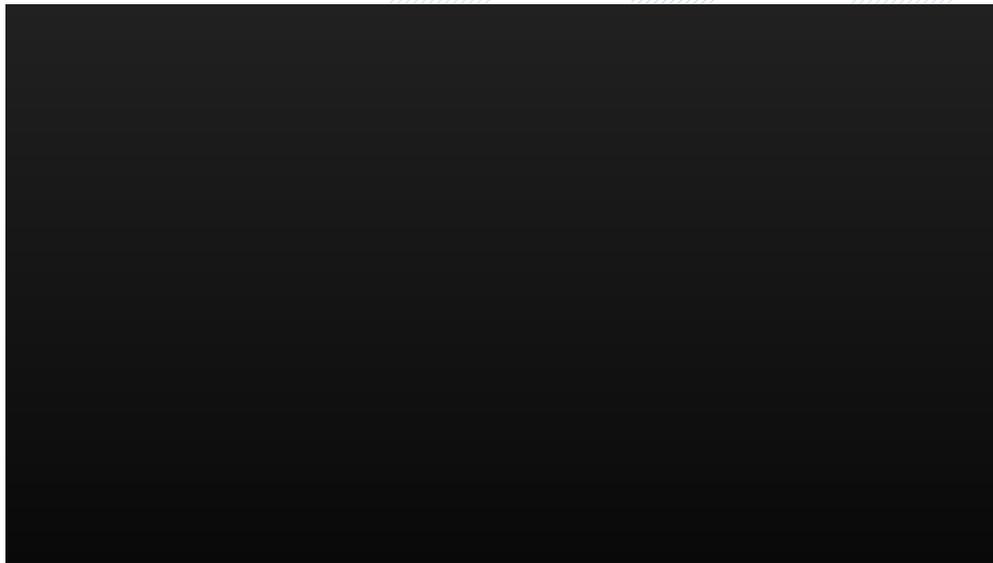


NATIONAL POLITICS

Rock Island Public Library celebrates National Library Week amid federal cuts

Just last week, the Trump administration put nearly all employees at the Institute of Museum and Library Services on administrative leave.



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ROCK ISLAND, Ill. — This week is the 67th annual [National Library Week](#), sponsored by the American Library Association.

However, recent cuts to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are making celebrations difficult for some local libraries.

In [an executive order last month](#), President Donald Trump listed the institute among seven agencies to be dismantled “to the maximum extent of the law.” Trump has also installed a new acting director, Keith Sonderling.

IMLS was established in 1996 and hands out thousands of grants worth hundreds of millions of dollars to public libraries across the country. Nearly all IMLS employees were put on administrative leave last week by the Trump administration.

Libraries close to home could soon feel the impacts of these federal cuts.

“While local libraries are locally funded by tax dollars, we definitely receive benefits and special programs from that IMLS funding,” said Lisa Lockheart, the Rock Island Public Library marketing manager.

Lockheart said the IMLS grants fund many of the library’s youth and teen programs, as well as the statewide library databases.

“There are funds for inter-library delivery ... And that’s a great way where we share resources and are able to extend our local tax dollars to that sharing of resources,” she said.

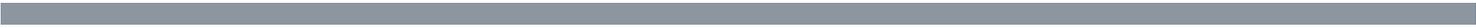
The Illinois State Library is fully funded through September 2025, said Lockheart, but she doesn’t know what libraries will do when those funds run out.

Despite the uncertainty, Lockheart said Rock Island’s libraries are hosting events all week to celebrate National Library Week.

According to the [Rock Island Library’s website](#), special days this week include:

- **Monday, April 7:** [Right to Read Day](#), a day for readers, advocates and library lovers to take action to protect, defend and celebrate the right to read.
- **Tuesday, April 8:** [National Library Workers Day](#), a day for library staff, users and administrators to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.
- **Wednesday, April 9:** [National Library Outreach Day](#) (formerly National Bookmobile Day), a day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.
- **Thursday, April 10:** Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to rally advocates to support libraries.

On Wednesday, April 9, Rock Island’s [Mobile Library2Go](#) is hosting a special pop-up at Longview Park from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. and Hodge Park from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.



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