



1) IMLS Executive Order

On Friday, March 14, President Donald Trump signed [an executive order](#) regarding the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and six other federal agencies.

The executive order states that the agencies' "non-statutory components and functions ... shall be eliminated to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law," and they should also "reduce the performance of their statutory functions and associated personnel to the minimum presence and function required by law."

While Wisconsin's library community is aware of the executive order, how reductions to IMLS funding will impact library services in Wisconsin is not yet known.

On social media, librarians across the country are urging everyone to "take action." Because Wisconsin public libraries are in the middle of a thoughtful, politically neutral legislative advocacy campaign supporting state library aid in the 2025-27 budget, WVLS recommends that its members, board of trustees, and supporters stay tuned for further guidelines on what "action" means.

WVLS will share updates as more is learned from the WI Department of Public Instruction and as the Wisconsin Library Association provides coordinated strategic action and messaging.

2) 2025 Summer Math Adventure Grant Now Available

WVLS is thrilled to announce the 2025 Summer Math Adventure Grant, offering five WVLS libraries up to \$1,000 in funding and 10 free booklets per age group to enhance math-focused learning this summer!

Based on the [Wisconsin Mathematics Council's program](#), the Summer Math Adventure engages students from Preschool through 8th grade with fun, age-appropriate challenges. Participants complete 12 math activities, earning awards along the way while developing essential math skills. Grant funds can be used for printing materials, marketing, program development, incentives, and math-related resources such as books, puzzles, and games. The full grant description is available on the [WVLS Scholarships and Grants webpage](#).

[The application deadline is 6 p.m.](#) on Thursday, April 3. Contact WVLS Public Library Services Consultant Emily Rogers at erogers@wvls.org with questions.

3) This Week

- **The WVLS V-Cat Steering Committee Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 18 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Meeting documents are available on the [V-Cat Steering Committee](#) page of the WVLS Website. If you are a committee member and are unable to attend, please notify WVLS ILS Administrator Katie Zimmermann at ils@wvls.org as soon as possible.

- **'Keeping it Together' This Friday**

8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 21

Topic: *Celebration of All Things Numbers*

Erica will share the [pre-publication version of the 2024 Statistics Booklet](#), and hear from libraries that have been using the [statewide pilot data dashboard](#), which is now available through June 2025. Emily will share information on the [2025 Summer Math grant](#).
[Join the Meeting](#).

- **Spring 2025 Barcodes Orders**

WVLS will soon place the Spring 2025 order for item barcodes. The next order will not be done until Fall 2025. The cost of barcodes varies depending on the size of the order. The approximate cost is \$20.00 - \$25.00 per thousand. Any amount can be ordered.

If your library wants to order barcodes, [fill out this form](#) by Wednesday, March 26.

4) Summer Passport Challenge Program Cancelled

As part of the 2025 WVLS Plan, WVLS explored the implementation of a system-wide library passport challenge program. However, due to competing priorities, including the launch of the summer reading program, the introduction of math grants, and the hosting of in-person workshops, WVLS has decided not to move forward with this initiative for the summer.

WVLS remains interested in revisiting this initiative in the future and reassessing its objectives to ensure it aligns with system-wide goals. Public Library Services Consultant Emily Rogers will brainstorm with WVLS libraries on other potential projects for system-wide collaboration.

5) WAPL Conference Updates

- [Registration is open and hotel information is available](#) for the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Annual Conference at the Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center from April 30 - May 2. This year's conference theme *Forward*, which is not just the Wisconsin State Motto, but a call to action. [There is no shortage of inspiring programs](#) at this year's conference. Early bird registration rates are available until Friday, April 4. Registration closes on Wednesday April 16.

WAPL is a division of the Wisconsin Library Association. Contact the WLA office at wla@wisconsinlibraries.org for any questions.

- WVLS is awarding scholarships for member library staff to attend the WAPL Conference. Valued up to \$1,000, the scholarship may be used to cover some/all of the following costs:
 - Conference registration (WLA member or non-member)
 - Mileage reimbursement (WVLS rate) to/from the conference
 - Up to 2 nights of conference lodging (April 30 and May 1)

The completed application must be sent to Jamie Matczak at jmatczak@wvls.org by 6 p.m. on Friday, March 21. See the WVLS website to [download an application](#).

6) Reminders

- **National Library Week**, held April 6-12, is a celebration of the valuable role libraries and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening their communities.

Libraries can let an author color the user's imagination at an author talk, outline their big business idea at an entrepreneur workshop, or trace their history with the library's genealogy resources. Library patrons can make their mark and get involved with their library by volunteering or spreading the word. For more information and promotional materials for National Library Week, [visit the ALA website](#).

- **Registration Open for CCBC Presentations**

Great New Books for Children and Teens
Tuesday, April 8; 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Minocqua Public Library

[CCBC](#) (Children's Cooperative Book Center) Librarians Merri Lindgren and Tessa Michaelson Schmidt will discuss this year's best books for ages birth to 18! Highlighted books will be available for hands-on book examination during lunch. This free event is open to library professionals and educators.

Each session is worth 1.5 contact hours toward public library certification.

Space is limited. [Register by Monday, March 31](#). Contact WVLS Public Library Services Emily Rogers at erogers@wvls.org for any questions.