technology will make it possible to foster greater cooperation among different types of libraries, leading to a seamless interface of networked information such that residents can easily access this information from wherever they are located. Cooperation allows individual libraries to serve their users more effectively by offering them access to the resources available to residents; and

WHEREAS, A comprehensive study of library services that will help in Rhode Island will yield recommendations for leveraging resources that will help all libraries respond to the state's changing demographics, emerging technologies, and evolving educational, informational, recreational, and cultural needs of the community; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby creates a special legislative commission to study the current strengths and weaknesses of library services in Rhode Island and develop a proposal to improve the future services by libraries of all types for the people of Rhode Island; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a special legislative commission be and the same is hereby created consisting of twenty-one (21) members: three (3) of whom shall be members of the House of Representatives, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; three (3) of whom shall be members of the Senate, not more than two (2) from the same political party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; two (2) of whom shall be members of the general public, to be appointed by the Governor; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from a large public library, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from a medium-size public library, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from a small public library, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from an academic library at a public institution of higher learning, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from an academic library at a private institution of higher education, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from a hospital library, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from a special library, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from a government or institutional library, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from an elementary school library, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from a secondary school library, to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; one (1) of whom shall be a representative from the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Library and Information Services (URI/GSLIS), to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee; ~~and~~ one (1) of whom shall be a representative of Library Services from the Office of Library & Information Services (OLIS) to be appointed by the LibFutures Steering Committee ~~and~~ one (1) of whom shall be a representative from the state law library.

The purpose of said commission shall be to make a comprehensive study of the current strengths and weaknesses of library services in Rhode Island and develop a proposal, including, but not limited to, legislation, that will address improvements in the future services provided by all types of libraries, for the betterment and benefit of people of the State of Rhode Island.

Forthwith upon passage of this resolution, the members of the commission shall meet at the call of the Speaker of the House and the Senate President and organize and shall select co-chairpersons from among the legislators. Vacancies in said commission shall be filled in like manner as the original appointment. The membership of said commission shall receive no compensation for their services.

All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish such advice and information, documentary and otherwise, to said commission and its agents as is deemed necessary or desirable by the commission to facilitate the purposes of this resolution, including full subpoena power, which may only be exercised with the prior approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate.

The Joint Committee on Legislative Services is hereby authorized and directed to provide suitable quarters for said commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than February 3, 2005 and said commission shall expire on April 3, 2005.

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LC01719

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<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/PublicLaws/law04/res04/res04306.htm>

Appendix D: Subcommittees:

Database Subcommittee

The Database Subcommittee is charged with recommending a statewide core of online databases and other e-resources to be licensed statewide and made available to all library users. A statewide core of databases would provide cost savings to academic, public, school and other libraries that must now expend money from their budgets for these important resources. Additionally, it would level the playing field across the state, allowing low-income and high-income areas to have equal information access. Finally, a statewide database initiative would help foster economic development, as it would allow all local businesses access to information about their industries and competitors. Rhode Island is one of only two states in the United States of America that does not fund online databases for its residents.

SurfRI

In March 2007, with the help of the [HELIN Library Consortium](#), the Commission made a sample database package available on a trial basis. The trial was named **SurfRI** by students at Barrington High School, after a statewide contest. The trial was quite well received in schools and libraries throughout the state and led to an avalanche of letters to the General assembly. **SurfRI** was consequently introduced as H 5589 and S0390, which were passed by the general assembly, adding the databases to the responsibilities of the state library agency, but not funding them.

Digitization and Preservation Subcommittee

The Digitization and Preservation Subcommittee was charged with: 1) exploring possibilities for creating and/or providing statewide access to existing digital collections and 2) selecting material of statewide interest to be the focus of a digitization and preservation project.

The subcommittee identified three key requirements. First, finding a source of funding. Second, establishing a protocol for storage and access to the materials. Third, adopting digitization standards that would apply statewide.

The subcommittee prepared a report on digital and preservation initiatives in other states, paying special attention to their funding sources. Some states, like California, fund their digital initiatives solely through private funding. Other states, like Delaware, fund their programs through the state. Many others are currently funding their digital initiatives with grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The report also addressed digitization standards currently used by other states. Many do not publicize their standards, but of those that do, Dublin Core and the Open Archives Initiative standards were the most frequently used. Connecticut used the Getty Art and Architecture Thesaurus to provide a standardized vocabulary for use in their [Connecticut History Online](#) database. Using these ideas as a basis, the

subcommittee will work to develop a coherent set of digitization standards over the next year.

Storage and access must also be addressed as part of any digital initiative. These issues will largely be contingent on future funding for the initiative. Finally, the subcommittee is investigating ways to improve coordination among the different institutions that would be interested in the development of a digital initiative.

Exploratory Subcommittee

The purpose of the Exploratory Subcommittee is to facilitate collaboration and coordination of library efforts throughout both the state of Rhode Island and the New England region. The committee consists of Peter Deekle from Roger Williams University Library, Bob Aspri from the HELIN Consortium, Howard Boksenbaum from OLIS, and Ruth Sullivan from CCRI. The Exploratory Subcommittee has discussed opportunities through NELINET, a cooperative of New England libraries, to develop economical program initiatives between all types of libraries in Rhode Island. The most desirable of these initiatives is a universal library catalog for all types of libraries in the state.

The subcommittee prepared and submitted through OLIS a request for an eight million dollar bond initiative to fund the creation of a single library catalog. The money would have been primarily used to convert K-12 school library catalogs, as the Ocean State Library Consortium and the HELIN Library Consortium currently use the same cataloging software vendor. The catalogs would be linked through the use of proprietary software, similar to the manner in which the HELIN Library Consortium links to Brown University's Josiah Library Catalog. Unfortunately, in the current fiscal climate, the state could not consider that bond issue.

Of additional interest to the Exploratory Subcommittee is funding for the SurfRI database initiative. Based on conversations with Karl Beiser, Library Systems Coordinator of the Maine State Library, it was recommended that a bond initiative not be sought to fund the SurfRI program. Further discussions of potential cooperative database agreements may be conducted on a regional level over the coming year.

The Exploratory Subcommittee will continue to seek funding for library services, including outside the box of governmental appropriations.

Legislative Subcommittee

The Legislative Subcommittee reviewed, revised and re-filed legislation to amend [RIGL Title 29](#), which governs libraries, and was responsible for the legislative work of the Commission.

School Libraries Subcommittee

The School Libraries Subcommittee has explored five important areas and outlined research and action in these areas. They are: **1)** representation of School Library Media programs in the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE); **2)** updating the Basic Education Program for the state; **3)** establishing statewide School Library Media

Guidelines; **4)** improving the information on school library media on the RIDE website and; **5)** discussing and addressing issues engendered by the No Child Left Behind Act in libraries throughout the state.

Appendix E: Glossary

- AJL** [Association of Jewish Libraries](#)
An international professional organization devoted to the educational, informational, and networking needs of librarians responsible for collections of Judaica and to the promotion of Judaica librarianship.
- ALA** [American Library Association](#)
The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with members in academic, public, school, government, and special libraries. ACRL, ALTA, ASCLA, and PLA, noted separately in this glossary, are divisions of ALA.
- ARIHSL** [Association of Rhode Island Health Sciences Libraries](#)
This Association promotes resource sharing and information exchange; to provide a symposium for professional development and to encourage and maintain interest in health sciences libraries.
- CFB** [Center for the Book in the Library of Congress](#)
"The Center for the book was established by law in 1977 to stimulate public interest in books and reading, libraries and literacy. A partnership between the government and the private sector, the center depends primarily on tax-deductible contributions from corporations and individuals to support its overall program of projects and publications of interest to both the general public and scholars." [RI Center for the Book at the Providence Public Library](#) is affiliated with this program.
- CLAN** [Cooperating Libraries Automated Network](#) (see [Ocean State Libraries](#))
- COLA** [Coalition of Library Advocates](#)
A membership organization of Rhode Island citizens who support libraries and provide a forum for advocacy. Awards to libraries, trustees, and library advocates are given at the annual meeting, which also provides an opportunity for librarians and citizens to meet.
- CRIARL** [Consortium of Rhode Island Academic and Research Libraries](#)
CRIARL is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization of academic and research libraries whose purpose is to promote cooperation and communication among its members, to improve the library resources and services of its members, and to work closely with appropriate agencies in pursuit of its goals.
- DSLS** [Department of State Library Services](#) established in 1964 replaced by the Office Of Library and Information Services (OLIS) in 1996.
- E-rate** The federal [Universal Service Fund](#) program for schools and libraries.

- GIA** Grant-in-Aid. State aid to municipalities for public library services and to state institutions for library services to residents. [RIGL 29-6](#). The aid is subject to OLIS' determination of the to libraries' eligibility and qualification.
- GSLIS** [University of RI Graduate School of Library and Information Studies](#)
The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies exercises leadership in the global information age through research, service, and the preparation of knowledgeable and ethical professionals who can serve the library and information needs of a diverse society.
- HELIN** [Higher Education Library Information Network](#)
HELIN is a consortium of eleven public and private academic libraries and fourteen health sciences libraries in Rhode Island. The HELIN libraries share an online catalog of each library's holdings.
- III** [Innovative Interfaces Inc.](#)
Proprietary system that provides online public access catalogs for HELIN, OSL and other libraries.
- IMLS** [Institute of Museum & Library Services](#)
The Institute of Museum and Library Services is an independent federal agency that fosters leadership, innovation, and a lifetime of learning. IMLS supports all types of museums, from art and history, to science and zoos, and all types of libraries and archives, from public and academic to research and school. IMLS expands the educational benefit of these institutions by encouraging partnerships. IMLS administers LSTA funds.
- Karla Harry Commission**
A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE CURRENT STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND. Chairman is Rep. Peter Lewiss.
- LibFutures** [Organization](#) formed to study and report on the future of RI Libraries.
- LORI** [Library of Rhode Island](#)
LORI, the state multitype library network, is comprised of most Rhode Island libraries, including public, academic, special, school, government, and some private institutions. The LORI website is developed and managed by OLIS Library Programs staff. The website provides information about Library Programs as well as information for and referrals to RI libraries. (now [Office of Library and Information Services](#) (OLIS) website)
- LSTA** [Library Services and Technology Act](#)

(formerly LSCA, Library Services and Construction Act)

This cornerstone of federal funding for libraries (passed in 1997) focuses on technology and outreach for all types of libraries, crossing local and state boundaries. OLIS is charged with LSTA administration for RI libraries. OLIS prepares a Five-Year Plan which is approved by the Library Board.

NEA [New England Archivists](#)

The New England Archivists is a professional organization of archivists and others responsible for the access, preservation, and organization of records and manuscripts that document society.

NEDCC [Northeast Document Conservation Center](#)

The Northeast Document Conservation Center is the largest nonprofit, regional conservation center in the United States. Its mission is to improve the preservation programs of libraries, archives, museums, and other historical and cultural organizations; to provide the highest quality services to institutions that cannot afford in-house conservation facilities or that require specialized expertise; and to provide leadership to the preservation field. OLIS contracts with NEDCC for specific services for all RI institutions.

NELA [New England Library Association](#)

The mission of the New England Library Association is to promote excellence in library services to the people of New England and to advance the leadership role of its members in developing and ensuring that excellence.

NELINET

[NELINET](#) is a member-owned, member-governed cooperative of more than 600 academic, public, and special libraries in the six New England states. Our primary aim is to promote the advancement of libraries and to facilitate the ongoing sharing of library and information resources and services. Today, NELINET accomplishes these purposes by serving as the premier New England regional network for OCLC and by offering a broad variety of non-OCLC-related services, such as educational programs, consulting services, and consortium purchasing. OLIS contracts with NELINET for statewide services including use, by library staff, of a database (*FirstSearch*).

OCLC

[OCLC, Inc.](#) Founded in 1967, OCLC Online Computer Library Center is a nonprofit, membership based, computer library service and research organization dedicated to the public purposes of furthering access to the

world's information and reducing information costs. More than 57,000 libraries in 112 countries and territories around the world use OCLC services to locate, acquire, catalog, lend and preserve library materials.

- OLIS** [Office of Library & Information Services](#)
This RI state level office which replaced the Department of State Library Services (DSLS) established in 1964.
- OSHEAN** [Ocean State Higher Education, Economic Development and Administrative Network](#)
OSHEAN Inc., (pronounced ocean) is a consortium of non-profit organizations that was formed to foster the development of a communications infrastructure for Rhode Island's research, educational, and public service community.
The OSHEAN consortium is devoted to creating a stable, economical high-speed network for the use of its members and is committed to providing services that enhance the productive use of this network. OSHEAN is dedicated to achieving its vision of providing Rhode Island with the country's most capable communications network infrastructure for the support of research, education and public service.
- OSL** [Ocean State Libraries](#) (formerly CLAN)
Ocean State Libraries (OSL) is Rhode Island's public library consortium. It is incorporated as a non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code (501c3). As of 2007, there were 49 public library systems operating from 73 locations. Nearly all RI residents have access to an OSL library in their own communities
- RI.gov** The State of Rhode Island's Internet portal address (as in <http://www.RI.gov>), which was constructed by the NEI company.
- RIDE** [Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.](#)
- RIEMA** [Rhode Island Educational Media Association](#)
The Rhode Island Educational Media Association is a professional organization representing school library media professionals and support staff working for school library media, computer, and instructional technology programs in Rhode Island. RIEMA is an affiliate of both the American Library Association's division of American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT).
- RIFLI** The [Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative \(RIFLI\)](#) is a free, first-step family literacy program for adults and their children based at public libraries throughout Rhode Island. RIFLI offers English as a Second

Language (ESL), citizenship preparation and computer instruction as well as children's programming, student resource support and links to library resources and services.

RIGL [Rhode Island General Laws](#)

RILA [Rhode Island Library Association](#)

Professional association of librarians, library staff, library trustees, and library supporters whose purpose is to promote the profession of librarianship and to improve the visibility, accessibility, responsiveness, and effectiveness of library and information services throughout Rhode Island.

RILINK [Rhode Island Library Information Network for Kids](#)

RILINK is a cooperative effort by Rhode Island school libraries to share their resources through an interactive, web-based union catalog of library materials. Students and teachers at RILINK member schools can use the catalog at www.rilink.org to look for, and request, books or other items at member libraries. Items requested are delivered to each school through the statewide library network. Currently, sixty-nine school libraries working together form RILINK, sharing their books, audiovisual materials and expertise to provide better service to their 48,000 students and teachers. (RILINK serves 30% of Rhode Island public school students.).

RINET [Rhode Island Network for Educational Technology](#), Inc. fosters educational excellence in Rhode Island through the collaborative development and deployment of economical technology solutions for organizations that serve children. It provides complete Internet solutions for organizations that serve children, such as schools, libraries, municipalities, as well as high quality technology programs and services in support of K-12 teaching, learning and administration.

SLA [Special Libraries Association](#)

The Special Libraries Association is the international association representing the interests of thousands of information professionals in sixty countries. Special librarians are information resource experts who collect, analyze, evaluate, package, and disseminate information to facilitate accurate decision-making in corporate, academic, and government settings. There is a Rhode Island chapter of SLA.

SRRC [Statewide Reference Resource Center](#)

RIGL 29-6-9 (Rhode Island library network) specifies the Providence Public Library as the Reference Resource Center.

State Library

[The Rhode Island State Library](#) is the legislative library for the state. The State Librarian is appointed by the Secretary of State to head the library. The State Publications Clearinghouse is housed here.

State Library Agency

See: OLIS.

TBP

[Talking Books Plus](#)

RI Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped at OLIS.

URIGSLIS

[Graduate School of Library and Information Studies](#) at the University of Rhode Island

WebJunction: an online community for library staff.

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