



The California Library Services Board

Connie Williams, President
Anne Bernardo, Vice President
Greg Lucas, Chief Executive Officer
James Lau
Paymaneh Maghsoudi
Elizabeth O. Murguia
Dr. Maria Nieto Senour
Sandra Tauler

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May 23, 2023
BOARD MEETING

California Library Services Board Mission

The mission of the California Library Services Board is to foster lifelong learning by ensuring that all Californians have free and convenient access to all library resources and services.

California Library Services Board Vision

The California Library Services Board values literacy, cooperation, diversity, service to the underserved, and access.

- **Literacy:** Promote the importance of reading and the skills needed by individuals to participate fully in society.
- **Cooperation:** Encourage the sharing of resources and collaboration among libraries and other government agencies, organizations, and diverse community groups.
- **Diversity:** Support programs and services that reflect the diverse population of California.
- **Service to the underserved:** Strengthen equitable distribution of resources and services to any population segment, regardless of economic status and other circumstances, whose needs are not adequately met by traditional library services patterns.
- **Access:** Affirm the principles of equitable access to resource across library systems through local control, local financing, and resource sharing.



MEETING NOTICE

California Library Services Board

May 23, 2023

10:00am –2:00pm

Remote meeting:

This meeting will be a Zoom meeting

If you would like to listen and/or participate in this meeting, please contact Iulia Bodeanu for the Zoom meeting information at: iulia.bodeanu@library.ca.gov

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[California Library Services Act Website](#)

A. BOARD OPENING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions of Board members, staff, and audience

2. Adoption of Agenda

Consider agenda as presented or amended

3. Approval of February 7, 2023 Board Minutes – Document 1

Consider minutes as presented or amended

4. Meeting date for Spring & Fall 2023 – Document 2

Discuss dates for the upcoming Board meetings

5. Board Resolutions – Document 3

Consider the resolution for Sara Hernandez

B. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. Board President's Report

Report on activities since last Board meeting

2. Board Vice-President's Report

Report on activities since last Board meeting

3. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Report on activities since last Board meeting

C. CALIFORNIA LIBRARY SERVICES ACT

BUDGET AND PLANNING

1. Library Services Act Preliminary Budget for FY 2023-2024 – Document 4

Consider FY 2023-2024 preliminary budget

RESOURCE SHARING

1. Annual Report for FY 2021-2022 – Document 5

Review and discuss System Annual Report for FY 2021-2022

D. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Overview of Legislation Affecting Libraries FY 2023-2024

Consider areas of legislative concern for the upcoming fiscal year

E. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS FY 2023-2024

Discussion items brought forward by the Board that fall under their purview

1. Review of Letter to Governor – Document 6

Discuss letter sent to Governor regarding budget ask for FY 2023-2024

2. Book Challenges and Censorship Issues in Libraries – Document 7 Discuss advocacy pertaining to book challenges

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment on any item or issue that is under the purview of the California Library Services Board and is not on the agenda

G. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/OFFICERS

Board member or officer comment on any item or issues that is under the purview of the California Library Services Board and is not on the agenda

H. OLD BUSINESS

Any old business the Board members wish to discuss

I. AGENDA BUILDING

Input on agenda items for subsequent Board meetings

J. ADJOURNMENT Adjourn the meeting

**California Library Services Board Meeting
February 7, 2023
Remote Meeting: Zoom**

BOARD OPENING

Welcome and Introductions

President Williams called the California Library Services Board meeting to order on October 5, 2022, at 10:08 am.

Board Members Present:

Anne Bernardo, James Lau, Paymaneh Maghsoudi, Elizabeth Murguia, Maria Nieto Senour, Sandra Tauler, and Connie Williams.

California State Library Staff Present:

State Librarian Greg Lucas, Deputy State Librarian Rebecca Wendt, Kevin Driskill, Chris Durr, Lena Pham, Monica Rivas, Annly Roman, and Scott Taylor.

Adoption of Agenda

It was moved, seconded (Bernardo/Tauler) and carried unanimously that the California Library Services Board adopts the agenda for the February 7, 2022, meeting.

Approval of October 5, 2022, Meeting Minutes

It was moved, seconded (Lau/Senour) and carried unanimously that the California Library Services Board approves the draft minutes of the October 5, 2022, California Library Services Board meeting.

Meeting Date – Spring 2022 & Fall 2023

President Williams reminded the board of the upcoming Spring board meeting which will be on April 18th from 10am to 2pm and will be held virtually. The Fall board meeting will be scheduled for early September because the Plans of Service from the systems are due in June. Administrative Assistant, Iulia Bodeanu will send a doodle poll to establish availability of board members for that time frame.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Board President's Report

President Williams reported the California School Library Association conference is coming up in March in Asilomar, CA. President Williams will attend. Looking to establish a school library lead program and advocate for inviting State and local legislators to libraries to show the impact that school libraries are having in their communities. On the local level, the Petaluma library, put on their annual Lumacon, which is a comic convention for youth, and had over 3,000 kids and their families attended.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Anne Bernardo continues to monitor listservs on the State and National levels. County law librarians will be meeting in Sacramento next month to meet with legislators to encourage them to include funding for county law libraries in the State budget next time.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

State Librarian Greg Lucas reported that since the board last met the Governor presented his budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year, starting July 1st. Last year there was a \$300 billion budget of State and Funeral funds. This year, there is a \$25 billion gap between the spending commitments made and the expected revenue. The January budget didn't reduce funding levels, which in a year such as this, is a good thing.

The CA State Library administers the Building Forward Grant, which allocates \$489 million dollars for improving library facilities and is the largest single investment that the State of California has ever made in public libraries serving 200 individual library facilities, across 86 counties, totaling \$140 million dollars. The balance from the total funding the State Library is trying to attach an additional \$50 million that is in this year's budget. The additional funding expands the eligibility for projects with the next funding cycle. Energy efficiency and greater sustainability are areas in the next funding cycle. The California Poverty Measure allows the State Library to be more precise about finding the areas of need within communities. The remaining \$120 million from the first \$439 million connects to the \$50 million in the upcoming budget and implements broader eligibility requirements. The State Library expects applications from 72 library jurisdictions totaling an ask of least \$600 million. \$170 million will be available for community projects in the upcoming fiscal year.

The biggest challenge the State Library has this year is implementing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library statewide. It is a terrific program on multiple levels that requires local partners in every county. The organizations need to have non-profit status and the State Library has create a non-profit to implement the program. The project launches on July 1st. There are \$2.2 million kids under the age of 5 in California. The Dolly Parton foundation

is also making books available in English and Spanish to service California's diverse population.

Greg Lucas will be going to Washington D.C. at the beginning of March for the American Library Association Conference and will advocate at the Federal level for library funding. In the past there have been bills that provided a \$5 billion allocation for library facilities that were not enacted. For the State Library the goal is to have more funding allocated via the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that will go toward improving local libraries.

Zip Books Grant Program

Lena Pham reported on the Zip Books program which is going strong with 96 California library jurisdictions participating, which is an increase from last year's 89 library jurisdictions. On-boarding the new libraries includes connecting with the vendor, setting up the account and integrating zip books into existing services. Each library implements the program differently, but the service allows for patrons to receive books from the library directly to their homes. Currently, California State Library staff are working on the 2022-2023 annual report to gather the impact data and narrative reports from last year's program. Staff at the State Library are planning for 2023-2024 year to open the grant opportunity sooner in the year.

Board Member Elizabeth Murguia asked if the funds are sufficient to operate the program. Lena Pham responded that there were not enough funds for 2022-2023 since the request was for over \$1.4 million and there was a \$1 million annual allocation for Zip Books. Award amounts had to be reduced to accept all applicants, which included 96 libraries.

Greg Lucas commented that the State Library routinely asks for an increase in funding for Zip Books, which continues to be a popular program for all the reasons that Lena Pham mentioned. As the program grows the allocation amount gets smaller so increasing funding is essential.

Board President Connie Williams asked if the books purchased via Zip Books make their way into library collections. Lena Pham said that is the goal for most libraries is to incorporate the books into their collections.

Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and Conflict of Interest Presentation

Attorney Scott Taylor gave a presentation the Bagley-Keene open meeting act and the conflict-of-interest policies that pertain to public meetings. The presentation followed the slides attached.

BUDGET AND PLANNING

California State Library Five Year Plan

State Librarian Greg Lucas gave an overview of the strategic plan for the California State Library that was submitted to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) that guides how the funds from the Federal Government are spent. The focus of the State Library's attention is on the following four goals. 1) Strengthen the ability of California libraries to design equitable programs and services in collaboration with their local communities. 2) Expand the capacity of the California library workers to create and implement services that impact communities equitably. 3) Broaden data-driven planning and decision-making centered on community impact. 4) Strengthen equitable resource-sharing and access to information, services, and opportunities with an emphasis on local community strengths and challenges.

The plan was developed in partnership with input from local libraries. In a state of 40 million people with 1,130 libraries the federal funding can encourage various initiatives. How do we facilitate partnerships between libraries and other community and other community entities? How do we empower local libraries and school libraries to better serve the communities? The State Library is therefore encouraging partnerships, getting people to work together, making sure that we're responding to needs and being able to measure the success of those different needs. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) complimented the plan in how the plan was structured was a great way of measuring what success looked like in the field. Deputy State Librarian Rebecca Wendt stated that the IMLS said the plan was groundbreaking and that other states might be looking to what we are doing as a point of reference. The plan is what shapes how the State Library spends Federal funds.

President Williams stated that the plan was very clear and centered on diversity and equity and that it worked well with the Board's goals and vision.

RESOURCE SHARING

Consolidation and Affiliation – Amended Motion

Monica Rivas stated that there was a typo on a motion from the previous meeting related to the San Leandro Library Affiliation and PLP Library Cooperative System. The effective date said July 1st of 2022 when it should be July 1st 2023. The motion states that the California Library Services Board, approved the affiliation of the San Leandro Library, with PLP library cooperative system, effective July 1st 2023 and waive the July 1st 2022 notification date for the 2023 affiliations.

It was moved, seconded (Bernardo/Tauler) and carried unanimously that the California Library Services Board adopts the motion to amend the affiliation date of the San Leandro Library from July 1st 2022 to July 1st 2023.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Librarian Lucas reported that the State received the usual 13% per capita of funding that the IMLS distributes. It reflects the \$10 Million that are allocated as grants for the next fiscal year.

Board Member Elizabeth Murgia asked that the average is \$15 million, is this anticipated to increase over the following years? Greg Lucas stated that the incremental increases over the past few years have been designed to increase the minimum amount of money that is allocated to smaller states but has not benefited larger states like California. There is no anticipated increase currently.

President Connie Williams asked if there will be meetings with legislators in the Spring at the State level. Greg Lucas asked what the top priorities of the board are. The State Library is following the five-year plan and looking at proposals that focus on equity and access by growing an e-book library with approximately 80,000 titles with multi-lingual and multi-use books. Greg Lucas asked what the biggest priority is for libraries whether structural or service oriented. Higher educational learning has moved in the direction of online and e-resources.

Elizabeth Murgia reminded the board that this is the time of year when a letter from the board to the legislature is provided to increase program funding. Connie Williams confirmed that this is the case. Elizabeth Murgia is interested in how the Parks Pass program is doing and asked if there should be an increase of funding associated with the program. Greg Lucas stated that the number of passes has tripled to increase access to State Parks. Greg Lucas agreed that a letter is necessary and that it would remind the legislature to increase funding for the Building Forward program as well. Connie Williams agreed that writing a letter to thank the Governor for library funding and to ask for future funding toward existing programs is a good idea. Elizabeth Murgia stated we should identify Zip Books, the Parks program, and Lunch at the Library as successful programs. Lucas stated that Lunch at the Library was an initiative that was supported by the First Partner with an initial investment of \$800,000. It has now increased to \$5 Million so the State Library has the ability to expand the sites for the program and convene with other partners such as schools, food banks, and boys and girls clubs. Libraries can build these kinds of coalitions and expand them because of their unique position in communities. The first round of funding will be distributed this summer and staff will know how the program is operating once it has been implemented.

BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS FY 2023-2024

President Connie Williams asked about digital access to libraries via hot spots and if this would be an ask for increased funding. Staff member Chris Durr stated that libraries that have received hotspots from the State Library in the past would most appreciate funding for the service plans to continue use of the hotspots. The goal is for the hardware to be used meaningfully by the public. There is strong circulation from hot spot distribution, but to continue to have those devices provide Internet access requires that they continue to pay a bill to the Internet service provider. Funding to support that effort, helps bridge the digital divide which many communities can feel quite acutely.

Connie Williams asked if this type of information could be integrated into a legislative letter. Elizabeth Murgia stated that she would support these items integrated into the letter. Greg Lucas stated that an increase in funding for service plans to continue operation, but there is still a need to buy more physical items and get them into the hands of local libraries, so they can put them into the hands of the people in the communities they serve. Connie Williams sees this as a board high priority because it is tied to access.

Staff member Monica Rivas stated that under the communications and delivery service plans within the broadband section systems are asking if they can use funds to pay for service plans. This was not common before but is becoming more widespread among libraries. Connie Williams stated that if libraries were not using their funds for service plans this would free up funds for devices and vice versa and is an area to look at as the board deals with delivery of resources to support communications.

Staff member Chris Durr informed the board that the State Library is working with the California Department of Technology on the statewide Digital Equity Plan, which specifically includes trying to help individuals navigate the contracts with the Internet service providers for the low-cost Internet service plans at home. Hot spots are a good stop gap when you can't get into a low-cost affordable connectivity program for a long-term solution. However, the goal is to get individuals the same quality of high-speed Internet that most middle-class families enjoy through a wired connection in the home. There are funds from the Federal Government that are supposed to help bridge the last mile for rural Internet accessibility. Broadband connectivity has been a long-time goal for the state.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment brought forward.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS/OFFICERS

There were no comments brought forward.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought forward.

AGENDA BUILDING

President Connie Williams stated she would like new and relevant information on more hot spots and internet service accessibility along with any budget updates.

State Librarian Greg Lucas stated that there are reports of book banning at the local level and he would like more information about these occurrences. Other states have had their revenue streams impacted by censorship legislation and the State Librarian identified this as a disturbing trend that the board should look at.

President Williams stated it is an access issue and would like book banning as an item on the next agenda and possibility making a proactive statement about the importance of equity, diversity, and social justice. State Librarian Lucas suggested drafting a memo of the stories across the state to be discussed at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Williams called for the adjournment of the California Library Services Board meeting at 12:03 PM.

AGENDA ITEM: Spring and Fall 2023 Meeting Schedule and Locations

2023 Proposed Board Meeting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Activities</u>
April 2023	Virtual/Remote	Budget and Planning
Late August/Early September 2023	Virtual/Remote	Regular Business Plans of Service LSTA State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting
January/February 2024	Virtual/Remote	Legislative priorities and budget asks

BACKGROUND:

California Library Services Act (CLSA) regulations specify that the Board shall conduct meetings at least twice a year.

***California Library Services Board Resolution 2023-01
In Honor of Sara Hernandez***

WHEREAS, The California Library Services Board recognizes Sara Hernandez for her distinguished contributions as one of its members on the occasion of the conclusion of his term of service as a member of the board; and

WHEREAS, The Board wishes to honor Sara Hernandez for his exceptional public service and engagement representing the public-at-large since her appointment by the Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon on December 14, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Sara Hernandez is an attorney working on issues of housing and infrastructure improving communities in Southern California, as well as representing immigrants in asylum proceedings. She is a community college instructor teaching Constitutional Law at Valley College and was recently elected to the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Sara Hernandez was previously the Executive Director of Coro Southern California, a national leadership development program and a former English and History teacher at Johnnie Cochran Middle School in South Los Angeles. Sara founded the non-profit Helping Young People Excel, which identifies low-income students through the Los Angeles area and provides them with exceptional education opportunities and resources through their high school years; and

WHEREAS, Sara Hernandez is active in her community both politically and at the grassroots level and started the group DTLA Strong, a resident group focused on community organizing to build political power within the Downtown LA community; and

WHEREAS, Sara Hernandez's dedication, experience, and insight have proven invaluable to California Library Services Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

*the California Library Services Board
extends its sincere appreciation and deep regard to*

Sara Hernandez

*for her contributions and service
to the libraries and people of the State of California
on this day of May 23, 2023.*

AGENDA ITEM: Preliminary CLSA Budget for FY 2023-2024

ISSUE TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD AT THIS MEETING:

Consider the preliminary CLSA budget for FY 2023-2024

1. **RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD:** I move that the California Library Services Board adopt, contingent upon the passage of the State Budget Act, the 2023-2024 CLSA budget as directed in the proposed 2023-2024 budget, totaling \$3,630,000 for allocation to Cooperative Library Systems.
2. **RECOMMENDED MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD:** I move that the California Library Services Board approve the \$1 million allocated in the 2023-2024 budget to invest in the Zip Books program to ensure timely and cost-effective access to information in California's hard-to-reach and underserved communities.

BACKGROUND:

The Governor's proposed budget, released in January for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, included a proposal to provide \$3,630,000 million in funding for the California Library Services Act and \$1 million in on-going funding for the Zip Books program.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Board adopt the preliminary budget Exhibit A at this meeting so that the systems have preliminary numbers to base their plans of service on.

RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

Review and approve System Plans of Service and Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

CLSA Preliminary System Budget Allocations- FY 2023/24
Communications and Delivery Program

System	Baseline Budget	System Administration	Total	Zipbooks
Black Gold	\$ 111,082	\$ 27,770	\$ 138,852	
49-99	\$ 120,101	\$ 30,025	\$ 150,126	
Inland	\$ 299,065	\$ 74,767	\$ 373,832	
NorthNet	\$ 663,910	\$ 165,977	\$ 829,887	
PLP	\$ 569,046	\$ 142,261	\$ 711,307	
SJVLS	\$ 191,525	\$ 47,881	\$ 239,407	
Santiago	\$ 177,074	\$ 44,268	\$ 221,342	
Serra	\$ 212,595	\$ 53,149	\$ 265,743	
SCLC	\$ 559,604	\$ 139,900	\$ 699,504	
Total funding	\$ 2,904,000	\$ 726,000	\$ 3,630,000	\$ 1,000,000

INFORMATIONAL

AGENDA ITEM: CLSA System Annual Report, FY 2021/22

GENERAL OVERALL PROGRAM UPDATES:

CLSA funds continue to support the Communications and Delivery (C&D) program at the cooperative system level. In FY 2021/22, C&D funds supported all or a portion of each System's physical delivery of materials and the use of shared e-resources. Exhibit A provides a summary of System activities for 2021-2022 and shows how communities benefited through state funding. Exhibit B displays a summary of the actual workload statistics for 2021/22.

RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:

Consideration of 2023/24 System Plans of Service.

Staff Liaison: Monica Rivas

Exhibit A

California Library Services Act System Program Annual Report FY 2021/2022 Southern California library Cooperative (SCLC): Executive Director Christine Powers

CLSA funding allocated by the CLSA Board for FY 2021/2022: \$711,100.

Approved Baselines Funds: \$568,881

Program	Budgeted from funding of FY 2021/2022	Expended from budget of FY 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
E-Resources	\$425,611	\$137,192	\$288,419	\$113,993 2020-2021 \$382,359 2019-2020	
Delivery	\$66,000	\$43,987	\$22,013	\$17,718 2020-2021	
Audit	\$12,270	\$5,365	\$6,905		
Telecommunications	\$30,000	\$8,258	\$21,742	\$16,724 2020-2021	
Resource Sharing (Digilab)	\$35,000	\$0	\$35,000	\$65,400 2019-2020	\$68,848 FY 20-21 moved to eResources
TOTAL	\$568,881	\$194,802	\$374,079	\$596,194	\$68,848

Approved System Administration Funds: \$142,219

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Executive Director	\$49,435	\$49,435			
Deputy Director	\$17,331	\$17,331			
Controller	\$34,952	\$34,952			
Project Manager	\$20,271	\$20,271			
Administrative Assistant	\$20,230	\$20,230			

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
TOTAL	\$142,219	\$142,219			

Southern California library Cooperative (SCLC) Continued

Were Goals Met-How did the Community Benefit?

SCLC's CLSA funds were allocated to the following areas audit, delivery, E-Resources, resource sharing, and telecommunications. The 2020/21 annual audit was completed in the 2021/22 fiscal year.

SCLC provided delivery service of materials between member libraries twice a week. Member libraries were able to expand their collections to their patrons by access to other members materials, increase the speed of access to other's materials, including Inter Library Loan materials.

SCLC renewed its subscription to the Gale Archives of Sexuality and Gender, which provided patrons throughout LA and Ventura County with authenticated information on gender, sexuality and LGBTQ history and culture. This topic remains vital to the community in an area where it can be very challenging to find relevant and authoritative sources of information.

SCLC acquired a two-year systemwide license to PressReader digital newspapers and magazines. Press Reader offers newspapers from around the world and quality translation functions giving SCLC additional resources to offer their diverse service population.

SCLC maintained its subscription to the Auto-Graphics Montage digital asset management solution and continued to pay maintenance for scanning equipment for 30 libraries participating in the DigiLab project. Local history is very important to library communities and the DigiLab project allowed expanded access to archives and historical materials across the state.

SCLC underspent its Telecommunications allocation. The funds cover services that are vital to the virtual nature of SCLC and services provided for managing the system. Zoom has become a major component for hosting and managing all variations of meetings and communication.

Non-CLSA funded activities

- SCLC staff provide in-office support for contracted courier delivery services.
- Listserv subscription for member libraries and interest groups to communicate via email.
- Zip Books and NYT Online

Inland Library System: Executive Director Christine Powers

CLSA funding allocated by the CLSA Board for FY 2021/2022: \$380,341.

Approved Baselines Funds: \$304,272

Program	Budgeted from funding of FY 2021/2022	Expended from budget of FY 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
E-Resources	\$265,653	\$52,473	\$213,180	\$70,000 2020/2021	
Delivery	\$24,000	\$24,000		\$3,687 2020/2021	
Audit	\$4,619	\$0	\$4,619		
Telecommunications	\$10,000	\$1,519	\$8,481		
TOTAL	\$304,272	\$77,992	\$226,280	\$73,687	

Approved System Administration Funds: \$76,069

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Executive Director	\$21,494	\$21,494			
Deputy Director	\$1,492	\$1,492			
Controller	\$34,095	\$34,095			
Project Manager	\$774	\$774			
Administrative Assistant	\$18,214	\$18,214			
TOTAL	\$76,069	\$76,069			

Inland Library System Continued

Were Goals Met-How did the Community Benefit?

Inland performs a biennial audit, which was last successfully completed in fiscal year 2020-2021. No audit was scheduled for fiscal year 2021-2022; the allocation will be rolled over to fiscal year 2022-2023.

Weekly delivery services were provided to member libraries through a contracted courier service. This service is vital for moving materials from one library to another and provides greater accessibility to Inland's library patrons.

Inland continued its subscription to eMagazines and decided to migrate to a new platform Bibliotheca cloud Library NewsStand Magazines.

A total of \$213,180 allocated for E-Resources will be carried forward to 2022/23. It is Inland's practice to distribute these funds to its members in October of the following fiscal year. To that end, Inland distributed \$70,000 in 2020/21 rollover funds to the member libraries who in turn used them on various locally licensed solutions including cloudLibrary, Overdrive and Biblioboard eBooks, and Kanopy streaming movies.

Non-CLSA funded activities

- Inland member groups provide effective networking, information sharing, and discussion forums for the region, so that local libraries can stay abreast of developments in the area and share experiences and advice with one another.
- Riverside County Library System continues to manage delivery across its branch libraries, and contracts with Murrieta and Morena Valley to provide courier delivery of library materials.
- Focus on Inland addressing its outstanding pension liability with the San Bernardino County Employee's Retirement Association. The members have worked with outside legal counsel to determine a funding formula to distribute the \$2.5 million liability among the members.

49-99 Cooperative Library System: Executive Director Christine Powers

CLSA funding allocated by the CLSA Board for FY 2021/2022: \$152,159.

Approved Baselines Funds: \$121,727

Program	Budgeted from funding of FY 2021/2022	Expended from budget of FY 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Resource Sharing	\$115,620	\$115,620			
Audit	\$6,107	\$6,107			
TOTAL	\$121,727	\$121,727			

Approved System Administration Funds: \$30,432

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Executive Director	\$6,273	\$6,273			
Deputy Director	\$10,448	\$10,448			
Controller	\$8,936	\$8,936			
Project Manager	\$546	\$546			
Administrative Assistant	\$4,229	\$4,229			
TOTAL	\$30,432	\$30,432			

49-99 Cooperative Library System Continued

Were Goals Met-How did the Community Benefit?

The goals of the Communication and Delivery Program were successfully met. LINK+ continues to be a major boost to the collections for the six participating libraries. 49-99 member libraries borrowed 80,000 items in FY 21/22. Libraries collectively loaned over 36,000 items out to the LINK+ member libraries.

The service continues to be a benefit to the community for access to materials that some of the 49-99 libraries may not have in their collections. It also provides a quicker loaning period, so community members are not waiting on hold lists for materials.

Non-CLSA funded activities

- Book Club in a Box is a service provided by 49-99 which enables not only the library's book clubs to offer many different reading options but local book clubs as well.
- Stockton is the hub for **LINK+** at no cost to the member libraries. They provide training and support; Stockton sorts all the 49-99 materials and Unity picks up from Stockton which is a substantial savings for the member libraries.
- Member libraries offer each other various support as needed such as grant writing assistance, E-Rate application help, and assistance with general questions individual libraries may have.

Serra Cooperative Library System: Executive Director Christine Powers

CLSA funding allocated by the CLSA Board for FY 2021/2022: \$266,796.

Approved Baselines Funds: \$213,437

Program	Budgeted from funding of FY 2021/2022	Expended from budget of FY 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
E-Resource	\$103,421	\$103,421		\$52,856 2020-2021	
Audit	\$5,764	\$3,093	\$2,671		
Delivery	\$855	\$855		\$11,062 2020-2021	
Telecommunications	\$500	\$500			
Resource Sharing	\$102,897	\$17,715	\$85,182		
TOTAL	\$213,437	125,584	\$87,853	\$63,918	

Approved System Administration Funds: \$53,359

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Executive Director	\$21,846	\$21,846			
Deputy Director	\$827	\$827			
Controller	\$21,511	\$21,511			
Project Manager	\$468	\$468			
Administrative Assistant	\$8,707	\$8,707			
TOTAL	\$53,359	\$53,359			

Serra Cooperative Library System Continued

Were Goals Met-How did the Community Benefit?

Serra achieved the Communications and Delivery objectives. Systemwide delivery was provided to member libraries by a contracted courier weekly for members on the coast and monthly (or as needed) to members in the Imperial Valley region.

The annual audit was successfully completed and accepted by the Serra Administrative Council.

Serra continued to maintain a shared Overdrive eBook collection for all member libraries except San Diego County and San Diego Public. Book clubs relied heavily on the collection and even intentionally chose books that were offered through the platform to increase the likelihood of a book club member being able to find the title. The Overdrive collections available offered are vast and varied so there is really no limit to possibilities when a patron comes to us with a question about book suggestions.

The system also maintained a systemwide subscription to Flipster eMagazines. Flipster became an essential tool for those who wanted access to magazine titles; the catalog is larger and encompasses a wider net of subjects.

Non-CLSA funded activities

- Serra is in the process of deploying the LINK+ services for member libraries. The Serra Technology Committee (STARC) has led the project management of the deployment with Innovative Interfaces, the associated delivery courier Unity, and member libraries in-kind.
- Serra continues to maintain active committees for Adult Services, Youth Services and Technology as forums for sharing best practices and fostering continuing education amongst staff.

Santiago Library System: Executive Director Christine Powers

CLSA funding allocated by the CLSA Board for FY 2021/2022: \$204,233

Approved Baselines Funds: \$163,386

Program	Budgeted from funding of FY 2021/2022	Expended from budget of FY 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Telecommunications	\$156,896	\$48,695	\$108,201		
Audit	\$6,490	\$5,804	\$686		
E-Resources					\$48,697 2020-21
TOTAL	\$ 163,386	\$54,499	\$157,584		\$48,697

Approved System Administration Funds: \$40,847

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Executive Director	\$23,643	\$23,643			
Deputy Director	\$1,344	\$1,344			
Controller	\$10,384	\$10,384			
Project Manager	\$780	\$780			
Administrative Assistant	\$4,696	\$4,696			
TOTAL	\$40,847	\$40,847			

Santiago Library System Continued

Were Goals Met-How did the Community Benefit?

The annual audit was successfully completed.

Libraries who requested their funds be allocated for E-Resources used their funds for shared eBook/Magazine collections. These funds helped support a major need at our library to significantly reduce print magazine subscriptions and patrons have grown to enjoy using the OverDrive platform. OverDrive Magazines has allowed patrons to continue engaging with their favorite magazine titles as well as thousands of new offerings. Due to the many language offerings through this subscription, Santiago libraries have had significantly more engagement with non-English materials.

Libraries who requested their distributions be for Telecommunications used their funds for Broadband expenses. The ability to provide such a service as broadband is of critical importance, especially with changes in work and school life due to the COVID19 pandemic. Those lacking access to proper technology utilize the library's computers to complete schoolwork assignments, apply for jobs, file unemployment claims, make doctor's appointments, or other essential tasks.

Non-CLSA funded activities

- Santiago Libraries have created their own process for delivery between libraries with each library paying their own expenses and using Orange County branches as distribution points. It's a very effective way to reduce delivery costs but keep up an essential service.
- Santiago holds quarterly meetings and has email groups that provide for effective networking, information sharing, and discussion forums for the region so that the local libraries stay abreast of developments in the area and share experiences and advice with one another. It's a valuable connection for staff at various levels of the organization.

Pacific Library Partnership (PLP): Executive Director Carol Frost

CLSA funding allocated by the CLSA Board for FY 2021/2022: \$708,195

Approved Baselines Funds: \$566,556

Program	Budgeted from funding of FY 2021/2022	Expended from budget of FY 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Delivery	\$210,854	\$203,567	\$7,287		
Local Cost	\$14,310	\$9,828	\$4,482		
e-Resources	\$341,392	\$190,006	\$151,386	\$109,994 2020-21	
TOTAL	\$566,556	\$403,401	\$163,155	\$109,994	

Approved System Administration Funds: \$141,639

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Chief Executive Officer	\$100,205	\$100,205			
Assistant Director	\$13,480	\$13,480			
Controller	\$15,430	\$15,430			
Operations Manager	\$5,572	\$5,572			
Accounting Clerk	\$3,899	\$3,899			
Admin Assistant II	\$3,054	\$3,054			
TOTAL	\$141,639	\$141,639			

Pacific Library Partnership Continued

Were Goals Met-How did the Community Benefit?

The goals for the Communications & Delivery Program were met through the ongoing CLSA funding.

PLP member libraries continue to prioritize delivery services for use of CLSA system funding. Libraries throughout the system depend on the ability to share materials and resources as a mechanism to enhance the breadth and depth of their individual collections and Delivery is the critical component that makes this sharing possible. PLP currently provides Delivery in four separate service areas within the region, with each service area receiving a CLSA subsidy for operations according to a formula approved by the PLP Executive Committee. All communities benefit from the reliable sharing of resources enabled by Delivery, which enhances collections and allows materials to move from library to library in a timely manner.

CLSA funds were also used to fund communications items. Libraries were given the option to choose from the following menu choices:

enki; OverDrive; Bibliotheca's CloudLibrary Consortia product; Broadband hardware costs; Link+; SimplyE; PLP negotiated shared eContent platform for select libraries; curbside pickup; remote reference; or CENIC telecommunication costs.

Non-CLSA funded activities

Member libraries spend local funds to support Communications and Delivery in four primary categories:

- Local funding for delivery
- Inter-Library Loan Services: Libraries funded inter-library loan services locally, including OCLC World Share and Link+.
- Broadband: PLP libraries used local funds to invest in their connectivity via broadband to the CalREN network. Costs included ongoing connection costs as well as hardware and software costs.
- Digital Collections: Shared eMaterials collection for its member libraries. Other PLP libraries purchased eBooks, eAudio, digital magazines and eMusic for their patrons and contributed local funds.

NorthNet Library System (NLS): Executive Director Carol Frost

CLSA funding allocated by the CLSA Board for FY 2021/2022:

\$815,134 Approved Baselines Funds: \$652,107

- **\$1,553 of Administrative funds will be added to the Baseline for a total of \$653,660**

Program	Budgeted from funding of FY 2021/2022	Expended from budget of FY 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Delivery	\$162,500	\$162,500	\$0		
Local Cost (office supplies, postage, Listservices)	\$5,050	\$3,116	\$1,934		
e-Resources (Zinio, Overdrive, and Link+)	\$522,927	\$393,682	\$92,428	\$36,817 Rollover from 2020/2021	
TOTAL	\$690,477	\$559,298	\$94,362	\$36,817	

Approved System Administration Funds: \$163,027

- **\$1,553 from Administrative Funds will be rolled over to the Baseline_**

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
NLS Coordinator	\$50,700	\$50,700			
PLP CEO	\$19,299	\$19,299			
PLP Controller	\$23,413	\$23,413			
PLP Operations Manager	\$26,041	\$26,041			
PLP Accounting Clerk	\$7,374	\$7,374			
Administrative Assistant II	\$3,956	\$3,956			
Administrative Assistant	\$4,451	\$4,451			

Fiscal Admin Svs. Specialists	\$11,524	\$11,524			
TOTAL (salaries)	\$146,758	\$146,758			
PC&E	\$14,716				
Total w/PC&E	\$161,474				

NorthNet Library System Continued

Were Goals Met-How did the Community Benefit?

The goals for the NorthNet Library System (NLS) Communication and Delivery programs were met through the on-going CLSA funding. NLS completed all the funding objections described in the Plan of Service.

The NorthNet Library System distributes its CLSA funds back to the libraries, for them to choose to use the funds for shared courier delivery services, a shared eMagazine collection, a shared OverDrive collection, local shared OverDrive collections among 3 or more libraries, broadband hardware, and Link+.

Shared e-resources remain a priority for all members, especially those in smaller, more geographically remote areas. The Library-to-Go consortium-shared OverDrive shared eBook, eMagazine, and eAudio collection which can be accessed 24/7 through a custom library portal continues to be popular with NLS patrons.

NLS also has a shared eMagazine collection through OverDrive. The shared eMagazine collection circulation among 23-member library systems totaled 80,687 items.

17 NLS libraires now offer Link+ services to their communities.

Five member libraries allocated CLSA funds to help cover their CENIC costs. One member library allocated CLSA funds to support their Broadband hardware costs.

Non-CLSA funded activities

- The ILL/Link+ contracts that are in place at this time will allow NLS Link+ members the opportunity to review additional ILL options and identify long-term and sustainable means of continuing to improve and enhance resource sharing among all member libraries.
- One member library used local funds to subscribe to enki, a shared eBook platform.
- Libraries used local funds to support shared collections such as OverDrive, Bibliotheca Cloud Library, and the statewide Palace eBook-for-all project.

San Joaquin Valley Library System (SJVLS): Administrative Librarian Christopher Wymer

CLSA funding allocated by the CLSA Board for FY 2021/2022: \$235,672

Approved Baselines Funds: \$188,538

- **SJVLS combines their administrative funds with their Baseline funds to use their total budget of \$235,672 on the Baseline**

Program	Budgeted from funding of FY 2021/2022	Expended from budget of FY 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Delivery	\$194,422	\$194,422			
Communications	\$31,548	\$31,548			
E-Resources	\$9,702	\$0	\$9,702		
TOTAL	\$235,672	\$225,970	\$9,702		

Approved System Administration Funds: \$47,134

- **System Administration funds are combined with the Baseline**

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0		

San Joaquin Valley Library System Continued

Were Goals Met-How did the Community Benefit?

SJVL's goals for the use of CLSA funds to support our Communications and Delivery Program included funding intersystem delivery, renewing licenses for wireless internet access points, and expanding the titles available in the systemwide shared CloudLibrary subscription.

A large share of SJVLS's CLSA funding was utilized to operate delivery services, which allows patrons to request materials from other SNLS libraries. The \$194,422 in CLSA funding for delivery services facilitated the shipment of nearly 750,000 items to fill patron requests for materials and continues to be an important service for the communities we serve.

SJVLS requested permission to reallocate CLSA funding to help offset the costs of renewing licenses for wireless access points at 79 of our branches. SJVLS combined. Purchasing 3-year licenses gave SJVLS members a substantial savings when compared to purchasing a single year license, reducing the price per license from \$86.81 to \$54.33 per year. Based on usage statistics, wireless internet access continues to be an important resource for SJVLS communities.

Non-CLSA funded activities

- While CLSA funds cover delivery costs and subsidize part of our telecommunications and e-resources purchases, other portions of our Communications and Delivery budget are funded through local funding.
- Additional activities funded outside of CLSA are online materials, collections services through Unique Management, cataloging services, network telecommunications costs, and a shared integrated library system (ILS). These services provide all SJVLS library branches - just over 110 locations - with equal access to the consortia's shared collections and materials.
- Telecommunications costs are a core service that provides network connectivity from each library branch back to our data center and facilitates resource sharing and internet connectivity for our members.

Black Gold Cooperative System: Executive Director Glynis Fitzgerald

CLSA funding allocated by the CLSA Board for FY 2021/2022: \$156,370

Approved Baselines Funds: \$125,096

- **Black Gold combines their administrative funds with their Baseline funds to use their total budget of \$156,370 on the Baseline**

Program	Budgeted from funding of FY 2021/2022	Expended from budget of FY 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
Delivery	\$80,985	\$80,985	\$0		
e-Resources (OVERDRIVE)	\$75,385	\$75,385	\$0		
TOTAL	\$156,370	\$156,370	\$0		

Approved System Administration Funds: \$31,274

- **System Administration funds are combined with the Baseline**

Salaries & Benefits	Budgeted 2021/2022	Expended 2021/2022	Rollover to FY 2022/2023 From FY 2021/2022	Additional funds used	Additional funds being rolled over
TOTAL	\$0	\$0			

Black Gold Cooperative System Continued

Were Goals Met-How did the Community Benefit?

Black Gold members share an automated library system (ILS) which makes it very easy for patrons to request items from other libraries in the Cooperative. Having a delivery service to ship items to the patron's home library is essential to fulfilling this service. The primary use of CLSA funds has always been the delivery of materials between library jurisdictions.

CLSA funds we allocated to purchase Black Gold's Shared OverDrive collection. This has been especially important during COVID as many patrons continue to be reluctant to go to public buildings, so instead they turn to digital collections.

- **Non-CLSA funded activities**

- Local funds pay for the network connections from 33-member library buildings.

- Local funds pay for a telephone service which allows patrons to call in to renew items via an 800 number, and the system also calls patrons to let them know when a requested hold is available or when items are overdue.

- Local funds pay for 70% of the Overdrive costs for our shared collection.

- Local funds pay for 100% of the additional subscriptions to the shared eResources that Black Gold offers its patrons - Enki and OverDrive magazines.

System Communications & Delivery Program 2021/22 Methods and Workloads

Annual Cost of Service	Black Gold	49-99	Inland	NorthNet	PLP	SJVLS	Santiago	Serra	SCLC	Total of all Systems
Phone/Faxed	\$7,088	\$1,437	\$1,437	N/A	\$5,961	Unknown	\$1,437	\$1,437	\$1,437	\$20,234
Internet/Email	\$55,951	\$1,316	\$1,316	\$3,058	\$2,645	Unknown	\$1,316	\$1,316	\$1,316	\$68,234
Other	\$360,086	\$205	\$211	\$58	\$1,222	Unknown	\$211	\$211	\$211	\$362,415
Total of Individual System Cost	\$423,125	\$2,958	\$2,964	\$3,116	\$9,828		\$2,964	\$2,964	\$2,964	\$450,883

Workload Statistics	Black Gold	49-99	Inland	NorthNet	PLP	SJVLS	Santiago	Serra	SCLC	Total of all Systems
Delivery Workload Items	481,013	68,172	6,084	667,043	2,793,635	741,449	n/a	18,369	14,503	4,790,268
System Van	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Contracted Delivery	97%	100%	99%	99.96%	98.9%	100%	0%	99%	99%	
US Mail	2%	0%	1%	0.04%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	
United Parcel Service	0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Other Services	0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0.1%	0%	100%	0%	0%	
Traveled Miles	8,050	40,000	22,635	194,947	128,828	60,957	n/a	7,500	n/a	462,917

Connie Williams, President Paymaneh Maghsoudi Sandra Tauler
Anne Bernardo, Vice President Elizabeth Murguia James Lau
Maria Senour

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor's Office
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for maintaining California's investments in libraries in your January budget plan.

As members of the California Library Services Board -- appointed by you, the Senate Rules Committee, and the Assembly Speaker -- we share your recognition that investing in California's school and local libraries builds both community resilience and expands access to opportunity for all California.

Given budget constraints, the postponing of additional local assistance for long-delayed library facility improvements is understandable although the State Library expects more than \$600 million in applications for the next round of funding for which only \$179 million is available. Should more funding become available in the May Revision, investing in capital outlay generates the greatest amount of ongoing benefit for one-time funds.

In reviewing the needs of California libraries, we move closer to the May budget deadline, we wanted to highlight three important resources that need legislative support to build strong communities. In challenging budget times like this, it is important to prioritize equity, as you have done in your January spending blueprint. To further those ends the Board recommends:

- Investing \$2 million annually to ensure all Californians, including K-12 students, have access to eBooks and other digital resources by continuing to build a statewide eBooks-for-All library focused on multi-lingual and bilingual books for preschoolers to high-schoolers. New titles need to be added to the 80,000 existing ones to maximize the library's potential.
- Continue purchasing at least \$2.5 million in hotspots and Chromeblocks to connect Californians while the longer-term solutions of the state's Broadband for All are accomplished. Despite previous purchases, waiting lists for hotspots and laptops remain long.

- Increase ongoing funding for Zip Books to \$2 million annually. This cost-effective book delivery system that uses the online marketplace has seen no increase in funding for seven years while the number of participating library jurisdictions in has tripled from 30 to 96.

Libraries and librarians in our state and across the country are being targeted for perceived transgressions resulting in harassment and threats. As you pointed out in your inaugural address, splinter groups are working in the name of "freedom," to deny access to materials and information they object to.

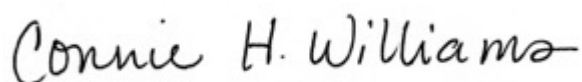
Routine elections that include requests to renew funding for local libraries have been turned into referendums on LGBTQ rights. While we recognize these attacks can't be eliminated, there are actions the state can take to support both librarians in our schools and our communities. Growing the statewide eBooks-for-All library will help in this regard by offering "windows, mirrors and doors" to community members of all ages to be seen as individuals.

Another simple and relatively low-cost way to assist school librarians would be to support the creation of a "School Library Lead," as defined in AB 535. This Lead, working within the Department of Education and the CA. Collaborative for Educational Excellence can create strategies and policies for school library services by providing needed support, leadership, and professional development.

Such service will enhance and strengthen literacy instruction and growth through school libraries by assisting school librarians and their districts in building strong school collections while growing the ability to increase access to online resources and other materials.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that all Californians have access to vital library services and resources.

Sincerely,



Connie Williams, President
California Library Services Board

Cc: Greg Lucas, California State Librarian
Toni Atkins, President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate
Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the California State Assembly



Memo: Book Challenges and Censorship in Libraries

To: California Library Services Board

From: Greg Lucas, California State Librarian

Date: Updated 04.04.23

Across the county and within California there is an increase in communities calling to challenge books and more shockingly demonstrate aggression toward librarians regarding items in library collections. Total book challenges broke records in 2022 with 1,835 unique titles targeted. Of the 1,648 titles that were banned last year, 41% explicitly address LGBTQ themes or have protagonists or prominent secondary characters who are LGBTQ, and 40% include protagonists or secondary characters of color. Although book banning and censorship challenges are nothing new, censorship attempts have reached an all-time high, as new publications address LGBTQ+ representation, gender, race and equality issues. As school boards, parents and community groups clash over the types of materials students have access to in local libraries and school libraries, here are a few examples of what is happening throughout the nation and in California.

National groups like Moms for Liberty state that their mission is "dedication to fighting for the survival of America by unifying, educating and empower parents to defend their parental rights at all levels of government." Members of the group spoke to the Iowa House Government Oversight Committee about their attempts to appeal certain books to their local school boards. Members of the group read aloud passages and showed images from novels such as "Gender Queer" and "Fun Home," two memoirs about LGBTQ sexual awakening and coming of age, according to a [Des Moines Register article](#) published on 02/07/23.

In the U.S. Congress HR 5, Parents Bill of Rights Act, states that any local educational agency receiving funds will provide a summary notice and parents will have the right to a list of books and other reading materials available in the library of their children's school, with the right to inspect such books or other reading material. This bill was introduced on 03/01/23 and is currently being reviewed in the Committee on Education and Workforce.
([HR 5](#))

In Oceanside California members of the community clashed over recent demands for the school district to remove books, several of which included LGBTQ themes and characters, claiming they were inappropriate for children. "In response, many local supporters of the LGBTQ community attended the school board meeting and argued that the books shouldn't

be banned, along with Oceanside Unified School District teachers who spoke against the book ban suggestion," according to [The Coast News article](#) published on 02/10/23. According to the Superintendent of Oceanside schools, "per board policy, the district shall accept complaints on instructional materials only from staff, district residents, or parents and guardians of children enrolled in the school district."

Also in California, the San Ramon Valley Unified School District board meeting addressed book acquisition guidelines and policies with members of the East Bay community calling for educators to remove books with themes of sexual orientation, gender identity, race and racism from their libraries. "In recent years, there has been a growing movement among educators and librarians to include diverse and inclusive literature in school libraries, with supporters arguing that exposure to diverse books can promote empathy and understanding and foster a more inclusive environment among students."

"But as seen increasingly across the nation, some parents of students in the Danville-based district over the past month have expressed a desire to ban some LGBTQ-themed books from the district's libraries, deeming the books age-inappropriate and at times pornographic, an accusation the district denies."

"Those who are trying to ban books in our district are fighting a non-existent problem," one high schooler says, according to an [East Bay Times article](#) published on 02/22/23.

Changes in how online platforms operate and an increase call for censorship of user content has been enacted into law in Florida with HB 1467, which identifies materials for which the school district received an objection and allows the Department of Education to publish a list of removed or discontinued materials because of an objection. The bill further expands the process of instructional materials review of all k-12 materials for "approved" content. ([HB 1467](#))

In Orange County the Orange Unified School District suspended the use of a library app Sora after parents raised concerns about their second-grade children having access to books which discussed sexual orientation and raised questions about vetting of digital resources. "Digital libraries are an important resource for our students. It is my sincere hope to get a digital library in place – as soon as possible – that meets the needs of our families and keeps our kids safe," said Superintendent Edward Velasquez in [article from Voice of OC](#) published on 02/01/23

In the California legislature has proposed AB 1078 which regulates the distribution of content and the evaluation of instructional materials. AB 1078 requires the governing board of a school district to receive approval from the state board and comply with any other applicable policies adopted by the state board before removing any books, publications, or papers from schools and school libraries. By imposing new obligations on school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. ([AB 1078](#))

"I've never seen anything like this," says Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom. "It's both the number of challenges and the kinds of challenges. It used to be a parent had learned about a given book and had an issue with it. Now we see campaigns where organizations are compiling lists of books, without necessarily reading or

even looking at them." In an [article in the Associated Press](#) published 12/16/22.

The [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#) has had a longstanding commitment to defend intellectual freedom in libraries, with online resources available via the [Office of Intellectual Freedom \(OIF\)](#). [Unite Against Book Bans](#) is a national initiative to empower readers and support libraries by providing provide resources to combat censorship via an [action toolkit](#). Updated book banning numbers can be found here at the [Unite Against Book Bans](#). When posting to social media today, please tag @uabookbans (Twitter) or @uniteagainstbookbans (Facebook and Instagram) and use the #uniteagainstbookbans hashtag.

As libraries become targets of politically motivated attacks, it is important to understand the current cultural landscape and continue to exercise professional discretion among librarians and educators while advocating for the freedom to choose what we read and believe. It is also important to distinguish the difference been book challenges and book banning. Most of the incidents we are hearing about are book challenges that attempt to remove or limit the circulation of certain titles. Most of these challenges fail and the book remains in the collection. For a overview of books that have been banned in the past [here is a list](#) of the most frequently challenged books according to the [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#).

References

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American Library Association: Advocacy, Legislation & Issues <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/>

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Book ban efforts surging in 2022, library association says <https://apnews.com/article/libraries-american-library-association-book-banningaf7c9f312266b572c3dc189b1d109de4>

Moms for Liberty: "Getting inappropriate books out of Iowa schools"

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2023/02/07/obscene-books-dispute-returnsto-iowa-capitol-conservative-moms-call-for-action/69877178007/>

Community clashes over LGBTQ books in Oceanside schools

<https://thecoastnews.com/community-clashes-over-lgbtq-books-in-oceanside-schools/>

Top 10 most challenged books lists

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10>