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r/Libraries · 23 days ago

LibrarianByTrade



## ALA statement on White House assault on the Institute of Museum and Library Services

<https://www.ala.org/news/2025/03/ala-statement-white-house-assault-institute-museum-and-library-services>

An [executive order](#) issued by the Trump administration on Friday night, March 14, [calls for](#) the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the nation's only federal agency for America's libraries. The following statement was made by the American Library Association:

Americans have loved and relied on public, school and academic libraries for generations. By eliminating the only federal agency dedicated to funding library services, the Trump administration's executive order is cutting off at the knees the most beloved and trusted of American institutions and the staff and services they offer:

- Early literacy development and grade-level reading programs
- Summer reading programs for kids
- High-speed internet access
- Employment assistance for job seekers
- Braille and talking books for people with visual impairments
- Homework and research resources for students and faculty
- Veterans' telehealth spaces equipped with technology and staff support
- STEM programs, simulation equipment and training for workforce development
- Small business support for budding entrepreneurs

To dismiss some 75 committed workers and mission of an agency that advances opportunity and learning is to dismiss the aspirations and everyday needs of millions of Americans. And those who will feel that loss most keenly live in rural communities.

As seedbeds of literacy and innovation, our nation's 125,000 public, school, academic and special libraries deserve more, not less support. Libraries translate 0.003% of the federal budget into programs and services used by more than 1.2 billion people every year.

ALA implores President Trump to reconsider this short-sighted decision. We encourage U.S. Congress members, Senators and decision makers at every level of government to visit the libraries that serve their constituents and urge the White House to spare the modest federal funding for America's libraries. And we call on all Americans who value reading, learning, and enrichment to reach out to their elected leaders and [Show Up For Our Libraries](#) at library and school meetings, town halls, and everywhere decisions are made about libraries.

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grants to individual library entities.

\*\*EDIT\*\* to add this info from [EveryLibrary.org](#), which has a landing page now for [SaveIMLS.org](#). You can take action and learn the latest news and information about the fight for the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

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mikebloonsnorton · 23d ago

What the fork is wrong with these people? Libraries are a common good. They're for all of us.

409 Reply Share

DiceMadeOfCheese · 23d ago  
Top 1% Commenter

They're for all of us.

That's why people who aren't for all of us hate them so much.

458 Reply Share

1 more reply

pickledspongefish · 23d ago · Edited 23d ago

They want their people as illiterate and ignorant as possible. It's calculated and horrifying.

111 Reply Share

4 more replies

topazchip · 23d ago

Because the current regime does not believe in/despises any part of "public good" or "us".

87 Reply Share

4 more replies

claraak · 23d ago · Edited 23d ago

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from society.

257 Reply Share ...



stuffwiththing · 23d ago

An educated public is feared by Conservatives.

167 Reply Share ...

6 more replies



LibrarianByTrade OP · 23d ago

If you're so inclined, consider emailing your governor and congress people. Here is some proposed text from Every Library:

I am writing to you today to express my support for federal library funding and stand against President Trump's Executive Order against the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

I believe the IMLS provides important support for the services and sustainability of local libraries and museums. IMLS grants bridge funding gaps in local libraries and museums across the country, allowing those institutions to better serve their communities.

IMLS funds target each community's unique needs, such as improving internet access to rural areas, supporting tribal libraries, ensuring libraries can offer interlibrary loan, programs for Veterans, businesses, and entrepreneurs and so much more.

I would love to see you support funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services to ensure these programs can continue to benefit communities across the country.

114 Reply Share ...

2 more replies



AllFlowersDie · 23d ago

Friends, I'm scared for you but are here with you. Sending love from Australian libraries.

155 Reply Share ...



Lrxst · 23d ago

Thank you from Michigan, where the IMLS dollars are used to fund our state-wide InterLibrary loan system, and research database purchases.

65 Reply Share ...

3 more replies



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50 Reply Share ...

1 more reply

 **badgerbooks** · 23d ago

For those who want some data to use when calling their reps, see the IMLS website

<http://www.imls.gov/find-funding/funding-opportunities/grants-to-states>

Go to your state's page and you can see some examples of grant projects, how much money was allotted to the state, what the state's 5 year plan is, and the 5 year evaluation. Depending on your state, the docs may be beefier than other's. Tennessee received \$3.5 B/yr from 2020 to 2024. The 5 year plan is 23 pages and the 5 year eval is 42 pages. Utah, where my sister lives, received \$2.1 B/yr. Their 5 year plan is 45 pages and the 5 year eval is 74 pages.

And not to be alarmist, but download those documents ASAP and save the state page as a PDF. Too many websites are getting scrubbed.

EDIT: Also see the 5 Calls website and app <https://5calls.org/> for how to contact your reps

40 Reply Share ...

 **RedRider1138** · 23d ago

This actively makes America NOT great. Education and knowledge fuel innovation and improvement for all of us!

37 Reply Share ...

1 more reply

 **RealLifeHermione** · 23d ago

I think Ben Franklin founded the first public library in America, so he's going in the opposite direction of our founding fathers

33 Reply Share ...

1 more reply

 **InfiniteGrant** · 23d ago

It might not do much... but [check out this petition.](#)

28 Reply Share ...

 **pcsweeney** · 23d ago

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**nzfriend33** · 23d ago

Seventy. Five. People.

He's just malicious and cruel.

↑ 20 ↓ Reply Share ...

⊕ 3 more replies



**Known\_Juggernaut3625** · 23d ago

The 1% have no use for libraries or the people they serve. The billionaire set prefer that you stay home, glued to facebook and ordering crap off amazon.

Hopefully states and municipalities will keep libraries running, likely reduced, but open.

↑ 21 ↓ Reply Share ...



**alleecmo** · 23d ago

This snippet from *The Time Machine* with Guy Pierce & Orlando Jones kinda encapsulates how this additional assault on public libraries feels. We have had public libraries for almost 300 years (Benjamin Franklin started his in 1731, before we were even a damn nation). This administration is actively trying to destroy them all, along with So. Much. Else., in less than ONE.

<https://youtu.be/0CWZ7ywyDnA?si=L8iMkaeHBQldtQZO>

↑ 21 ↓ Reply Share ...



**bubbamike1** · 23d ago

Have you heard Trump read? What grade level do you think he reads at? Except for Hitler's speeches I doubt he has ever read a book.

↑ 16 ↓ Reply Share ...

⊕ 1 more reply



**IngenuityPositive123** · 23d ago

The only reason Trump would back down on this is if one of his billionaire buddies is opposed to it. That's what happened with the auto industry tariffs, a bunch of super-rich auto CEOs demanded an emergency meeting and Trump was forced to postpone those tariffs. Do we have rich billionaire CEOs in the library world?

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democracy.

Needless to say, not surprised that this is happening.

My heart goes out to all US library workers. I don't envy what you're currently dealing with. ❤️

↑ 14 ↓ Reply Share ...

 **Old\_Chemical\_5899** · 23d ago

Goddammit we are so fucked.

↑ 11 ↓ Reply Share ...

 **jagrrenagain** · 23d ago

Because rich people can buy their own books and don't want to rub shoulders with the common man.

↑ 8 ↓ Reply Share ...

 **TotalLibrarian3** · 23d ago

This attack has been difficult between me (who works in a library) and family (who support Trump and DOGE)

↑ 8 ↓ Reply Share ...

 **Visible\_While1643** · 23d ago

They want to tear it all down and then privatize everything.

↑ 7 ↓ Reply Share ...

 **Dogtimeletsgoo** · 23d ago

I wonder if we can use the libraries as hubs for all the different groups being impacted by the loser fascists, and start just... idk, organizing. Mutual aids, group mobilizing to elected official offices, public outreach, protests, informative flyers, etc?

This administration is pissing off so many people at once, if we can get everyone working together maybe we can push back

⊖ ↑ 6 ↓ Reply Share ...

 **cinnaminni\_monster** · 23d ago

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I find that I just have conversations with people in a casual manner, and it seems to go well enough. It's more effective than people realize, I think. My husband also demystifies at his work by explaining to coworkers what libraries have and do fairly often. I'm transparent all the time when I can be. I'm not afraid to tell patrons "I also wish we could do x, y, z but we lack funding or staffing. I hope we can continue to grow and offer more." I also recognize that I feel safe enough to have these conversations, and my system does not seem to have a negative relationship with the community.

Libraries are still largely mysterious to patrons imo. One thing I would love to see is a Citizens Academy approach to libraries, where patrons are invited into a multi-part lecture/tour series. Where we would take the time to explain why we make decisions we do, what we offer, why we offer, how we receive funding, to whatever degree a system is willing to give information. We can't expect people to support what they don't know/understand when such a volatile system has been put in place to hate the unknown.

And on a personal level, I plan on introducing mutual aid/information at a public craft club I'm starting. As well as making zines to leave around public places with easy to understand information.

An approach I'm also going to attempt is: Where will you go to get -insert free service- if we are wiped out? 🤖 I would say this question shouldn't be posed as a "gotcha" or elitist remark, tho. It needs to be asked with positive intentions and a willingness to have a discussion, not a debate.

A final note: Nationally and statewide, yes, it's important to show library support. But you really, really need to keep up on local support as well. That's where a lot of insidious things start, especially Moms for Liberty type groups. Libraries are different across the board but my system would be most impacted on a county-level, imo.

↑ 10 ↓ 🗨 Reply ➦ Share ...



**NarwhalsJuly** · 23d ago

My 83-year-old aunt is blind and the Talking Books program through the IMLS is vital for her, I can't imagine her life without it. I don't understand if it would be impacted yet but it seems likely?

⊖ ↑ 6 ↓ 🗨 Reply ➦ Share ...



**LibrarianByTrade** OP · 22d ago

Most likely. In my state the Talking Book and Braille Library definitely receives some of their funding through IMLS grants funneled through the State Library.

You can check here where the IMLS grants go in your state: <http://www.ims.gov/fund-funding/funding-opportunities/grants-to-states>

↑ 3 ↓ 🗨 Reply ➦ Share ...



**firehawk12** · 22d ago

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5 [Reply](#) [Share](#) ...



**OhimeSamaGamer** · 23d ago

This includes DoD libraries too?? Or is our funding different?

4 [Reply](#) [Share](#) ...



**Alcohol\_Intolerant** · 23d ago

[Top 1% Commenter](#)

IMLS is primarily a grant provider. They generally distribute their money to state agencies or equivalents. The general amount is by population, but can fluctuate based on need. You likely see their funds with the most impact if you live on tribal land, are deaf, are blind, or live in a rural area.

That said, they provide the funding for so many grants every year that most every library has had some kind of financial assistance from them at one point or another. (i.e. say you got a humanities grant from your state. That grant was likely from them, but then passed through the state.)

7 [Reply](#) [Share](#) ...



**LegendaryIsis** · 23d ago

I'm an academic librarian, and there are nonstop conversations around me about how we don't know what will happen to federal funding for education.

I've been saying that republicans want to keep the people uneducated so they can't think for themselves.

This has furthered what I've been saying. So, so sad.

4 [Reply](#) [Share](#) ...



**Maleficent\_Hand\_4031** · 22d ago · Edited 21d ago

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emphasize that) and it is really surprising to me to see the importance of IMLS funding to academic libraries and museums not specifically mentioned through examples (outside of one) as they do with public library services.

I know that ALA does realistically focus more on public libraries in practice, but it was jarring to read this, especially as someone who is regularly experiencing cuts to library services due to issues in higher education. There are a bajillion services and organizations outside of the sphere of public libraries that are going to be affected by this, and...idk, it bothers me I guess to not see that really mentioned.

I know that this isn't the main point of this issue, and I'm in no way trying to be divisive, but when you are trying to show the larger community the importance of libraries and museums, it feels strange to mostly only focus on public libraries.

Anyway, just something I was thinking about.

  4   Reply  Share ...



**LibrarianByTrade** OP · 22d ago

I get what you're saying. I think when most of the general public thinks about libraries, if they think about us at all, are picturing their local public library. ALA may have just wanted to keep the initial statement as clear and concise as possible.

They should branch out and talk about other libraries, as IMLS funding does to to colleges/universities, K-12, Tribal libraries, etc. I'm hoping the myriad library organizations out there, like the Association of College and Research Libraries, start chiming in as well.

 1   Reply  Share ...



**Book\_Nerd\_1980** · 22d ago

The cruelty is the point

 3   Reply  Share ...



**ReeseWitoutherspoon** · 22d ago

The ALA's statement doesn't mention it, but IMLS is also the primary funding source for Tribal libraries. Between \$5-6 million and year, so not a lot compared to the \$160 million to libraries overall, but still. While the loss of the IMLS will heavily impact all libraries, it will debilitate those on reservations.

 3   Reply  Share ...



**SingingCookies** · 21d ago

Unfortunately, while the orange man himself may be short sighted, this decision is not. They're playing the long game of dismantling and destabilizing communities.

 2   Reply  Share ...

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It feels like US was bought by a private equity company which tries to cut any expenses which don't bring an immediate profit. Long term profits are not important for these oligarchs who want their billions NOW!!! Those 4.5 trillions in tax cuts are not going to be paid by themselves

 2   Reply  Share ...

 **juliaaintnofolia** · 23d ago

This is a good article that explains what statute requires the IMLS to do ([https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/imls\\_shall\\_may\\_language](https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/imls_shall_may_language)). Try not to become emotional over fear mongering articles like this that lie about what is in the executive order. The IMLS is still able to what is required by statutes (this is clear in the language of the executive order), and it is not being "eliminated" as the ALA claims.

 1   Reply  Share ...

 **hayleii** · 22d ago

i was literally submitting my library masters application today... should i not anymore? what is the likelihood that this is not going to get reversed?

 1   Reply  Share ...

 **machalynnn** · 22d ago

How can we support libraries?

 1   Reply  Share ...

 **Kswatgirl** · 22d ago

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game of cards; its a location for serious to meet with specialists that will assist them with their taxes; it's a study room used for virtual meetings and interviews; and yes, it's those epic moments when a kiddo comes in and totally validates the book you recommended to them.

Hindsight to my MLIS program:

1. there should have been a MUCH heavier (any) focus on Social Work with training on de-escalating a mental health crisis (to the point that other patrons are safe), dealing with young kids "dropped off" that don't know their parents last name or contact information, having a tool kit of services in your back pocket for patrons that come in with nothing, from nowhere, and don't know where to start.
2. Entomology. Is that fly poo? Roach poo? Bed bugs? What critters are hitching a ride into the library. How often should those kids toys be disinfected and the board books thrown away?
3. Public libraries: welcoming kids without becoming a defacto daycare. Best practices in libraries that have worked
4. Book challenges-keep you SOP up to date and follow it.

So much. Best job and hardest job of my life.

1 Reply Share ...



**Grapple\_Shmack** · 20d ago

Continuing to follow the nazi playbook I see.

1 Reply Share ...



**reddituser6835** · 17d ago

Someone should probably tell trump that the poors won't have access to "The Art of the Deal"

1 Reply Share ...

**[deleted]** · 23d ago

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r/Library • 19 days ago

### The Institute of Museum and Library Services to be completely shut down and dismantled tomorrow - 3/19

6.8K upvotes · 98 comments



r/Libraries • 4 days ago

### EveryLibrary: DOGE'd IMLS is terminating library (and museum) grants as of yesterday. State Formula Grants are also being terminated.

686 upvotes · 71 comments

r/Libraries • 24 days ago

### Executive Order calling for the elimination of IMLS

823 upvotes · 92 comments



r/politics • 18 days ago

### What's happening with the Institute of Museum and Library Services after Trump's executive order

54 upvotes · 10 comments



r/Libraries • 5 mo. ago

### Take care out there: "Librarians Face a Crisis of Violence and Abuse"

402 upvotes · 58 comments



r/Libraries • 5 mo. ago

### Librarians Face a Crisis of Violence and Abuse

431 upvotes · 33 comments

r/Libraries • 2 mo. ago

### Anyone else surprised by the amount of drama at libraries?

543 upvotes · 114 comments

r/Libraries • 4 mo. ago

### Are libraries everywhere in the US seeing an increase in disturbances?

224 upvotes · 44 comments

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publish...

53 upvotes · 3 comments

r/Archaeology · 4 days ago

### NEH and IMLS



19 upvotes · 2 comments

r/Libraries · 2 mo. ago

### Arkansas State Library Board refuses to reject American Library Association, withhold funds



382 upvotes · 8 comments

r/Libraries · 2 mo. ago

### Will US libraries survive the Trump era?

343 upvotes · 163 comments

r/oregon · 11 days ago

### Cuts/Dissolvement to IMLS Will Impact Rural Oregon Libraries

19 upvotes · 3 comments

r/Libraries · 3 mo. ago

### Question for Library Directors

49 upvotes · 36 comments

r/uspolitics · 22 days ago

### ALA statement on White House assault on the Institute of Museum and Library Services

7 upvotes · 2 comments

r/Libraries · 2 mo. ago

### Texas House bill - American Library Association.

93 upvotes · 19 comments

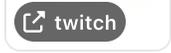
r/librarians · 2 yr. ago

### The Freedom to Read Statement: Is the written word truly "the natural medium for the new idea?"

4 upvotes · 1 comment

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345 upvotes · 168 comments

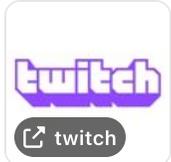
r/leagueoflegends · 11 yr. ago

IMLS deserves to be a "Community leader" (desc inside)

45 upvotes · 121 comments

r/leagueoflegends · 6 yr. ago

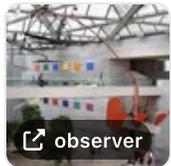
LS aka Lost Sight - Clip of imls - Twitch Clips



1 upvote · 1 comment

r/politics · 18 days ago

Trump's Latest Executive Order Eliminates the Institute of Museum and Library Services



6K upvotes · 650 comments

r/Libraries · 6 days ago

Institute of Museum and Library Services employees on leave as of yesterday, today "SOS IMLS" in the windows of their office

398 upvotes · 11 comments

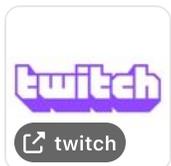
r/nashville · 6 days ago

Over \$4.6 million in grants to Tennessee libraries and museums effected by DOGE cuts to The Institute of Libraries and Museums.

210 upvotes · 26 comments

r/leagueoflegends · 6 yr. ago

LS checks out BBQ in Challenger Korea Summer standings - Clip of imls - Twitch Clips



209 upvotes · 91 comments

r/leagueoflegends · 8 yr. ago

Challenger Series coach Nick "imls" De Cesare shamelessly rigs a one vs one battle, ruining the integrity of his stream

1.5K upvotes · 287 comments



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