

Item 25-0358: Elimination of The Institute of Museum and Library Services Update

Library Board

Tue, Apr 15, 2025 5:00PM

Margaret Mann (Library Board Member) 25:08

Okay, then that takes us to the President's Report, 25-0358, the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services Update.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 25:22

Yeah. So yeah. Margie thought this would be a good thing to kind of just touch base on this month, since everything was very fresh and new last month, and so nothing really huge to report, except the proposed elimination is still out there. Um, the state of Wisconsin's libraries have kind of collaborated to create a website called [MyWisconsinLibrary.org](https://mywisconsinlibrary.org) (and Wisconsin is spelled out), and that really explains the importance and the role of the Institute of Museum and Library Services to state libraries, state and local libraries, explains the difference between, you know, what does local funding provide? What does state funding provide? And then, what does this federal funding, the IMLS funding provide?

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 26:18

And every state's a little different in how they apply this funding. So, you might—if you follow other library entities on social media, you might find some posts about how some libraries are going to lose Hoopla because of this. We do not use IMLS funding for Hoopla, so you won't see that from us. There may be some libraries in the state that do it, but that it's not a generalized thing you can say about the funding in Wisconsin. And I think that's what makes, I think the proposed elimination of this so frustrating, because the things that it provides are things that are really important for efficiencies of scale.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 27:04

IMLS, those funds, are efficiencies in themselves. They're things that libraries wouldn't be able to do individually. They allow delivery; they allow interlibrary loan service; they allow BadgerLink, those databases that are so important that no libraries would be able to provide those and have as many robust electronic resources without IMLS funding.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 27:33

Technology—some libraries do use hot spots. Professional development, continuing education. There's grants. We do not have any grants currently right now, but grants are another key part of what IMLS provides, and therefore innovation, and they are typically things that then provide other libraries the ability to learn from those grants and be able to do things more efficiently than they would have been able to do without that that additional funding.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 28:07

And then, very importantly, DPI staff—I think all but three—are funded by IMLS funding. So, DPI would be in a very difficult situation to provide the service and uphold the compliance and all of the legal things that when we get to the trustee essentials document, what we'll talk about a little bit more. So, it is—it is a big concern. It is something that is still out there.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 28:38

There are states that have received letters saying their funding's immediately frozen. Wisconsin has not received that letter yet, but there is—there's not necessarily been any good news either since our last meeting.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 28:54

So, this website will help inform you, and also, hopefully, if you are so inclined, give you give you the tools you need to communicate if this is something important to you or to other people, you know that that they should speak up for it.

Margaret Mann (Library Board Member) 29:15

Okay. Thank you. Assuming there are some museums in our area that are probably also impacted by this.

Executive Director Colleen Rortvedt (Library) 29:23

Yes.

Margaret Mann (Library Board Member) 29:23

Right? Okay. All right. Any questions? Got the website, right? Get the information. You know what to do.