



INDIANA LIBRARY FEDERATION

INDIANA LIBRARY FEDERATION 2025

# 30% Cut to State Library Will Decimate Services



The Indiana Library Federation opposes the severe 30% cut to State Library funding. Should the revenue forecast be positive, we urge considering restoring some measure of that funding. We understand that most departments are getting cut 5%, thus 30% is unbalanced. Hoosier Public Libraries depend upon the state library to coordinate summer reading programs. This is a vitally important element of childhood literacy in a state that needs to increase reading scores. The State Library also ensures that public libraries maintain professional standards through professional development trainings and are in compliance with state law.



The State Library facilitates an ecosystem of sharing amongst public libraries across Indiana. In a mostly rural state, this is significant. The smallest public libraries can have patrons borrow materials from other library collections. This increases access through inter-library loan expanding the footprint of local property tax dollars. Losing staff and services at the State Library will greatly impact all Hoosiers, especially those in rural areas.

## Hoosiers VALUE Libraries

Indiana residents use libraries to thrive. A 30% cut would devastate essential services, limiting access to information, educational resources, and community support for countless Hoosiers. Defunding would disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, including students, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those in rural areas.



Early literacy programs at public libraries are trained by the State Library to pair literacy with play, movement, and technology. State library cuts would eliminate this staff.

- 21,491,630 total library visits annually
- 39,000,000 physical materials checked out
- 15,000,000 digital materials checked out
- >20,000,000 physical books available
- 20,000,000 wifi uses
- 2,400,000 computer uses
- 117,000 programs hosted

Public library programming is a vital connection for seniors in Hoosier communities.



Data Retrieved from the Indiana State Library's Annual Report of Public Library Use - 2023

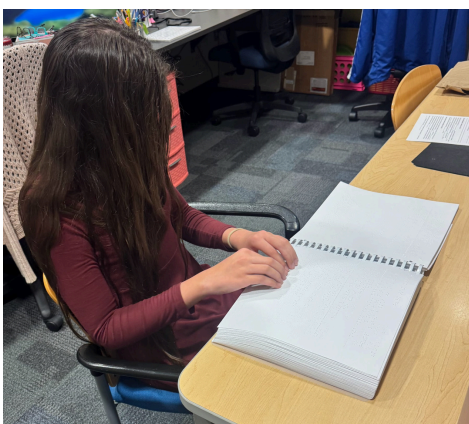
## Indiana State Library funding directly supports critical infrastructure and programs that benefit every resident.

### STATEWIDE RESOURCE SHARING:

- **INSPIRE:** A statewide collection of databases providing access to invaluable research materials to students and the general public. These databases are essential for Indiana's institutions of higher learning and workforce development.
- **Evergreen Indiana:** A collaboration of over 130 Indiana libraries that empowers materials sharing especially in rural areas, and provides efficient technology services including a shared catalog system, and access to a network that facilitates interlibrary loan.
- **Info Express:** A vital courier service that facilitates the rapid and cost-effective transportation of interlibrary loan materials across the state, ensuring equitable access for all Hoosiers.
- **WorldCat:** A global cataloging database that enables libraries to share resources, improving efficiency and access to information.
- **Indiana Digital Library:** A statewide digital library providing ebooks for Indiana libraries via the Libby App.

### SPECIALIZED SERVICES:

- **Books and Materials for the Blind, Visually Impaired, and People with Print Disabilities:** Funding that ensures individuals with visual impairments and print disabilities have access to accessible reading materials and resources.
- **Indiana History Digitization:** Preserving Hoosier history including Indiana Memory and Hoosier Chronicles.
- **Office of Professional Development:** Provides training for Hoosier library directors and staff in order to provide high quality library services throughout the state. Library Board of Trustees are trained to ensure accountability over budgets and services.



(Left) The State Library provides essential materials for Hoosiers who are blind. (Center) InfoExpress delivery within the Evergreen consortium of inter library loans allows libraries to share resources and maximize budgets. (Right) Indiana State Library facilitates summer reading and trains children's librarians and staff to maximize storytime.