



## **Long Overdue ... State Funding for Our Public Libraries**

The Government Relations Committee of the Vermont Library Association is asking our legislators to support an appropriation this legislative session for funding for public libraries. We have asked for 1.6 million dollars which would give each public library that meets Vermont state library standard an amount equal to 10% of their operating budget.

The idea of state funding is not new or radical. 46 other states currently give direct funding to their public libraries. The amount we are asking for is the average amount given in the states that receive funding. The issue of state funding has been discussed and looking at for the past ten years. The time to move forward is now. Supporting our public libraries with state funds is long overdue.

Libraries around the state are struggling to continue to provide much needed services and are facing new challenges to expand their current services. In Vermont over the past ten years there has been a steady growth in the use of libraries and in the broad spectrum of services they provide.

For More information contact Linda Wells, Chair, Government Relations Committee, Vermont Library Association (802) 586-9683.