The Indiana Library Federation actively advocates for...

Internet connectivity for libraries and schools
The State Budget includes a line item to reimburse libraries for partial costs of internet connectivity. Indiana’s public libraries and schools provide access for students and residents who live in areas of the state without access to broadband and to those who cannot afford it.

An increase to $5.5 million for internet connectivity in the State’s biennial budget for libraries would benefit Hoosiers in library internet connectivity to best practice standards based on the population, bandwidth and usage. Recognizing the limitations of the State budget, Indiana Library Federation advocates a phased approach to $5.5 million to achieve needed internet connectivity for libraries.

Stable funding for INSPIRE
INSPIRE is supported by the Indiana General Assembly through Build Indiana Funds and other sources and is managed by the Indiana State Library. The INSPIRE databases are a demonstrated cost-effective resource used by schools, libraries and the public to access academic resources, testing and career center, teaching books for early literacy, and Rosetta Stone.

Due to efficiencies and a contract that locked in the cost for three years, a stable request for funding of INSPIRE will maintain these important databases. Indiana Library Federation advocates for continued, stable funding support for INSPIRE databases used by schools, libraries, colleges, universities and residents.

School libraries and certified librarians in state-funded K-12 education
The academic success of students is strongly correlated with the presence of an effective school library program, led by a certified librarian. In 2017, Indiana is preparing to meet requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, which replaced No Child Left Behind legislation). The ESSA includes provisions and funding for effective school library programs, including a cost-effective measure for school districts to utilize the school librarian to provide professional development and digital resource integration for faculty and classrooms.

ILF advocates for schools to develop or maintain effective school library programs, utilizing available state and federal resources.

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

**Expanded broadband coverage to increase access, affordability and capacity for communities**

One in six Hoosiers lives in an area without access to broadband. Many more cannot afford the type of broadband available in their community. *ILF joins with others to support expanded broadband throughout Indiana.*

**Pre-K and adult education initiatives**

Public libraries provide critical resources to parents and early learners through parent groups, Read Aloud lists, story time, collaborations with child care and pre-K centers. *The pre-K pilot programs should be adapted and expanded so that more low-income and at-risk children have access to state-funded pre-K to increase literacy, educational attainment and a stronger workforce.*

**Expansion of library service to unserved areas**

Every Indiana resident should have access to public library services. Currently, 36 counties have unserved areas.

**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.

**The Indiana Library Federation will continue to monitor...**

**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.

**Definition of library services in the Indiana Code** - In a future legislative session and as a part of a larger code revision, ILF will seek to expand the definition of the Indiana Code to reflect the current and prospective programs that many libraries already or will offer to patrons.

**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.

**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.

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**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, limited or spotty 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 or homework.

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Indiana Library Federation provides

**Member services** – facilitated networking; mentoring program; scholarship program; recognition awards; technical assistance; and leadership development through committees, divisions and associations.

**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 is dedicated to advancing libraries 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 advocate**
- Attend a Third House session or Meet Your Legislator event
- Share your library story
- Support your library

**How to get involved**
Visit [www.ilfonline.org](http://www.ilfonline.org) and sign up for our newsletter.

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**Middlebury Community Library** had a man come to the library because he was trying to use Skype for a job interview and could not get it to work. He successfully completed the interview at the library.

Over 41,000 students from 10 school districts receive a Digital Access Card from the **Lake County Public Library**. Students have 24-hour access to e-books, music, e-audiobooks, and over 50 online scholarly subscriptions. Some schools have even paired Head Start parents with digital cards to promote early literacy.

**Sheridan Public Library** has worked with the school corporation to have a teacher or two at the library on e-Learning days to help students that come to the library to use the Internet access.

The **Cannelton Branch of the Tell City-Perry County Public Library** installed wireless connectivity in a way that also allows local law enforcement (located below the library) to access better connectivity, especially after-hours. Community resources are otherwise limited.

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**BECAUSE EVERY INDIANA RESIDENT SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO A PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

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**Indiana Library Federation**
941 E. 86th St., Ste. 260
Indianapolis, IN 46240
www.ilfonline.org or 317-257-2040

**Staff**
David Cochran, Finance Manager
Tisa Davis, Communications Manager
Lucinda Nord, Executive Director
Brittany Snow, Special Projects
Megan Zanto, Conference Manager