**Health Science Librarians of Illinois Legislative Committee Report**

**Submitted by Kirstin Duffin & Carmen Howard, co-chairs**

1. Committee Members: Kirstin Duffin & Carmen Howard
2. Illinois Updates:
* The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library:
	+ The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library Funding Bill ([SB0149](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=149&GAID=14&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=100026&SessionID=91&GA=100&SpecSess=0)) was placed on the general assembly’s agenda in January 2017.
	+ Speaker Madigan proposed making the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library a separate state agency and an Amendment to [House Bill 136](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=10000HB0136ham001&GA=100&SessionId=91&DocTypeId=HB&LegID=99086&DocNum=136&GAID=14&Session=) was filed on March 9th.  It was referred to the State Government Administration Committee on March 13th and was on their agenda for March 22nd.
	+ House bill ([HB 0136](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?GAID=14&GA=100&DocNum=0136&DocTypeID=HB&SessionID=91&LegID=99086&SpecSess=&Session=)) to make the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library a separate state agency was voted on by the State Government Administration Committee, which unanimously voted to recommend that the bill be adopted.  The bill picked up another Chief Co-Sponsor – Rep. Tim Butler.
	+ Gov. Rauner signed an executive order regarding the museum and library.
	+ The bill passes both the House and the Senate: <http://www.sj-r.com/news/20170601/senate-oks-making-lincoln-museum-its-own-agency>
* The Budget:
	+ The State of Illinois remains without a budget. A number of resources and articles about the budget situation have been shared throughout the year.
	+ The Illinois State Comptroller’s Office has an informative [website](https://illinoiscomptroller.gov/) that allows you to see the finances of the state and your local government.
		- To access the current state expenditures and revenues as well as the current total for the backlog of unpaid bills, use [The Ledger](http://ledger.illinoiscomptroller.gov/).
		- To run reports on your local county, municipality, township, or other taxing district, use [The Warehouse](http://warehouse.illinoiscomptroller.com/).
		- The [website](https://illinoiscomptroller.gov/) also has other tools and pages to explore, including the [Check for Cash](http://illinoiscomptroller.gov/services/check-for-cash/) page that let’s you see if the state owes you any money.
	+ For an interesting look at the real people being affected by the budget crisis, Kartemquin Films has teamed up with *In These Times* to create a documentary web series called “Stranded by the State” and available on YouTube. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmMZWKDRc2UGjzpA-6qBwCw>)
	+ An article of interest was published in the State Journal Register: [$2.2M more in budget cuts could be coming to SIU medical school](http://www.sj-r.com/news/20170330/22m-more-in-budget-cuts-could-be-coming-to-siu-medical-school)  The article specifically mentions that the library acquisitions budget is a cut that might be made.
	+ For a quick overview of the state of budget work and a few big issues being discussed in the Spring of 2017: [Lawmakers return from spring break; ‘bargain’ remains unresolved](http://www.sj-r.com/news/20170423/lawmakers-return-from-spring-break-bargain-remains-unresolved) *from the State Journal Register*
	+ Budget impact article from June 3, 2017: [http://www.whig.com/20170603/costs-of-illinois-budget-crisis-can-be-counted-in-dollars-jobs#](http://www.whig.com/20170603/costs-of-illinois-budget-crisis-can-be-counted-in-dollars-jobs)
* Other Legislation & Legislative Resources:
	+ On November 9th, [House Bill 6623](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=6623&GAID=13&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=98645&SessionID=88&GA=99) was filed with the Illinois General Assembly.  This bill represents a proposed agreement between the state and the University of Illinois in which the university agrees to meet certain standards in exchange for stable funding.  For more information on this bill and it’s possible implications for public universities throughout the state, you can view the [CBS3 news report](http://www.illinoishomepage.net/news/local-news/ui-leaders-have-new-money-proposal) or visit the [UofI’s Investment, Performance, and Accountability Commitment (IPAC) website](https://www.uillinois.edu/president/IPAC).
	+ The 100th Illinois General Assembly inauguration was January 20th, and they will be in session several days in January and February.  Some items of interest on their agenda are: [SB0006](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=6&GAID=14&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=98849&SessionID=91&GA=100&SpecSess=0) (FY17 Appropriations), HB0136 (Lincoln Museum & Library), [HB0373](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=373&GAID=14&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=99612&SessionID=91&GA=100&SpecSess=0) (Amends the Illinois Local Library Act), and [HB0482](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=482&GAID=14&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=100123&SessionID=91&GA=100&SpecSess=0) (Amends the Public Library District Act).
	+ Be sure to check out the Illinois Library Association’s [2017 Palm Card](http://ila.us12.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=6e70654dccbd86e15c572ad55&id=e0932f1c0c&e=6c2d40f734) for a quick summary of the legislation that you should be watching in the Spring session of the General Assembly.
	+ [Senate Weekly Schedule](http://www.ilga.gov/senate/schedules/hearings.asp?Scheduled=W) & [House Weekly Schedule](http://www.ilga.gov/house/schedules/hearings.asp?Scheduled=W).  Need help understanding what “Last Action” means and why it is important to understanding where the bill is in the Illinois legislative process?  Then try this [flowchart](http://www.ilga.gov/commission/lru/howabillbecomesalaw.pdf).  For even more help, try this [guide](http://guides.library.illinois.edu/c.php?g=347254&p=2342630) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
	+ “[Illinois Senate OKs Internet Privacy Measure](http://www.sj-r.com/news/20170504/illinois-senate-oks-internet-privacy-measure)” from The State Journal-Register
* News & Other Items:
	+ In case you haven’t gotten enough information about the election results this week, your local ABC station may have results of some of the smaller races and referenda on their website ([Chicago area results](http://abc7chicago.com/politics/elections/local/), [Southern Illinois results](http://www.wsiltv.com/story/33524084/vote-2016-general-election-results)).  The [Illinois State Board of Elections](https://elections.il.gov/Default.aspx) has not yet posted the results.
	+ Here is an Illinois Public Media interview of Dan Hagen and his Illinois Issues commentary about fake/biased news sources, digital bubbles, and the political divide in Illinois and across the nation.  Listen to the [interview](http://will.illinois.edu/player/audio/illinois-issues-great-american-divide) or read the [essay](http://will.illinois.edu/news/story/illinois-issues-great-american-divide).  Fair warning:  As librarians, I think most of us will find his comments, about fact checking, critical-thinking skills, and their effect on democracy, of interest.  However, if you are a fan of Fox News, you may not appreciate his choice to target them with some of his criticisms.
	+ You can watch a recording of the Governor’s January 25th State of the State address on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZTU8anc5N0>.  The Governor begins his address approximately 24 minutes into the video.
	+ “[Monday Bid Deadline Prompts Scramble Among Illinois Insurers, Legislators](http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20170512/NEWS/170519945)” from Modern Healthcare
1. Federal Updates:
* Presidential succession:
* Review the Office of Science and Technology Policy’s [Exit Memo](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/cabinet/exit-memos/office-science-and-technology-policy) summarizing the Obama administration’s science and technology policy efforts, including initiatives in precision medicine and broadening public access to federally-funded, peer-reviewed publications.
* With the transition of presidential administrations, a number of library advocacy issues are on the precipice of change:
* support of [net neutrality](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/01/network-neutrality-in-crosshairs/), which the FCC strongly bolstered in 2015 with the adoption of the Open Internet rules, may be weakened or eliminated under the new administration;
* championship of [privacy](https://cdt.org/insight/letter-to-senate-judiciary-committee-re-nomination-for-attorney-general-of-senator-sessions/), including as it relates to library patron records, is under question as Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL) takes over the office of Attorney General;
* efforts to pass the [Email Privacy Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/699), which would prevent unwarranted access by authorities to electronic communications, will be reinvigorated; and,
* modernization of the [Copyright Office](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2016/12/17746/), including the potential decoupling of this office from the Library of Congress, is on the horizon.
	+ Rep. Tom Price was named secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Trump appointed Seema Verma to oversee the HHS’s Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
* Federal budget and legislation:
* Under the Trump administration’s proposed 2018 budget, HHS faces a 17.9% decrease in funding, from $84.1 billion in 2017 to $69.0 billion in 2018. Federal allocations to the NIH would be reduced 18.3%, from $31.7 billion in 2017 to $25.9 billion in 2018. The elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services has also been proposed. [In the May 23, 2017 full budget proposal, a 90.0% decrease in funding to the IMLS is listed, representing a cut from $230 million in 2017 to $23 million in 2018. The [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/trump-presidential-budget-2018-proposal/?utm_term=.e0343240a98d) has more.]
* A “Dear Colleague” letter was circulated by Reps. David McKinley (R-W.Va.), Andre Carson (D-Ind.), Peter King (R-N.Y.), and Susan Davis (D-Calif.) to support funding the NIH “at least $2 billion above the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 enacted level” for FY18.
* Action was sought in support of funding libraries via the Reed/Collins LSTA and Reed/Grassley/Stabenow IAL “Dear Appropriator” letters. [An update on this campaign is available from the [District Dispatch](http://www.districtdispatch.org/2017/05/senate-dear-appropriator-campaign/); in short, from the news article, “[The campaign] has placed LSTA and IAL in the strongest possible position for this stage of the appropriations cycle, which will continue into the fall.”]
* Updates to the FCC privacy rules approved under the Obama administration in October 2016 were repealed. The new resolution allows internet service providers to collect user information and sell it to advertisers without having to obtain the user’s consent.
* A bill has been proposed that would give the President oversight of appointing the Register of Copyrights (currently the responsibility of the Librarian of Congress). The Library Copyright Alliance opposes this action because it would politicize the appointment, slow action in modernizing the Copyright Office, and decrease accountability due to a proposed 10-year term.
* The FCC voted on May 18, 2017 to roll back Obama-era net neutrality regulations put in place in 2015.
* Medically-related legislative action and news (incl. MLA and AAHSL):
* The new NLM Strategic Plan includes four central themes:
1. Role of NLM in advancing data science, open science, and biomedical informatics;
2. Role of NLM in advancing biomedical discovery and translational science;
3. Role of the NLM in supporting the public’s health: clinical systems, public health systems and services, and personal health; and,
4. Role of NLM in building collections to support discovery and health in the 21st century.

MLA and AAHSL have filed [comments](https://mla.socious.com/d/do/7586) in support of this new plan.

* The MLA and AAHSL made recommendations to the NIH regarding data management practices in response to the NIH request for information (RFI) made in late 2016:
* A 12-month embargo, and making that data available for 10 years;
* Utilizing publicly available databases;
* Assessing the outcome and relevance of the 2013 RFI (NOT-HG-13-011) on the development and implementation of an NIH Data Catalog as part of the overall Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Initiative;
* Linking ORCID to datasets via a unique identifier; and,
* Linking to eRA Commons accounts (similar to PMCID).
* MLA and AAHSL recommended funding for the NLM of at least $412.1 million in FY18.
* Library-related legislative action and news (incl. ALA and ACRL):
	+ ALA submitted a letter to France’s highest court, Conseil d’État, in response to the ruling on the “right to be forgotten” in Google searches. ALA supports international access to search results while delisting results from EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) domains of Google, including access to other domains of Google when searched within the country of the complainant.
* The Electronic Frontier Foundation drew attention to the following five principles during Copyright Week (Jan 16-20) this year: (1) Building and Defending the Public Domain, (2) You Bought It, You Own It, You Fix It, (3) Transparency and Representation, (4) 21st Century Creators, and (5) Copyright and Free Speech.
* ALA and ARL are among 50 organizations that have signed a statement supporting privacy protection of transnational travelers from undue search of personal electronic devices.
* The ACRL Legislative Agenda for 2017 includes four focal issues. In priority order, these are:
	+ 1. Federal funding for libraries;
		2. Network neutrality;
		3. Access to federally funded research; and,
		4. Privacy and government surveillance.