

Catalyst Fund Proposal

Proposal Title:	School Readiness BookPoints Training Materials
ID:	22
Institution:	Library of Virginia
Requestor:	Enid Costley, Children s and Youth Services Consultant
Budget:	\$58,249
Goal (as pulled from the application):	“The Library of Virginia has five goals for this program, including: 1. Create a school readiness online program (K-Ready) module, with gamification that will include age appropriate learning activities or challenges.... 2. Build additional modules for BookPoints that will enable libraries to track a participant’s progress.... 3. Create training materials for library staff and community organizations.... 4. Develop an online manual for information technology staff members who wish to customize BookPoints.... 5. Determine steps needed for ESL and special needs access.”
Description :	<p>Library of Virginia has five goals for this program, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a school readiness online program (K-Ready) module, with gamification that will include age appropriate learning activities or challenges to earn points and electronic badges throughout the year. We are building on BookPoints (the online reading program), Drupal (the open-source base system) and work done by the California Library Association (CLA), Library of Virginia (LVA) and the Galecia Group, Virginia Milestones of Childhood Development, Head Start Framework, Virginia Foundation Blocks of Learning, American Library Association and Washington Study VIEW2. K-Ready will feature over 1,000 books and activities for the years before Kindergarten. 2. Build additional modules for BookPoints that will enable libraries to track a participant’s progress through all modules and programs. Currently each program (Summer Reading, Winter Reading, etc.) are completely separate and do not share history. By extending BookPoints to allow multiple modules with a shared history, libraries and schools will be able to track a progress over many years and subsequent programs. This will allow better insight into the long-term effects of reading programs. 3. Create training materials for library staff and community organizations that are using the K-Ready software for reading and learning programs. Training materials will be created by LVA staff, headed by Enid Costley, with the final product being produced using Articulate Storyline and hosted on the LVA servers. 4. Develop an online manual for information technology staff members who wish to customize BookPoints for their own library systems and communities. This will be done by LVA IT staff in partnership with software designers Galecia Group. Jason Roma, an IT specialist at the LVA, has worked on the project and has customized BookPoints for Virginia’s Libraries. In creating the training materials, he will work with another IT staff person at the LVA who will learn the program and create training materials.

5. Determine steps needed for ESL and special needs access. This will be done by Enid Costley with the assistance of LVA IT staff.

Challenges

We know from research that low income children are falling behind because they are not offered the same rich learning environment as their more affluent peers. Research from the Pew Charitable Trust, however, shows that many middle income children are entering school without the skills they need for success in learning.

We will help address this issue by building on the BookPoints application developed by the Galecia Group in Drupal for the CLA, in partnership with the LVA, for public libraries in California and Virginia to celebrate reading and learning that takes place in the summer months. In creating K-Ready and extending the capabilities of the BookPoints application, we will enable parents and community organizations to encourage reading and learning activities for young children to a larger extent than is possible today.

Since the Drupal system and BookPoints application are open source, and BookPoints development was funded in part with federal funds, the source code is freely available and can be modified. One of the biggest barriers to using open source software is the need for IT staff or program experts. In order to mitigate this, LVA staff will create training materials and documentation for library staff and community members making it easier for other library systems to implement. These collaborative opportunities are critical to furthering the reach and long-term success of this and related projects.

Finally, providing equal access to services for families where English is not the primary language spoken in the home, and to children with learning and developmental disabilities is a challenge. To address this we will be testing the existing language translation features in Drupal as well as determining future steps to increase accessibility for special needs children.

All of this will benefit the LYRASIS community by giving libraries more functionality, more flexibility, and a lower cost of entry for online reading and learning programs. Modifying BookPoints to add K-Ready and enable better portability and historical data will enable members of the LYRASIS community to more effectively promote, and seek funding for, reading and learning programs. Providing training materials and documentation will allow libraries with already overburdened staff to more easily implement learning programs.

Activities

LVA staff works with Galecia Group to create the K-Ready program. The LVA will:

- Work closely with Galecia Group to develop the key functions for the K-Ready module
- Provide and monitor a server for Drupal, BookPoints and the K-Ready module
- Install, test, patch and upgrade Drupal, the BookPoints application and the K-Ready module on the LVA server •

Consult technicians and review the software for compliance with Federal and State privacy laws

Work with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) to have art honor students create artwork for R-Ready Program – an MOU is in place for delivery in July 2017.

- Meet with students at least three times to view and clarify project.
- Document process with photos.
- Write an article about the project.
- Library graphic artist will confirm that artwork is provided in a format usable for project.

Add Content to School Readiness Program

Using the Milestones of Childhood Development, Head Start Framework, Virginia Foundation Blocks of Learning, American Library Association and Washington Study VIEW2 LVA will:

- Create 1,000 age-appropriate activities to be done with a child (see sandbox.readvirginia.org for sample activities).
- Obtain permission from the American Library Association to use Tip Cards in the Early Literacy Handbook (permission has been granted for use on the LVA K-Ready program).
- Review Milestones in Childhood Development to select age-appropriate activities in the age birth to 18 months, 2-3 years old, 4-5 years old, and 5 years and older.
- Review the Foundation Blocks of Learning for activities for ages 4 years and older.
- Review the Head Start Framework and add activities for ages 3-5 years old.
- Put select activities in the format of “What to do,” “Why we do it,” and “Good things to observe.” “ Why we do it” is put in the When... we... format described by the VIEWS 2 study.
- Create booklists using Booklist and other collection development tools.
- Create eBadges using <https://www.openbadges.me/> and link to activities and book lists.
- Create game boards using artwork provided by VCU.

Training Materials

To facilitate training and mastery of the BookPoints program, LVA staff will capture screenshots and develop procedures for patrons and public library staff for registering, logging, changing passwords, editing patron information, awarding badges, creating and loading badges, running adding activities, booklists, events, and prizes. They will also capture screenshots and develop procedures for customizing the software, setting up the program, adding boxes/blocks, changing registration fields, creating game boards, changing color schemes, and banners, adding branches and schools lists, turning registration on and off, turning logging on and off, setting up reports, shutting down the site, and archiving data.

Access

Library staff will review and assess existing Drupal language translation and access features to determine if it is fit to purpose. If it is not, determine next steps to ensure accessibility for children with ESL or specialized needs.

Share Results

LVA staff will provide a final report for posting on the LYRASIS website. The report will be openly accessible under a Creative Commons attribution license. LVA will present results at the LYRASIS Membership Summit directly or via a LYRASIS-approved representative. The software program, BookPoints, K-Ready and any training materials will be made available through LVA GitHub.

Budget

Requesting \$58,249.00

\$3,918.00

100 hours for Jason Roma, Application Developer, to assist with training materials for IT staff.

\$4,331.00

150 hours for Austin Carr, Web Developer, to create training materials for IT staff.

\$50,000.00

To develop BookPoints modules for school readiness (K-Ready) and to enable increased flexibility and data portability these include a game board, certificate, the feature that allows for badges and points to be shared across programs, support for bug fixes and upgrades and other agreed upon enhancements.

Providing as in-kind \$74,412.00

\$24,412.00

690 hours of work by Enid Costley, Children's and Youth Services Consultant, to create training materials for library staff and content for the School Readiness Project. Costley has a BS in elementary and special education, and an MLS with an emphasis in library services to children and special populations. This will be paid for using grant funds from the Institute for Museum and Library Services

\$30,000.00 For the Virginia Commonwealth University art department honors course to design artwork for K-Ready. This includes banners, badges, bookmarks, posters, game board, and clip art. This project will be paid for using grant funds from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Reference

- Sandbox of BookPoints (<https://sandbox.readvirginia.org/>) used for the winter reading program resets every 24 hours – may create an patron account.
- Children at Risk: Consequences for School Readiness and Beyond by Lynn A. Karoly, M. Rebecca Kiburn, and Jill Cannon.
http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_briefs/2005/RAND_RB9144.pdf
- Getting Ready Findings from the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative A 17 State Partnership Prepared by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
[http://www.rikidscount.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Early%20Learning/Getting % 20Ready/Getting % 20Ready % 20- % 20Full % 20Report.pdf](http://www.rikidscount.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Early%20Learning/Getting%20Ready/Getting%20Ready%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why All Children Benefit from Pre-K by Pew Charitable Trust http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2005/06/15/why-all-children-benefit-from-prek
<p>Comments from Field Reviewers:</p>	<p>1. This is an idea that is relevant and innovative. However, the proposal needs more refinement because one of the most compelling aspects of the proposal is its intent to enable libraries to track reading readiness online and over time to examine the long-term effects of reading programs, especially to diverse populations. This would be a more impactful proposal if it focused on this goal. Also, this would require a longer time line to complete and has many different goals that have to be managed. It is admirable that the proposal includes public and academic partnerships along with in kind funding and other grant opportunities. With more review, this proposal has strong possibilities.</p> <p>2. Very little background was provided on the BookPoints system and why it should be expanded. I was impressed with the inclusion of in-kind funds.</p> <p>3. I really like the notion in goal 2 that this work would contribute to a view of outcomes. I appreciate the attention to scaling through the training materials and online manual but wonder if even those would be enough to truly scale this. I would like to understand better the benefits this project would bring relative to other solutions available, particularly commercial ones. I'm hesitant about the lump sum \$50K in the budget and would like to know more about how that will be used. In the detail below that number certain features are detailed and seem to be already decided upon. What work went into determining that those are truly the most desired features?</p>