

Manske Library Board
Trustee Report
January 8, 2026
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Grant Reinstatement:

“In December 2025, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) reinstated all federal grants that had been previously canceled by the administration, following a court ruling that attempts to dismantle the agency were unlawful.” (Generated by Google AI)

It is likely that the decision might be appealed depending on if the termination of the funding becomes a priority of the Administration. The funding reinstatement is the result of lawsuits against the federal government by 21 states.

[ALA welcomes reinstatement of all federal IMLS grants to libraries | ALA](#)

Supreme Court Ruling:

“On December 9, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear *Little v. Llano County*, letting a lower court ruling stand that restricts the removal of certain books. The [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#) expressed concern that this may limit the freedom to read in states like Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.”(Generated by Google AI)

In 2021, a lawsuit was brought forward to prevent the censorship of books and materials in public libraries in Llano, Texas. Lila Little was the chief litigant in the lawsuit. In May 2025, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that public libraries and materials were government speech. Library associations in neighboring states and the state universities saw the ruling as a threat to free speech and academic freedom. In December 2025, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case which allows the lower court ruling to stand. The attached article is from a newsletter published by the Louisiana Citizens against Censorship.

[STATEMENT | Louisiana Citizens Against Censorship](#)

Right to Read Act:

“A bicameral reintroduction of this act in December 2025 aims to increase federal investment in literacy and protect school librarians from censorship.” (Generated by Google AI)

I will search for updates to see if this legislation moves through the process to become a law. Right now, there is little information on its progress. The bill was originally introduced

by Raul Grjaliva, D-AZ, on April 26, 2023. The bill was reintroduced last month. Here is a link to the original bill.

[H.R.2889 - 118th Congress \(2023-2024\): Right to Read Act of 2023 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

AI Task Force:

“**The Public Library Association (PLA)** launched a **Transformative Technology Task Force** in December 2025 to manage the impact of artificial intelligence on library work and training.” (Generated by Google AI)

In keeping with library use of AI, this is the latest effort I found in trying to train and bring public libraries and librarians up to speed on the impact and use of artificial intelligence. The task force was just formed on December 23, 2025. This link names members and goals of the task force. I will try to monitor their work for future reports.

[PLA launches Transformative Technology Task Force with focus on artificial intelligence | ALA](#)

Facility Crisis:

Paul Shulz found this recent study on the state of library facilities in the nation. The following 12/18/25 ALA article can stimulate a conversation about what needs fixing at our library. The study was funded by the Government Office of Accountability (GOA).

[https://www.ala.org/news/2025/12/ala-welcomes-pathbreaking-study-state-nations-library-facilities](#)

During community emergencies, libraries are relied upon for computers, internet connections, as well as access to food, water, and shelter. Libraries are also used to help access disaster relief funds. However, the U.S. Government Accountability Office found the nation's libraries have buildings that need repairs.

1. 38% of libraries have at least one building system in poor condition.
2. 61% of libraries have at least one building system that poses a health or safety concern.
3. 70% of libraries have a deferred maintenance or repair.
4. 71% of libraries reported repair challenges, such as construction costs and limited funding availability.