

102nd Illinois General Assembly

| 2022 Spring Session |

FUND LIBRARIES

Fully fund current fiscal year 2022 appropriations for the Illinois Secretary of State's grant programs, equalization grants, and per capita grants for public libraries, school libraries, and library systems. Maintain funding at this level in the fiscal year 2023 budget, to enable libraries to keep pace with increased expenses they continue to incur due to the minimum wage increase. Approve appropriations for the Illinois State Library and higher education institutions including state university and community college academic libraries for the benefit of students, their families, and our communities.

BROADBAND FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Illinois public K-12 schools may receive from the state high-speed broadband through the Illinois Century Network, via the Connect Illinois program. We propose to extend this offering to public libraries, with an initial focus on those in rural communities and high-need communities. Public libraries are a primary resource for continuing education, legal research, job applications, and much more for the residents of Illinois. Ultimately, every public library in Illinois would have access to high-quality broadband access, regardless of their location within the state.

REASONABLE E-BOOK PRICING FOR LIBRARIES

The demand for e-books and digital audiobooks in our communities continues to grow, but libraries face two major challenges impeding our ability to make these resources available: affordability and availability. We seek legislation to require publishers that license e-books and digital audiobooks to the public to also offer those e-books and digital audiobooks to libraries on "reasonable" terms. The legislation would prohibit harmful practices that discriminate against libraries and harm library patrons. This effort is in tandem with national initiatives.



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117th U.S. Congress

| Second Session |

FUND LIBRARIES

- Institute of Museum and Library Services administers the Library Services and Technology Act, with priority on services and technology for underserved communities
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy program, with priority on funding for underserved, tribal, and/or high-need school libraries through the Department of Education
- Library of Congress, including the National Library Service for the Blind & Print Disabled
- Federal Depository Library Program and the Government Publishing Office

COPYRIGHT, LICENSING, AND COMPETITION

Libraries rely on balanced and flexible copyright policy to enable vital library services. We support a modern copyright system with effective user rights and limitations and exceptions to copyright. Additionally, libraries rely on fair licenses and market practices to provide access to digital content such as e-books.

- E-books and digital content: Prevent unfair and anti-competitive practices that limit libraries' ability to meet their users' reading and information needs.
- Copyright Office: Preserve the Librarian of Congress' authority to manage and oversee the Copyright Office.

INTERNET ACCESS AND DIGITAL INCLUSION

To promote digital equity and enable modern library services, libraries must be able to serve their users with fast and affordable broadband, technology access, and digital skills training. We support continued funding and improved outreach and technical assistance for the E-rate program, funding for libraries through the Emergency Connectivity Fund, Digital Equity Act, and other legislative possibilities, and the restoration of net neutrality protections.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND SERVICES

Libraries provide access to government information and services in communities across the country. We support policies that assist libraries in providing no-fee permanent public access to government information and equitable access to government services, including modernizing the Federal Depository Library Program and ensuring public access to publicly funded research and data.

**ILLINOIS
LIBRARIES
TRANSFORM[®]**