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Utah Report

The Utah State Legislature just ended its 2005 session.

The legislature funded 48 million dollars for the retro-fit of the University of Utah's J. Willard Marriott Library.

The legislature did not fund an additional $89,000 for Pioneer the cooperative database system for Utah libraries. This will mean that additional databases will not be purchased.

From Directions (The Newsletter of the Utah State Library)

Gates Foundation Grants

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has made major contributions to libraries nationally, and in Utah. Gates started its statewide effort in Utah with three-quarters of a million dollars in grants to public libraries for the purchase of computer hardware and software; but cutting-edge computers and software are of only limited value if they cannot be reliably maintained and effectively used.

As a follow-up to its earlier grants to individual libraries for information technology infrastructure, the Gates Foundation awarded the Utah State Library Division a $33,600 training grant intended to place an emphasis on the further extension of Utah's library information technology infrastructure and the training needed to keep it operating.

Peter Kraus, Utah Representative