

New Budget Good News for Open Access, IMLS

The omnibus spending bill signed into law by President Obama on January 17 has plenty of wrinkles and details, but one of them is a change that expands the number of federal agencies operating under a mandate to make research they fund available to the public after one year.

The 1,500-page document, which outlines plans for spending \$1.1 trillion in 2014, essentially stitches together a disparate group of appropriations bills passed by various committees in Congress and makes a spending plan of them by putting price tags on each. Included is language mandating that research funded by agencies operating under the portion of the bill covering the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education must be made available to the public for free online.

That change is good news for advocates of open access, said Heather Joseph, executive director, Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), as it expands the number of agencies operating under the kind of open access policies that have been in place at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 2008.

The federal government provides about \$60 billion in funding for scientific research annually, and an Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) memo released last February directs that all research funded by agencies with more than \$100 million in research and development spending—essentially all research funded by the government—should be made available to the public no later than 12 months after publication. While it's an important values statement in favor of free access to publicly funded research, that directive carries little legal weight. Only \$29 billion of that funding—dominated by NIH-funded research—was under a strict legal obligation to ensure that that happened. The language in the omnibus bill marks an expansion of the departments required by law to share the research they fund, Joseph told *Hotline*, raising the total of federally funded research required to be made open access by \$2 billion to \$31 billion, or just over half the U.S. research funding budget.

That codification, Joseph pointed out, is important for the future of public access to publicly funded research. "Lawmakers love a precedent. They love to be able to point to an established norm," Joseph said. "The

Interview

CJ Lyons

CJ Lyons is an award-winning, critically acclaimed best-selling author of 21 adult novels and has just published her first young adult (YA) title. Lyons launched the Buy a Book, Make a Difference campaign that's funded 54 scholarships and raised \$75,000 for charities.



You've said your YA voice is more emotionally honest than your adult narrative voice.

Can you tell us more?

Adults read for thrills and light entertainment, not necessarily to be drawn into a character's emotional struggles. But people read YA literature for more than plot.

What was your experience with libraries or librarians as a child?

The best gift I ever received was when my mom convinced the librarian to give me an adult library card, despite the fact that I was only eight.

How do you relieve stress?

My way of dealing with chaos is to write something! It's how I come to grips with the world around me and understand it better.

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Library of the Year

All libraries are good, some are great. *LJ* is looking for role-model libraries to vie for the honor of being the 2014 *Library Journal*/Gale Cengage Library of the Year. To learn more and submit your nominations, visit ow.ly/swYmZ.

Postmark deadline: April 5

Swets has added titles from the **American Society for Microbiology Press** to its SwetsWise ebook catalog.

LIBROS, a consortium of academic libraries in New Mexico, has selected cloud-based library management system **OCLC WorldShare Management Services**.

Duke University Press, Durham, NC, has made its new online e-Duke Books Scholarly Collection available to libraries. The collection includes more than 1,600 titles.

The **Georgia Public Library Service**, Atlanta, began using the Public Information Network for its Electronic Services Catalog. The state-wide shared catalog offers to member libraries access to more than 10.6 million items.

ProQuest's Academic Complete added 20,000 new titles to its ebook collection. Academic Complete is available on the ebrary platform and includes more than 109,000 ebooks.

Thompson-Nicola Regional District Library System, BC, switched to **Innovative Interfaces' Sierra Services Platform** and the **Decision Center** collection management tool. It was previously on the **Evergreen** system.

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more times [this idea] is codified into law, the harder it is to roll back the gains made by open access.”

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) has released a statement decrying the expansion. “Many published journals are used by more than half their subscribers long after 12 months from publication,” the statement reads in part, “including some reporting on research funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and the Institute of Museum and Library Services,

all subject to the new provision in the Consolidated Appropriations Act.”

IMLS SEES RECOVERY AS WELL

The spending bill also saw reason for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to celebrate. The new budget restores some of the IMLS funding eliminated in 2013, when cuts brought about by the federal sequestration cut its budget by five percent.

The overall budget of \$226,860,000 is a \$7 million increase over last year's budget and \$1 million more than the agency requested for FY14.

PA Students Protest Classroom Library Probe

Middle school students in Reading, PA, are protesting what they see as unjust scrutiny of their classroom libraries—using their own voices even as teachers express reservations about speaking out.

In mid-December, teachers at Muhlenberg Middle School were told that they must read every book in their classroom library and classify them before January 21, according to Acacia O' Connor, coordinator of the Kids' Right To Read Project with the New York-based National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC). O'Connor was given a copy of the memo sent to teachers at the middle school, dated December 17, 2013. She said the categories that teachers are to use when analyzing their titles include insensitivity or offensiveness in a cultural, religious, gender, or ethnic manner—determinations that she says are too subjective.

“If you have a mother constrained to cooking in the kitchen, is that gender insensitive?” asked O'Connor. “How are you going to define any of these categories?”

Students appear to agree and created an online petition in December

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that lobbied for the district's school board to put a stop to the request. Launched by Caroline Bartley, an apparent middle school student, the petition has generated more than 2,365 signatures, attracting the attention of writers including young adult luminary Judy Blume, who tweeted about the situation and contacted NCAC, where she is a board member, about the situation, O'Connor told *Hotline*.

Those actions prompted the group to send a letter to the Muhlenberg School Board on January 14, which included as cosigners the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, and Association of American Publishers.

"As organizations concerned with the freedom to read, we are writing to discourage you from implementing any policy that would require teachers to 'red flag' books on the basis of their content," read the letter, which was copied to Donna Albright, Muhlenberg Middle School's principal, among other stakeholders in the district. "Rating or flagging books because of their content reduces complex literary works to a few isolated elements—those that some may find objectionable—rather than viewing the work as a whole. In short, it demands that teachers do the exact opposite of what they instruct students to do in classrooms and on exams—read a work completely and critically."

O'Connor said NCAC has received an acknowledgment from the school board that it had received the letter but little else. Repeated calls to Supt. Joseph Macharola were not returned, and teachers at Muhlenberg Middle School declined to speak to *Hotline*, expressing concern about talking with the media.

This is not the first time Muhlenberg has placed literature on notice. In 2005, the district removed Adam Rapp's *The Buffalo Tree* from the Muhlenberg High School curriculum, although it eventually returned

the title to classrooms and to the school library.

Today, students are unwilling to stay silent. "We refuse to be idle," they said in their petition. "We need

to show them that young adult literature is a life-changing thing for young people to be exposed to. We won't stop until every book on every shelf of our school is saved."

Study Examines Youth Views on Technology in Schools

A new study from Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet & Society examined how adolescents in the United States use technology in schools and how they feel about those experiences.

Although 78 percent of students own cell phones—47 percent of which are smartphones—students still face a wide variety of policies restricting mobile usage in schools, which students find frustrating. Students also express frustration with schools' limited Wi-Fi access, problems with Internet filtering, privacy concerns as more and more schools aim to monitor students' online activity, and a perceived push to embrace tablet computers.

The study, *Youth Perspectives on Tech in Schools: From Mobile Devices to Restrictions and Monitoring*, surveyed 203 students ages 11–19 from across the greater Boston area; Chicago; Greensboro, NC; Los Angeles; and Santa Barbara, CA.

Researchers from the Berkman Center's Youth and Media team queried the students on their use of mobile phones, laptops, and tablets in schools as well as their schools' policies on such devices and their own reactions to those policies.

The goal of the study, the researchers said, was to explore how students are working with technology as educational institutions adopt cloud computing efforts.

According to the survey, smartphone adoption among American students "has increased substantially and mobile access to the Internet is pervasive," the researchers said. "One in four teens are 'cell-mostly' Internet users, who say they mostly go online using their phone and not using some other device such as a desktop or laptop computer."

Some students are allowed to bring their phones to school, although access on these devices to popular websites and phone apps on the school's Wi-Fi connection may be restricted. In addition, social media platforms—everything from Facebook and YouTube to Instagram and Tumblr—are often blocked, which students find disconcerting, even as they come up with their own workarounds. Some respondents described examples in which their schools' restrictions on accessing these sites actually interfered with the completion of their classwork.

According to the study's participants, private schools are more open to having students bring their personal laptops to school than public and charter schools. That raised the issue of the digital divide, with participants from less privileged schools expressing envy that they only have outdated desktop computers for their academic pursuits.

However, some students whose schools are actively attempting to provide tablets express dissatisfaction with that technology, with several participants pointing out difficulties inherent to tablet devices when it comes to typing skill or connecting to particular sites.



Simon & Schuster Expands Ebook Pilot

Simon & Schuster (S. & S.) on January 16 expanded its library ebook pilot to systems outside of New York City and announced that Cleveland-based vendor OverDrive had become a new partner in the test. The pilot was launched in April 2013, with the 3M Cloud Library and Biblio-

Commons supporting lending and acquisition for the New York Public Library (NYPL) and the Brooklyn Public Library, and Baker & Taylor's (B&T) Axis 360 platform supporting acquisition and lending for the Queens Library. OverDrive, 3M, and Axis 360 all have been authorized by S. & S. to participate in the expansion of the pilot to 31 select public library systems nationwide.

Pilot participants will have access to all frontlist and backlist titles under a one-year, one-book, one-user license.

"We wanted geographic diversity that would yield a good cross-section of data about how our books were being loaned and purchased all around the country and to work with a variety of different kinds of libraries and systems," Adam Rothberg, senior vice president, director of corporate communications for S. & S., told *Hotline*.

The new participants include several of the largest, highest circulating libraries in the country, such as the Boston Public Library, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Free Library of Philadelphia, and King County Library System, WA. At press time, 15 of the 31 targeted systems had agreed to participate. A complete list of these libraries is available on *LJ's* infoDOCKET.

"The S. & S. expansion across multiple vendors and multiple libraries is a direct result of the work 3M invested with New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and Simon & Schuster to show how libraries play a vital role in connecting readers with books," said Tom Mercer, Cloud Library marketing manager for 3M.

In a wrinkle that may prove controversial, S. & S. is requiring participating libraries to make their titles available for purchase through their library's website via OverDrive's Library BIN (Buy It Now) option, 3M's Buy and Donate option, or through Baker & Taylor's MyLibraryBookstore customized ecommerce sites, which offer both print books and ebooks and give libraries a commission on sales from those sites.

Livia Bitner, vice president of technical services and product development for B&T, described the pros and cons of this approach.

Branching Out



Originally built in 1940 and rebuilt in 2002, the **East Baton Rouge Parish Library** (EBRPL; pictured), LA, **Central Library** reopened in January. The new 126,000 square foot facility is almost double the size of its predecessor, per the *Advocate*. The \$35 million project, designed by Dewberry, Cockfield Jackson Architects, and Tipton Associates, is home to more than 130 public computers, nearly 500,000 books, and a fabulously decked-out children's space. Referred to as the Library in the Park, the facility is shooting for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Silver or Gold certification for sustainability, incorporating features such as daylight harvesting, recycled building and furnishings content, and energy-efficient window glazing, plumbing,

and HVAC. A few items are still outstanding, prior to a springtime grand opening ceremony: the former Central Library will be razed and replaced with parking and an outdoor plaza green space.

Nashville Public Library reopened two branches as part of its ongoing capital improvement campaign. The **Old Hickory Branch**, at 5,694 square feet, suffered flood damage in summer 2013. Along with basic repairs to electrical systems and the elevator, the library gained a new retention wall to prevent further flooding and general interior upgrades. The 4,451 square foot **Edgehill Branch** received a charming face-lift, with a new multipurpose event space; new flooring, ceiling, and lighting; and a refurbished service desk original to the building.

According to *Masslive.com*, the Springfield City Council has authorized \$750,000 to make over the former **Pine Point Library**, MA, into a community program space and a "library express" site. Two branches of the Springfield City Library were shut down in 2013 in order to expand hours at other locations. The reuse of the building to accommodate an adult literacy program and the express library seems to fulfill community needs. The express facility will house roughly 5,000 items; the literacy program will provide access to computers, job search training, and writing workshops, among other services.

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“It puts another constraint on the library as far as ‘if you want this content to be available to your patrons, you also have to sell it,’” she said. “Not a lot of libraries like being looked at as a retailer. But the other side of the coin is, if libraries can sell content, physical or digital, to their patrons and also have that as a revenue stream, that’s a good thing, too. It’s a matter of how a library feels about their position.”

Texas Wins Appeal, Sees Return of IMLS Grants

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) successfully appealed an October 2013 a decision by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), restoring \$6.5 million in federal matching funds designated to support library activities across the Lone Star State.

The restored funds take the form of IMLS grants to state libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Apportioned by IMLS to state libraries around the country, the grants are then used to fund further, smaller grants to individual libraries or branches working to use technology to improve or expand the services they provide to patrons.

“These grants help to fund innovation in libraries, using federal funds as venture capital,” IMLS director Susan Hildreth told *Hotline*. LSTA grants to state libraries, though, come with strings attached. To ensure that federal funds for libraries are a supplement to state funding, not a replacement, IMLS requires that states meet matching funding requirements, which necessitate that state and local governments pay 34 percent of annual LSTA funding and federal sources will cover the

remaining 66 percent, to remain eligible for the program. In tough financial times, states can apply to receive a temporary exemption from that standard by requesting a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) waiver. With its state budget suffering in the wake of the economic downturn, Texas was one of eight states to request such a waiver last year—and one of five states that saw the request rejected.

According to TSLAC director Mark Smith, the loss of federal funding would have been bad news for libraries all over Texas and the programs they administer. In addition to statewide competitive grants that drive innovation in Texas libraries, LSTA funds support a wide variety of programs, including the digitization of historical documents in Texas’s archives and the state’s Talking Books program, which helps make library books available to physically

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challenged patrons across the state. Once word came down that its waiver had been denied, Smith told *Hotline*, TSLAC wasted little time preparing an appeal.

Smith says the appeal focused on demonstrating that while state funding for libraries was cut in the 2012–13 biennium, those cuts were not out of proportion with cuts made to other, similar state agencies. Another factor working in favor of TSLAC's appeal was that legislators had already agreed to restore much of the funding at odds. "Because funding was being restored, we didn't want the state to have to disassemble programs that they would have to reassemble later on," Hildreth said. Programs like competitive grants to libraries and interlibrary loan services would have been among those on the chopping block if the IMLS matching funds had not been available to Texas libraries in 2014, said Smith.

Of the four other states—Michigan, Nebraska, Illinois, and Louisiana—that saw their requests for MOE waivers turned down near the end of 2013, Illinois and Louisiana both saw those appeals granted. Nebraska's appeal was denied, while Michigan's state library did not appeal the IMLS decision. In Texas, the goal now is to ensure that funding levels for the state library are stabilized, so TSLAC doesn't have to refight this battle in the future. As Hildreth pointed out, decisions on these grants are made on a case-by-case basis every year; that this was the first year Texas had to file an MOE waiver request worked in its favor. According to Smith, though, the recent close call the state went through this year wasn't lost on those controlling the purse strings in Austin.

"Having gone through this waiver situation, legislators realize there is more at stake than just state funds," he said. "We now have a very compelling

argument to make about the importance of maintaining that funding."

Coe Steps in as New CEO of Baker & Taylor

A new year is bringing a change of leadership at one of the country's biggest distributors of books and entertainment products. Distribution company Baker & Taylor (B&T) has appointed executive George Coe to head the company as its new CEO. Coe succeeds CEO Arnie Wight, who stepped down earlier in January, the company announced in a statement on January 17.

The new name at the top will likely be a familiar one to librarians. Coe has served as president of B&T's Library & Education division since 2000.

Coe emphasized the importance of ebooks and digital distribution to the company's plans for the future in a 2011 interview with *The Digital Shift*. "Baker & Taylor's role is central



to the accelerating shift to digital," Coe said. "We continue to innovate and expand the universe of publication data and the collection development programs and services that our libraries rely on us to provide."

Coe expressed excitement at moving into the CEO position. "I look forward to working with our excellent team to continue to enhance Baker & Taylor's innovative solutions for our retail, library, and education customers," Coe said in a statement. "I am proud to lead Baker & Taylor at a time when exciting changes are taking place in all of the markets we serve."

The transition marks Wight's official retirement, but won't be the conclusion of his 34-year career with the company, where he was appointed CEO in 2008. Following his retirement, Wight will remain active within B&T as nonexecutive chairman of the board and consultant to the company.

People

Sheri Britsch was appointed Director of Pleasant Grove City Library, UT. She was previously Adult Services Librarian at the Springville Public Library, UT.

Dottie Dilts Hawthorne has retired as Outreach Librarian at the Mayo Medical Library, Rochester, MN. She had served in the field since 1981.

Gina Leone was named Director of the Scott Township Public Library, Carnegie, PA. She was previously Youth Services Librarian at Baldwin Borough Library, Pittsburgh.

Mariah Manley was named Children's Librarian at Medway Public Library, MA. She will receive her master's in Library and Information Science from Simmons College, Boston, later this year.

Amber Mathewson was promoted to Deputy Library Director, Pima County Public Library (PCPL), Tucson. She was formerly Library Services Manager at PCPL.

Carol Nersinger announced her retirement as Director of the Albany Public Library, NY, effective when a replacement can be found.

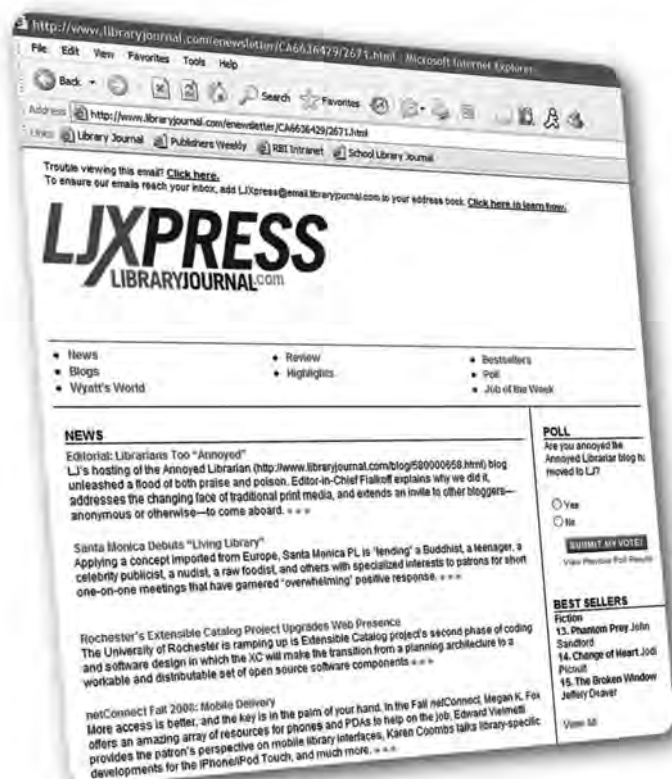
In Memoriam

Mary D. Gates, former Director of the Dwight Foster Public Library, Fort Atkinson, WI, died on January 16. She was 87 years old.

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