

Director's Report April 23, 2025

Update on IMLS Funding and Impact on Michigan Libraries

Last Monday, I met with the LSTA Committee, Karren Reisch, LSTA Grant Coordinator, and Randy Riley, State Librarian, to discuss the ongoing challenges related to federal funding. One of the major developments is that all Grant to States personnel at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have now been let go. Initially, it was rumored that the agency would reduce staff from 78 to 12, but that no longer appears to be accurate; all have been put on permanent leave.

Despite these significant changes, the Library of Michigan (LM) has yet to receive any official notification from IMLS regarding the future of funding. If Congress does not reauthorize funds for the next fiscal year, we may be looking at the loss of at least one position at LM. While any loss is unfortunate, we are aware that some state libraries are entirely reliant on federal funds. Fortunately, that is not the case in Michigan, where we maintain some level of independent state support.

Historically, when federal funding to states has been cut, states have not typically stepped in to fill the gap. That presents a significant challenge for us. While I remain optimistic, I want to be clear: I am not naïve. We are all deeply affected by the federal government's decisions, but there's also strength in what we've built together. Randy and Karren both expressed immense confidence in Michigan's library community—we have proven repeatedly that we can find solutions, even when they don't look exactly like what we initially envisioned. This moment is undeniably difficult. But as we've seen during other crises, such as COVID-19, the worst times can also lead to the birth of new ideas and powerful programs.

Advocacy Day, April 30, 2025

Alison and I will be attending Advocacy Day next Wednesday in Lansing. The main talking point is the IMLS funding. I created an infographic to share with the legislators with stats on the front and our services on the back highlighting the IMLS plight. I attended a community meeting with State Representative Alexander and shared a few items he mentioned.

Rides Renewals through MCLS

Information about RIDES from MCLS.

The RIDES renewals will remain the same, and the FY26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) RIDES invoices will go out in June. A prorated refund would be issued in the event of a RIDES cancellation.

If there is no MeLCat as of October, there will still be a need for RIDES to get materials back to their lending libraries. However, not all RIDES libraries are MeLCat libraries, and RIDES is also used for non-MeLCat materials.

As a reminder...each library needs to take care of its renewal with MCLS. White Pine reimburses for 3 days of delivery, but not until member invoices go out in October. In October, we bill members for services (your per capita x state aid rate) and then subtract the three days of delivery cost as a reimbursement. If you have questions, please let me know.

Book Repair Workshop by Demco's Book Doctor

Had a great turnout at Vassar with 38 in attendance. Thank you to those who attended.

Reimbursable Services Support Program Grants

So far, 13 WPLC members have submitted receipts for the Reimbursable Services Support Program Grants. Ten have used all their allotment of \$900. Most requested funding for Programming/CE (\$7,358.93), next was legal services (\$2,700.00), and IT/Tech Support (\$750.00). [Submission Form](#). As a reminder, this is currently available for the WPLC FY, which ends September 2025. So, the deadline to submit receipts is September 19, 2025. Due to uncertainty in library funding, this program may not be available next FY.

Library Association Reimbursement - Annually, WPLC will reimburse member libraries for library association dues up to a certain amount.

<https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/services-and-forms/Reimbursement-form-2025.pdf>

Notary Class at Bridgeport

We are hosting a class for notaries!

Friday, April 25th from 9 am - 1 pm.

Sign up for Copper membership at www.Michigannotaryassociation.org

Use code: BPLib9OFF

Then sign up for the class at the Bridgeport Public Library on April 25th.

There is a \$50 fee for attending. This fee covers 1 year of membership with the Michigan Notary Association and the class on April 25th.

Please reach out to Amber Hughey at a.hughey@bridgeportlibrary.org if you have questions.

Marketing Makeover

There is one more Marketing Makeover webinar on May 8. I shared some takeaways in last week's Weekly Update. I also shared a Social Media Strategy and Posting Cadence handout that Trenton Smiley created. I hope all members will find this helpful.

Class 4-6 session Thursday, May 8 @ 2 pm

May session - [Register Here for the May Session](#)

OverDrive

Holds: I had a hold become available in Libby, and I noticed that it gave me the option to borrow the title AND delete the holds I had in other content groups for the same title! I contacted our technical support at OverDrive, and she confirmed that this was newly rolled out. YEAH!!!! This is so awesome! I am so very hopeful that this will be another step in helping to reduce holds.

SIM USE: The Simultaneous Use section of OverDrive Marketplace has been renamed to Subscriptions, a more familiar term that's consistent with other content offerings. References to Simultaneous Use have been updated to Subscriptions throughout Marketplace, including

searching, purchasing, reporting, billing, and MARC record preferences. You will also see this change in related renewal and expiration emails. Rest assured, this change is in name only—the functionality of the lending model remains the same.

Credit Card Surcharge starting April 15, 2025: As a reminder, a 2.0% surcharge will apply to all credit card payments made to OverDrive starting **April 15, 2025**. OverDrive offers multiple payment options that do not incur any additional charges, including payment by check, direct deposit, ACH, and wire or other transfer. Instructions for these payment methods appear on all invoices. If you already use one of these payment methods, no further action is required. If you send payment by ACH, direct deposit, or wire transfer, you must email remittance details to invoicing@overdrive.com with each payment to ensure payment is appropriately applied to outstanding invoices. If you use a third-party payment service using single-use credit cards or virtual cards, please coordinate with your provider to add the required surcharge to future payments. Once effective, single-use cards that do not include the surcharge cannot be processed. Our Accounting team is available to answer questions, assist with changing your payment method, or provide additional paperwork or instructions to assist with this transition. Please contact us at invoicing@overdrive.com.

BiblioBoard Webinars

After hosting the webinar in March, I reached out to Jim Flury at TLN to see if he could work with Roy, our BiblioBoard rep, to extend the discount to all libraries in Michigan. If you know Jim, he is amazing at doing this, and he did it! Here are two more webinar opportunities to see what BiblioBoard is all about.

TLN has partnered with BiblioBoard <https://biblioboard.com/> to offer statewide, discounted, available-upon-request, pricing on their tools and services. Two webinars have been scheduled. Please use the link below to join the webinar of your choice. Both webinars will be the same, so you need only attend one or the other. One of the webinars will be recorded and its link shared later, for those who are unable to attend.

Tuesday, April 29 at 11:00 a.m. - meet.google.com/gsk-nnkr-eip

Thursday, May 1 at 1:00 p.m. - meet.google.com/jsv-gwso-rpi

Member news:

- **New Directors:** I met with Sharona Rosnick, Millington Library's new Director, on March 6.
- **Briggs District Library, St. Johns Open House:** I attended the Open House at Sara's library on March 4. It was so exciting to see the transformation!
- **Bad Axe Area District Library:** Briynne has also transformed her library! Looking forward to a trip to see the updates!
- **Position Title.** Alison's position title has been changed from Office Manager to Coordinator of Cataloging and Technical Services, and she will update the job description.

[Google Doc Programming Listing](#)

Please add performers and contact information.

Your Library Policies

Reviewing and updating policies is important. Check out these resources if you need guidance.

WPLC: [Resources tab](#)

LOM: [Niche Academy Library Policies](#) If this link does not work, go to the [Continuing Ed](#) page, click on Niche Staff Skills, and then search library policies. [Administrative Resources](#)

MLA: [Policies Webinar](#) This webinar is wonky at the beginning. It appears to start about the 1-minute mark.

ALA: [Library Policies Guidelines](#)

Kent District Library: [KDL Policies](#)

MI Right to Read: [MLA's Intellectual Freedom Tool Kit](#)

Housekeeping Reminders...

Member Directory Just a quick reminder that if your information has changed like email, hours, etc., please let Alison know. [Member Directory](#)