

2014 PL Standards Review Questionnaire

Question #1: Are there any other parts of the standards that you feel that the Taskforce should address?

- "1) I believe most/all of the current standards need substantial revision. I believe all of the standards need to be revised to become ADVISORY MODELS FOR EXCELLENT PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE, rather than MANDATORY (bureaucratic, zero tolerance) RULES (for which non-compliance in any way the loss of state or federal funding [if any] as well as the loss of a public library's operating certification by the ILHB, as well as the loss of its individual employee certifications, by default).

In large part, the standards must be viewed as ADVISORY rather than MANDATORY because the neither the ILHB nor the IN ASSEMBLY provides or appears to even advocate for LEVEL funding for public libraries across IN (e.g. on a per capita basis) regardless of local economic and demographic differences/needs. The above should be the FIRST or PRIMARY STANDARD for high quality public library service in IN, enacted by the ILHB on itself. What is the purpose of imposing standards on 237 locally funded public libraries across IN, if the ILHB imposes no meaningful public library service STANDARDS on itself?

2) I believe the mission/role of the State Library should also be reviewed as another self-imposed 'STANDARD' for library service on itself. When the ILS (and many other state libraries across the US) was first established, its primary mission, presumably, was to encourage the development of public libraries, particularly in vast areas of the state that had no public libraries at all at that time. However, IN now has 237 public libraries and less than 10% of the state is without public library service. Furthermore, all public libraries are locally funded, with virtually no financial support from the state, the ILS or federal sources.

I would suggest, therefore, that the ILS and the ILHB have achieved great success in promoting public library service across IN over the past century. However, it is now time, in the name of 'state government', to 'sunset' this portion of the ILS's mission, particularly since the reality is that the way public libraries in IN are funded is unlikely to change in any substantial way in the future.

3) A good future role for the ILS/ILHB would be to continue its role as a valuable state archive, as well as continue to support statewide public library service through advisory Standards for excellent local public library service. This could also extend to the ILS's role in facilitating the Evergreen consortium, which primary helps very small public libraries.

I appreciate the work of the ILS and ILHB and the committee that has been formed to review the Standards. I hope my suggestions and views are taken in a positive light in which I have given them, and help the committee achieve success in improving IN's Standards for excellent public library service.

Sincerely,
Andy Waters, director
Goshen Public Library"

- Realistic Enhanced/Exceptional Ratings
- Re-define collection development & reciprocal borrowing, Programming and hours of service need a clause due to library budgets in difficult economic times.
- "Enhanced/Exceptional Ratings under hours open should rate the number of days open too. For example, my library is a Class B, we are open past 6:00 p.m. three days a week and we are open both Saturday and Sunday. However, no special ""credit"" is given to those Libraries that are open 7 days a week.
- I have 4 MLS Librarians on staff, I think that the standards should some how evaluate the number of MLS Librarians for the service area population rather than the department they work."
- Educational requirements for library directors & department heads should continue to increase!
- No
- Number of programs per library system and number of computers and computer access per library system. Population is not a good factor in the equation.
- I feel the exceptional ratings can not be achieved by a small library because of budget constraints. For example; is it important to have a separate person for teens? Isn't there another way to measure through attendance etc?
- No
- Sometimes System compliance is most important and should not be based on main or branch but system.
- "Standards should address the highest levels of decision making, for example, bylaws, planning, and policy. Local decisions should be made by each library district depending on the needs in that community. Programming may be very important in one community while it may not be in another.
- I would like to see the MLS requirement for Library Directors in large public libraries removed. Large public libraries may be better served by having a director who holds a degree in public administration."
- n/a

- How do smaller libraries with limited budgets hire an MLS degreed person to take over a position when the "grandfathered" person leaves?
- There are enough standards already. They really do not take in to consideration that libraries are different with different needs. Some current standards are not necessary.
- Generally, I favor keeping local control for the manner that best serves the needs of local populations. I would suggest that it becomes very dangerous for collection development \$ to be quantified as needing to meet a % of budget; I believe it's foolish to require certain # of public computers per population-- this is a waning need-- more people have mobile devices and less need for a public access workstation. Avoidance of paternalism when creating standards is a must to gain greater compliance and a stronger sense of "buy-in" from those being regulated. Our libraries are in the business of meeting community needs, not in the business of trying to meet a governmental body's idea of what those far-flung and diverse community needs are.
- No
- The ratings for libraries are mute in the fact there is no real incentive to achieve them since there is no real "reward" for obtaining them. Many of these standards create "busy" work, that doesn't impact the community or patrons. The mandated continuing education for librarians is enforced when this standard for teachers have been dropped. How much more education do librarians need beyond their masters? Especially in a time when library budgets are getting cut and letting services and staff go. It's not reasonable to ask so much of libraries when there is no money to back most of these standards. At least with teachers there was merit pay for continuing education, no librarian gets this. We really feel this is not an unreasonable request. Our library receives less that \$200 from the state yet the state of Indiana makes all these demands of us. The standards should reflect the amount of money the state is willing to invest in libraries, and stop exempting State Library from the same said standards.
- I believe the standards should define the "basic service" package and beyond that, pathways to excellence. They are too input-focused and do not address outcomes and transformative impact.
- No
- "We don't comply with a lot of your standards. Our total yearly budget is \$12500. It is time consuming to fill out all your surveys, reports, etc. when all you do is tell us we don't comply.
- We don't receive any state or federal funds."
- The "large" library category is huge and too diverse to create a standards level that works for a service population of 40,000 versus a population of 900,000.

- I think the required number of continuing ed. hours for directors in small libraries is too ambitious. I.E. if a small library director is only required to have a level 4 certification, then perhaps the # of LEUs should be less than those required for a director at a library serving 40,000. While there are many online webinars it is still hard to find the time in a library with a very small staff. As a note, my husband (serving as county prosecutor) was only required to complete 12 a year.
- The taking of stats for each age group is a nightmare. I would like to see that revised.
- No
- No
- Certification requirements for less than full time branch locations.
- Is the task force going to help public libraries that have their budget reduced every year, by revising the standards? Or is the State Library still trying to consolidate small libraries into county systems by punishing them with the standards?
- "1. Think about dividing Category C libraries into 2: one for libraries over 5,000 pop served and one for libraries under 5,000 pop served.
2. Consider credit for smaller libraries who have one person doing all programming: Adult; Teen, Children due to funding issues and smaller staff-size."
- I think that the taskforce should consider that small rural libraries should not have the same requirements as large city libraries. There are many standard requirements that cannot be met due to finances received from a small rural tax base.
- Certification for directors of all classes of libraries needs a supervisory experience requirement.
- We are an EI library and I always hear that those who are not do not receive the same opportunities. Such as courier discounts, etc. Also, for the number of adult programs, we have found it increasingly difficult to get adult attendance.
- No
- Standards are too high for small library directors, and continuing education credit system is ridiculous.
- Certification levels for class B and C libraries.
- Need to be able to meet parts of the standards such as public access computers separate from other standards to show where some libraries have excelled.

- Do away with the enhanced and exceptional ratings or do something with them. Libraries with small branches will never have the money to be exceptional. What do the HAPLR and LJ star awards measure?
- I would like to see all standards take into consideration the time it takes to continue to update policies yearly for small public libraries that do not have the staff that the large libraries have. Also the # of hours of continuing ed needed is difficult to achieve for the staff of small libraries. I do appreciate & am thankful that the state library staff hunts for webinars that are free and for access to WebJunction.
- Standards should be met without causing financial strains on a Library. Growth limits placed by the state.
- Having libraries implement tech competencies in their strategic plans.
- librarian certification important
- None that I can think of right now.
- Neutral
- NO
- Percentage spending is a problem with recent budget cuts.