



Become a partner with L-net

Virtual reference is about connecting out patrons with our libraries, online. Technology is the medium, but not the message. Software is involved, it's true. People appreciate the expertise that librarians bring to the online world, also true.

Ultimately though, people turn to us because we are not computers.

Benefits to partnership

Provide reference service to your patrons 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Training in online reference techniques is applicable to in-person and telephone reference.

Strengthen your library's relationships with other Oregon libraries.

Refer reference questions to any of our partner libraries in Oregon, or, around the world with the Library of Congress and OCLC's Global Reference Network.

Costs to partnership

Partnership is free for Oregon libraries. L-net is fully funded by a grant from the Oregon State Library under the Library Services and Technology act.

Most partner libraries contribute 2 hours per week to our chat service answer general questions over e-mail and answer follow-up questions about local library services.

Since we are a cooperative service, librarians spend time helping patrons from outside of their own libraries.

Training, practicing, and keeping up with the goings-on takes time and energy, especially when your library is getting started.

Facts

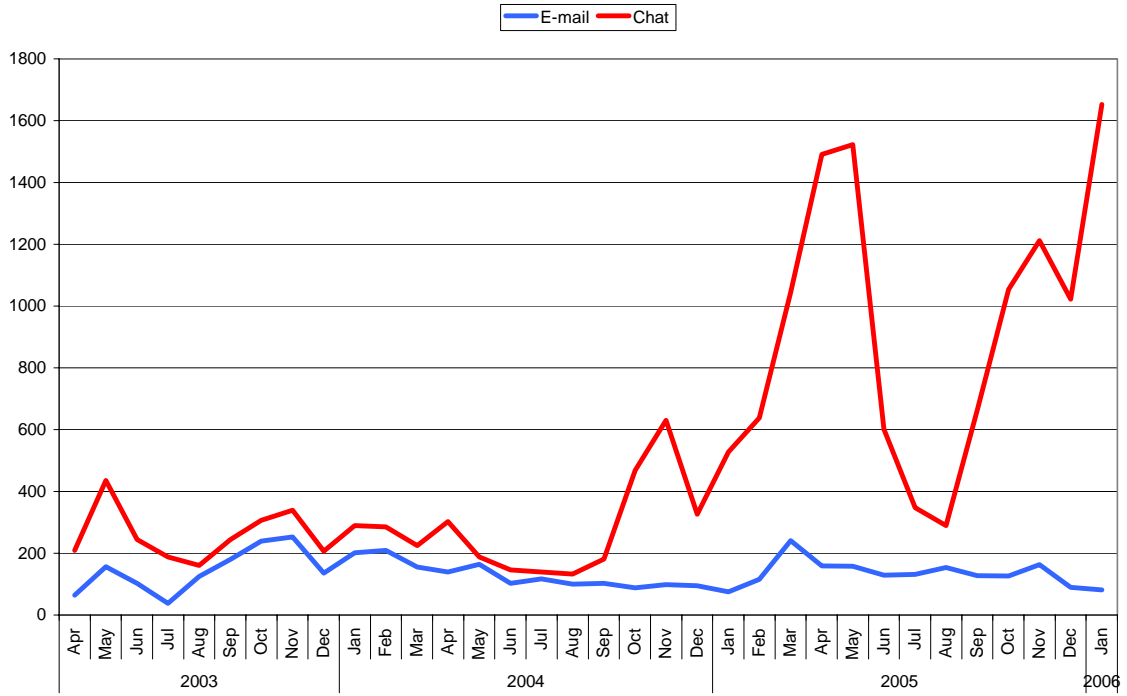
L-net uses OCLC's QuestionPoint software for e-mail and chat reference service.

22 libraries and over 80 librarians help to staff our service.

Since April 2003, we have answered over 22,000 questions.

L-net is currently funded through June, 2007. The Oregon State Library has the option to continue the program on a year-to-year basis.

L-net chat and e-mail, 2003-2006



Chat sessions in the last 6 months by category

