Indiana Library Federation

Support your Indiana libraries by getting involved in our advocacy. Learn more at www.ilfonline.org
The Indiana Library Federation actively advocates for...

Expanded broadband
One in six Hoosiers lives in an area without access to broadband. Many more cannot afford the type of broadband available in their community. Access to high-speed internet is critical for student success, for skilling up in employment through online training or distance education, for finding and applying for jobs, for completing government transactions and for participating in the modern economy. *ILF advocates for initiatives that provide additional broadband coverage for residents and communities, including schools and libraries.*

Lifelong learning
Indiana’s libraries provide critical resources to residents throughout their lives. Parents and early learners participate in parent groups, Read Alouds, storytime and STEM activities. Libraries prepare students of all ages to ask questions, identify credible sources, broaden perspectives and make informed decisions. People increase knowledge and skills through computer classes, one-on-one instruction and self-directed learning. The Adult Literacy Study¹ illustrated the critical need for increased adult literacy programming because low literacy is a significant barrier to employment. *ILF actively advocates for lifelong learning initiatives to increase literacy, educational attainment and workforce development.*

School libraries and certified librarians in state-funded K-12 education
The academic success of students corresponds with the presence of an effective school library program, led by a certified librarian. The school library supports all learners, including students who need remedial support, are learning English as a second language, and are preparing for college or career. Teacher librarians are trained to help students navigate information and to collaborate with fellow teachers in integrating print and digital resources and in planning instruction. *ILF advocates for schools to develop and maintain effective school library programs with qualified teacher librarians.*

The Indiana Library Federation supports...

Library services
The section of the Indiana Code related to libraries is not keeping pace with the changes in information or communities. *ILF advocates updating the definition of library services in the Indiana Code to reflect how libraries are responsive to changing needs in communities.*

Library service for all
Every Indiana resident should have access to library services. Currently, 36 counties have geographic areas that are unserved by public libraries. *ILF advocates ensuring library service for all Indiana residents.*

Library funding
Funding for school, public and academic libraries is affected by property tax assessments, referenda, definitions of capital expenses, higher education, and many other policies. *ILF advocates stable funding of library services.*

¹ The Indiana General Assembly enacted SEA108 in 2017, requiring the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to study adult literacy. DWD contracted with Indiana Library Federation to complete the study in November 2017.
The Indiana Library Federation supports…

Increased flexibility for schools and local units of government to move funds
The Indiana Code includes limitations for local units of government to move funds from one fund to another. ILF supports careful consideration for a unit to be able to move funds within a local government agency or school district to improve support for libraries.

Merger of the Indiana Historical Bureau into the Indiana State Library
The Indiana Historical Bureau enjoys a working relationship with the Indiana State Library, sharing certain functions and staffing for cost-efficiency. Indiana Library Federation supports the proposed merger to maximize administrative efficiency while preserving the core functions and funding for each.

The Indiana Library Federation will continue to monitor…

Efforts to re-organize local government - Indiana’s libraries continue to steward the mission and taxpayer funds dedicated to libraries. ILF seeks to be part of any possible proposals that might change the governance, funding or oversight of libraries.

Changes to employment and retirement programs that affect librarians.

Indiana Library Federation will continue to build support for state budget priorities, including…

Funding for internet connectivity for libraries and schools in the State Budget
The State Budget includes a line item to reimburse libraries for partial costs of internet connectivity. Indiana’s public libraries and schools provide access to students and residents who live in areas of the state without access to broadband and to those who cannot afford it. Recognizing the importance of internet connectivity to education, workforce development, e-government, commerce and quality of life, the Indiana General Assembly funded part of the needed increase during the 2017 session.

Funding for INSPIRE
INSPIRE is a cost-effective online collection that provides access to academic resources, testing and career center, teaching books for early literacy and Rosetta Stone. Managed by the Indiana State Library, INSPIRE has been supported by the Indiana General Assembly through Build Indiana Funds, matched by federal funds, and others sources since 1998.

Did you know?
One of the most frequently circulated items by libraries in areas without broadband coverage is a mobile hotspot.

Library directors in areas with no broadband tell stories of people sitting in cars or just outside the library to access the internet through the wi-fi to complete a job application, homework or e-government service.
Great Things are Happening in Indiana Libraries

The Jasper County Public Library distributed nearly 3500 Digital Access Cards to school students in their service area in 2017, providing students access to library databases and eBook resources.

The Allen County Public Library is equipped to combat the opioid epidemic. As communities witness a dramatic rise in drug use and even overdoses, the Allen County library received 75 kits of naloxone, which reverses the life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose.

A Free Legal Aid Clinic was held at library the Greensbury-Decatur County Public Library. The Legal Aid Clinic and Pro Bono Program utilizes local volunteer attorneys, offering free legal consultations to low-income individuals who might not otherwise be able to afford the counsel of an attorney.

The Bartholomew County Community Literacy Task Force and the Bartholomew County Public Library are joined forces to re-start the Book Express program, which sends a bus into low-income areas of Columbus where preschool children receive free books.

Indiana Library Federation provides

Member services – facilitated networking; mentoring program; scholarship program; recognition awards; technical assistance; and leadership development.

Professional Development and Conferencing – high quality content and speakers; access to authors; and continuing education units.

Advocacy – advancing Indiana's libraries and librarianship through advocacy and legislative efforts.

Programs and Special projects – programs that encourage reading, literacy and community engagement; two premier book awards designed and voted by students and adults; special projects and collaborations.

Our approach to advocacy

• Indiana Library Federation is a statewide nonprofit association that leads, educates and advocates to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.
• Indiana Library Federation is nonpartisan and reflects the core values of the library field, including learning, freedom of ideas and civil discourse.

How to get involved

• Attend a Third House session or Meet Your Legislator event
• Share your library story
• Support your library
• Visit www.ilfonline.org and sign up for our newsletter.

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