

## Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What libraries are eligible to participate in the grant?**

The “Together We Thrive” grant is for public libraries in the WMRLS service area serving populations of 2,500 or less. There are 59 eligible libraries, most of which serve populations of less than 1,500.
- **What will the grant do?**

In the Himmel & Wilson Small Library Study (<http://www.wmrls.org/wmrls/2006smalllibrarystudy.htm>), weeding was seen as a top priority for many small libraries. In the first year, we will try to accommodate 10-15 libraries that are interested in receiving Circuit Rider help weeding their collections. Once the grant is underway, we will be offering help in other areas, such as setting up a website, cataloging, conversion, and publicity.

In addition, the grant will tackle issues such as fostering approaches to cooperation, including the sharing of collections, cooperative collection development, staffing and joint programming.
- **How can my library receive free help weeding our collection?**

Completing the “Library Application for Circuit Rider Help” (<http://tinyurl.com/24whq2>) online or in paper form will get your library on the list of interested libraries.

We want each of the eligible libraries to fill out the survey to the best of their knowledge by February 15, 2008
- **What if I don’t need help weeding right now, but there are other areas with which I could use help?**

Fill out the application and check off the areas in which you would like help in the future.
- **If I fill out the application, does that mean I am committing to participate in the grant?**

The survey is being used for planning purposes only.
- **What are Circuit Riders?**

Circuit Riders are paid employees of the “Together We Thrive” grant. They are trained staff who will travel to small libraries to help with weeding collections and many other tasks. Please see the full job description. (<http://www.wmrls.org/lsta/thrive/circuit-rider.pdf>)

- **When will we be notified if our library has been chosen?**  
Notification of the first few libraries will be by February 29, 2008 and then as Circuit Riders become available.
  
- **When can we expect a Circuit Rider to come to our library?**  
We plan to have Circuit Riders working in the first round of chosen libraries by the end of March. As projects are completed, Circuit Riders will be sent on to other participating libraries.
  
- **How can I apply to be a Circuit Rider?**  
Applicants who apply by February 1, 2008 will receive first consideration. However, we will be hiring more Circuit Riders as the need arises for people with certain expertise. Applications will be accepted throughout the grant period. Please see the complete job posting (<http://www.wmrls.org/lsta/thrive/jobposting-circuit-rider.html>).
  
- You can participate as a library AND be a Circuit Rider. We encourage small library directors and staff to apply for this position.
  
- **How long will the grant run for?**  
The grant was funded for 2 years and will go through September, 2009.
  
- **Where did the money for the “Together We Thrive” grant come from?**  
This grant was funded with Library Services and Technology Act funds from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

**For more information about this LSTA grant project, contact:**

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