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Revisions to 2019 Utah's Standards for Public Libraries – Executive Summary

Background

The *Standards for Utah's Public Libraries* were developed to ensure all Certified Utah Public Libraries consistently offer the most current of library services, follow the law, and follow best practices. Changes to the standards and benchmarks are recommended to the Utah State Library Board by State Library staff and a committee of library directors representing all sizes of public libraries around the state. This year's committee was comprised of six public library administrators. The Committee members were:

Daniel Mauchley, Duchesne County
Angela Edwards, Beaver
Kristi Seely, Lehi
Gene Nelson, Provo City
Lori Voshall, Ephraim
Kent Dean, Salt Lake County

The Committee was chaired by Rachel Cook, Grants Coordinator. Assistant Director Kari May and Consultant Juan Tomás Lee also represented the State Library on the Committee.

A summary of changes is included below. Minor grammatical and diction changes were also made, but they have not been noted in this document.

Changes to Standards

In the "Standards" section, several clarification changes were made. Specifically:

Standard 2: A provision was added for the Open Meetings Law to be reviewed annually.

Standard 3: Clarification was added indicating that the three year strategic plan did not need to be a rolling plan. A provision was also added requiring a review of the strategic plan annually.

Standard 4: Internet & Online Access Policy had wording added indicating that the library must filter according to this policy. Clarification was also included explaining that failure to comply with this standard results in immediate decertification.

Standard 10: Options for qualifications of the Library Director have been defined more clearly.

Standard 11: Training of Director and Staff – The standard for libraries serving over 50,000 people was added.

The previous Standard 13 (Integrated Library System) has been removed because ILS's are now pervasive in all of Utah's certified public libraries. There will be a place added in the Public Library Statistics report for libraries to add the name of their ILS for State Library informational purposes. This standard will also be added to the New Library Certification document.

Standard 14 (Previously Standard 15): Standard for operating hours of libraries serving over 50,000 people has been added.

Standard 16 (Previously Standard 18): The minimum internet download speeds was increased from 4 mbps to 6 mbps per the national average.

Standard 17 (Previously Standard 19): Clarification was adding to the building inspection checklist standard and document to note that this inspection should be done annually.

The previous Standard 17 (Wireless Internet Access) was removed because wireless internet access is now pervasive in all certified Utah public libraries. This requirement is included in the New Library Certification document ensuring new libraries know the expectation in this area.

Changes to Benchmarks

WiFi use as a benchmark was introduced in 2016 and became effective in 2017. This benchmark is used to measure wireless internet access.

The circulation benchmark was separated into two distinct benchmarks: (1) circulation of physical materials and (2) circulation of electronic materials.

One benchmark was removed: number of computer terminals per capita. This is due to the increased usage of wireless internet with personal devices being seen as a more relevant library service. Libraries will still need to meet 7 of 12 benchmarks to be considered certified.

Changes to Quality Library Designation

The previous incentive to apply for the quality library designation was a waiver of the certification process for the fiscal year following current certification. To provide greater incentive to apply for this designation, the committee recommended public recognition from the State Library for all quality libraries including a certificate of achievement for each library location. Large libraries are ineligible to skip any certification rounds but may still apply for the quality designation.

Quality criteria 6 was changed from literacy initiatives to include all engaging community programming.

A 10th quality criteria was added to the quality application: staff training hours (excluding the director's hours) exceed the standard required amount by at least 50%.

With the added 10th criteria, libraries now must meet 6 of the 10 criteria to gain the quality designation.

Appendices

Appendix C (required documents checklist) was updated to include documents reflecting the new standards.