

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATORS OF MINNESOTA

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2015

Minnesota's libraries, of all types, play a critical role in the state's economic vitality and provide an important component in the education and quality of life of Minnesotans.

In 2013 over 24,700,000 people visited a local public library - ten times the number of people who attended Twins' games in 2013.

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) PALS system serves almost 300,000 Minnesotans.

The University of Minnesota Libraries provided Minnesotans with access to over 7 million items in its collections throughout the state.

In 2013, Minnesotans searched the Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM) over 50.8 million times and downloaded 20.1 million full-text items; over 507,000 requests were submitted over the MnLINK Gateway; and Minitex received 357,000 interlibrary loan requests.

In 2013-2014, 632.6 FTE Media Specialists serviced 2,466 public and non-public schools.

2015 Legislative Platform

In 2015 the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) and the Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) support increased state funding for the following programs that support library services in Minnesota:

- \$5 million per year to \$18,570,000 annually for the Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS)
- \$1.3 million per year to \$2,600,000 annually for the Multi-type Library systems
- \$1 million per year to \$3,300,000 annually for Regional Library Telecommunications Aid (RLTA)
- \$6 million per year to \$9,750,000 annually for Telecommunications Equity Aid (TEA)
- \$1.25 million per year to \$4,250,000 annually for regional library systems from the Arts and Cultural Heritage fund

MLA and ITEM support state funding at least at the level recommended by the Governor for the following programs that provide access to the valuable collections in Minnesota libraries and to a wide variety of digital services:

- Minitex
- Electronic Library of Minnesota (ELM)



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION



2015 Legislative Policies

Colleges and Universities: The Minnesota Library Association and the Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota support academic libraries in their commitment to research, teaching, learning and providing information to all Minnesotans. Minnesota Library Association recognizes the important role that academic libraries play in lifelong learning through community outreach with programs such as History Day, PSEO and workforce development.

Data Practices: MLA and ITEM support public policies that ensure an individual's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to library information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted. Within these parameters, MLA supports open access to government records and data.

Early Literacy: MLA and ITEM support programs and initiatives that recognize the critical role of libraries and librarians in fostering early literacy.

E-Books: MLA and ITEM supports a study by the State Library Services Division or its designee of the costs and process of implementing a statewide e-book program.

E-Government: MLA and ITEM supports consideration of the role libraries and librarians play in the delivery of digital or e-government services as these services are developed at all levels of government.

Intellectual Freedom: MLA and ITEM endorse the Library Bill of Rights and supports the concept of intellectual freedom. Attempts to limit the freedom to hold, receive and disseminate ideas without restriction is viewed as an attack against the integral component of a democratic society.

Minnesota Electronic Health Library (MeHL): The MLA and ITEM support the University of Minnesota's legislative request for a Minnesota Electronic Health Library (MeHL) that provides 24/7 online access to licensed, evidence-based, clinical care resources for all Minnesotans.

Learning: The MLA and ITEM support programs that recognize that libraries are essential providers and partners of afterschool learning by providing content rich collections, staff expertise, and hands-on, active programming for youth.

Services to Special Populations: The MLA and ITEM support continued funding for the Braille and Talking Book Program of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

Technology: The MLA and ITEM support the recommendations of the Governor's Broadband Taskforce in order to ensure equity of access to high speed telecommunications for all Minnesotans.