



Illinois Library Association



- The ILA's annual conference took place in Rosemont from October 15th to 17th. The enthusiasm from the speakers, presenters, vendors, and attendees was inspiring. While a lot of effort goes into organizing this conference, all the learning experiences and connections make it worthwhile. The next ILA conference will be held in Peoria in October 2026.
- Our Legislative meetups for O'Fallon and Mt. Vernon will be held on November 18th. Trustees and Librarians are welcome to join for a worthwhile few hours of advocacy with our legislative leaders. More information is [here](#).
- The Board voted to approve the 2026 ILA Legislative Agenda as proposed by the Public Policy Committee (PPC):
 - **Increase Library System Area & Per Capita Grants + Public Per Capita & School District Grants by 20%.** PPC received a proposal to increase the grants due to the past five years of inflation. As noted in the proposal, "without an inflation adjustment, these vital funding mechanisms lose value over time, impacting library operations and services." PPC recommended a 20% increase to the grant, as well as a 20% increase to library system area and per capita grant.
 - **Require Public Library Trustee Training.** The legislative proposal submitted requires public library trustees to undergo training each year. The PPC found this to be a smart, proactive step for a representative of local government to be best prepared as a trustee. It would set a shared understanding of the role of a public library trustee.
 - **Open Educational Resources funding grant.** CARLI's Open Educational Resources Committee presented its proposal for funding open educational resources (OER) to address rising textbook costs that are creating an equity gap

in higher education. PPC supports the \$3 million proposal to support faculty in creating OER materials. Last year, CARLI received an IMLS grant to pilot its OER initiative with 120 classes currently using their materials across the state, and the impact data is still being gathered. The OER funding would be part of the Secretary of State budget, a recurring \$3 million grant, and it would be available to all schools in higher education per ILLINET.

- **Making eBooks Equitable & Accessible.** The cost of eBooks to Illinois libraries is an ongoing and growing concern as libraries respond to user demand. PPC recommends taking legislative action to help libraries address the cost and limited terms of e-content.

For more ILA updates, please see the [ILA website](#).

Submitted by Amy Byers, ILA Immediate Past-President