

Impact of IMLS Defunding

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Daria Bossman, State Librarian, South Dakota

The defunding or elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services would have a devastating impact on library services statewide provided by the South Dakota State Library. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (also known as IMLS) currently is appropriated through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Congress appropriates \$186 million annually for a number of scholarships, literacy research and direct support to the states and local public library systems. The "Grants to States" program is a specific block grant appropriated to each state and territory based on population. It is both popular and effective in meeting the specific and priority local needs of each state. States must submit a 5-Year Plan which is based on federal guidelines and IMLS priorities with input from the stakeholders of that particular state's users. Projects identified and prioritized are monitored and evaluated every year and in a 5-Year report submitted to IMLS.

South Dakota received an average of \$993,000 per year over the past five years. In Grant Year 2016 the State Library received just over one million dollars. So far this year we have received 18% less than the previous year. South Dakota does not award sub-grants to our public libraries as sub-recipients. Rather, our federal dollars are put to good use supporting most of the Braille and Talking Book Library program (salaries of six staff), providing inter-library loan support statewide and training opportunities for librarians. Annual training opportunities such as the *Public Library Institute*, now in its 30th year equip local lay-librarians who do not hold college or advanced library degrees. This four year program is held at one of our state universities the first week of June every year and has proved to be highly successful giving nonprofessional, often part-time local librarians opportunities to apply modern technology and trends to meet their community needs. Another popular training focuses on the unique needs of schools. This is the *School Library Boot Camp* for administrators, teachers and school librarians (certified or not). Nearly one-half (46%) of our annual federal dollars go to purchase electronic databases which can be accessed statewide both by individuals (with a SDSL e-card) and in local library facility.

It has been several decades since patrons accessed magazine/journal articles using the old *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature Index* or students used the local set of *World Book Encyclopedia*. Gone are the days of backrooms or basements full of cardboard periodical boxes. Today, students research using their laptop computers and accessing via the Internet subject-specific databases typing in key-word searches to obtain vetted full-text articles, videos, graphics etc. changing the language or the reading levels to suite their individual needs or tailored around an instructor's assignment or class project. While the public libraries enjoy and use the online access available today, the South Dakota schools would be most negatively impacted if our current level of database access was no longer provided. Directors at our largest public libraries and superintendents at several of our largest school districts have all told me in recent years the same scenario. Though very expensive purchased individually, these larger schools and municipalities could subscribe to "a few, but certainly not the breadth or depth of online resources" now provided by the State Library with federal funds. As other states are discovering, when statewide online research resources are not provided, the larger libraries including the larger universities can fend for themselves. However, it is the rural populations and the smaller communities including our reservations which would suffer the greatest loss. These students left without vetted reliable (and safe) resources to access will not be "college, career and life ready," and they will be at a distinct disadvantage when enrolling in secondary educational programs.

Well into the 21st century, retirees or mechanics come to their local public library (or from home/office) to access online databases filled with current news articles or to download proprietary automobile information. Local historians or families search *Ancestry* for their family lineage. Students continue their research started at school or use the computers to access social media sites. Blind patrons register for reader's advisory services through the State Library BTB program and an unemployed laborer applies for unemployment benefits while completing an application for a new position...all from the same library computers with the assistance of patient, friendly and well-trained staff. Lower middle income and those working poor cannot afford computers or if they do have one,

they cannot afford the monthly Wi-Fi fees. The Library's computers (and all the resources) provided offer them access to information, employment, and other opportunities to grow and enrich their lives. The State Library's mission is to support and train the local public libraries and their staff. These libraries are often located in poor or rural communities struggling to keep their doors open. Nowhere is this work more important than in a primarily rural state such as South Dakota.

Many if not most of these services would be discontinued unless the State was willing to pick up the costs. This would include the Courier service we provide to assist local libraries with interlibrary loan and reduce their postal expenses as we encourage communities to share their materials and resources with other South Dakotans.

Every January each state submits to the federal agency, the IMLS 'State Program Report,' the SPR. This past year we submitted a report on how we expended our federal dollars over the past two grant years. We are currently in GY16.

The following is a breakout of how our federal dollars were spent in GY15:

Braille and Talking Book Library Program: \$386,907 (41%)

Children and Youth Services: \$6,329 (see Library training)

Inter-Library Loan Services and Support: \$73,787 (Less than 8%)

Online Databases (statewide): \$436,570 (46%)

Library Training: \$11,605 (When combined with Children and Youth services, less than 2%)

Digital and Reference Services: \$40,981 (Less than 5%)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services also offers opportunities for groups to apply for scholarship funds for citizens to obtain school media endorsements or masters level library education. In 2012 South Dakota was part of a four-state consortium receiving over \$800,000 in scholarship funding (*Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant*). South Dakota benefited with 19 of our citizens receiving degrees, twelve with a Masters of Library and Information Science. Today all are gainfully employed in the field in our state. Recently South Dakota joined with Wyoming and North Dakota to submit to IMLS for a planning grant to study the impact of school librarian retirements within the next decade and assess the workforce development and educational opportunities needed to fill those gaps. Other IMLS scholarships may assist future South Dakotans obtaining advanced library degrees. IMLS also provides Basic and Enhancement Native American grants for the ongoing support of tribes or tribal college libraries. These unique, but desperately underfunded libraries also serve as "public" libraries for their reservation residents. All of our South Dakota tribes have received the Basic grant (\$6,000) in recent years and depend on this support to keep their doors open.

For Additional Information:

South Dakota State Profile- <https://www.ims.gov/grants/grants-state/state-profiles/south-dakota>

2017 LSTA Evaluation- <http://library.sd.gov/SDSL/publications/DOC/RPT-LSTAevaluation2017.pdf>

Current LSTA 5-Year Plan- <http://library.sd.gov/SDSL/publications/DOC/PLN-LSTA5yr-20132017.pdf>

IMLS/LSTA Purposes and Priorities - <https://www.ims.gov/grants/grants-state/purposes-and-priorities-lsta>