**Sage Library System -- Emergency Meeting**  
**Date:** April 7, 2025  
**Time:** 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Pacific Time  
**Location:** Zoom web conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84933981907?pwd=QXNp6lczkdBWXXp8haZSvZiJVwojBz.1>

Meeting ID: 849 3398 1907

Passcode: 968476

**Agenda**

1. **Call to Order** – Dea Nowell, Sage Chair
2. **Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum** – Perry Stokes, Vice Chair
3. **Statement of Emergency and Meeting Purpose** – Dea/Perry/Beth Ross
   * **Latest news on IMLS status**
     1. [Apr 4 lawsuit filed by 21 States challenging decimation of IMLS](https://news.artnet.com/art-world/ags-sue-trump-institute-museum-library-services-imls-2628543)

See: [EveryLibrary Shall / May analysis](https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/imls_shall_may_language)

* + 1. [EveryLibrary advising state libraries to engage with state legislators](https://www.everylibraryinstitute.org/state_budgets_imls_funding_contingency)

“While Congress is conducting its critical legislative oversight role and the IMLS Advisory Board is continuing to inform the acting director of agency responsibilities, it remains to be seen how the Office for Management and Budget will implement President Trump’s Executive Order. The IMLS situation remains extremely fluid. The current fiscal year 2025 payments to grant recipients, as well as the future makeup of the agency, remain uncertain. Congress cannot repeal an Executive Order, and the outcome of any possible lawsuit is uncertain. It is important for state-level libraries, museums, and archives stakeholders to understand that the next phase of this campaign needs to be conducted within their state’s budget processes and to not exclusively focus on Congress or the Administration.

Prudent state-level stakeholders should be engaging with their state legislators, particularly on appropriations, finance, budget, or ways and means committees, about federal FY2025 IMLS funding contingencies.”

* + **Overview of impact of IMLS budget cuts for Oregon**

Most notably, should IMLS funds go away, Oregonians will experience the impact in these specific ways.

• The SAGE libraries courier system of Eastern Oregon, which transported 91,582 items across 15 rural counties in Eastern Oregon in FY24 alone, will be disrupted if not terminated. This will significantly reduce the availability of materials for homeschooling families and seniors in our communities.

• LSTA funded Statewide databases would be turned off, which provided 1,272,987 articles to Oregonians in FY24.

• K-12 students in Oregon would no longer have access to the online resources of OSLIS, which had 677,775 visits in FY24.

• Answerland services, which connected Oregonians remotely with quality information and answers 17,957 times in FY24, would be shuttered.

• Northwest Digital Heritage, a partnership with Oregon Heritage Commission and the Washington State Library, which made 253,625 items available online just in FY24, stops adding more content.

1. **Current Status of Sage Courier Network** – Beth
   * Impact of freeze or cancellation of IMLS grants for Sage
     1. [Current Sage Financial Report](https://www.sagelib.org/files/59cedd4d2/2025-03-31_sage_financial_report.pdf)
   * Review of [existing contracts](https://www.sagelib.org/files/fe736b10d/CourierNetworkCostsEst24-25.docx), funding sources, and logistics
2. **Discussion: Strategic Planning for Courier Network Sustainability**
   * [Potential service reductions or restructuring](https://www.sagelib.org/files/f1b7619ca/CourierFundingOptionswoIMLS.docx) – Beth/Isaac Gilman, Exec Director of Orbis-Cascade
     1. **Option 1: Shared Hub Cost Model** *Distribute the increased courier cost among hub dropsites; rely on libraries or volunteers for local deliveries.*
     2. **Option 2: Reduced Service Frequency with Hold Limits** *Cut courier service to two days/week to save costs, lower patron hold limits to manage volume, and fund local delivery through libraries or volunteers.*
     3. **Option 3: Half-Year Bridge Funding** *Use $40,000 to support 6 months of courier service while exploring long-term funding solutions and maximizing local courier savings.*
   * [Cost-sharing models among member libraries](https://www.sagelib.org/files/af3f7ccce/FY25-26_Sage_fees.xlsx) to backfill $80K
     1. **Option 4:** 29% increase of 2025-26 fee schedule

*Apply a flat % increase to the planned 2025-26 member fee schedule. Rate changes per member would vary from $188 to $6,412 with an average change of $1,518.*

*PRO: Fairly distributes burden by a proportionate method.*

*CON: Compared to last year charge, some members’ increase will be much greater than 29% since that is added to the already variable rate change of Year 2 of 4-year fee restructuring plan.*

* + 1. **Option 5:** $1,510 assessment to each member

*Assess each member a flat courier maintenance fee. For 33 members this would be 50% or greater increase. For 17 of those 33 it would be 100% or more (double). For 5 of the 33 it would be a greater than 200% increase (triple).*

*PRO: Fairly distributes burden, like a utility infrastructure maintenance fee.*

*CON: Increase is greater than some member current fees; may cause loss of membership.*

* + 1. **Option 6:** ILL surcharge (E.g. $0.94 per borrow)

*Assess a surcharge based on the number of Sage ILL borrows at a rate sufficient to generate the target amount. Suggested per item rate is based on FY23-24 statistics alone. Note: for consistency we would base the rate on a 3-year average of ILL borrows.*

*PRO: A pay-per-use model tied to volume*

*CON: Disincentivizes borrowing*

* + 1. **Option 7:** 11% increase of 2028-29 fee schedule (Per Capita End Goal)

*Apply a flat % increase to the planned 2028-29 member fee schedule. Rate changes per member would vary from -$687 to $10,640 with an average change of $1,540.*

*PRO: Fast forward jump to the goal of a fee structure based on a more fair charge per-capita. Only one library’s increase is over 50% as compared to planned 2025-26 fees.*

*CON: Risks potential loss of largest libraries since they shoulder the most burden and in an abrupt manner.*

* + Alternative funding sources (state, local, private grants, crowdfunding)

1. **Action Items & Next Steps**
   * Assignments for research, advocacy, and funding exploration
   * Timeline for decisions and implementation
   * Coordination with state library agencies and legislative contacts
2. **Adjournment**