



Indiana State Library Statement Regarding Budget Proposal that Expands Indiana State Library Services

The FY 2007-2009 Indiana biennial state budget has been delivered to the State Budget Committee. The proposed budget includes a recommendation from the State Budget Agency to, "Redirect activities performed by the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority (INCOLSA), but funded by general fund dollars, to the State Library. Funding should be retained by the State Library for improved accountability."

The Budget Agency's recommendations were based on an Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) PROBE Report, www.in.gov/omb/gefp/2006PROBEReport-Full.pdf, made after fully reviewing the services, expenditures, and accountability of the State Library, INCOLSA, and all state agencies in the Executive branch from mid-2005 forward. The proposed State budget can be accessed at www.in.gov/sba/budget/2007_budget/as_submitted/pdfs/as_2007_C_Detail.pdf. Pages VII-24 & VII-25 lists the Library budget.

Although the budget has implications for the Indiana State Library and INCOLSA, the state's public, academic, school, and special libraries will see continued and additional services during the next biennium. If the budget is adopted, INCOLSA will continue to provide programming until tax-supported programs are transferred to the State Library, which is anticipated to be completed by July 1, 2007.

"Should funding be redirected, the State Library is prepared to deliver government funded services currently provided by INCOLSA," said Roberta Brooker, Interim Director of the Indiana State Library. "We will be working with librarians and library organizations throughout the state to develop an effective plan of action so that statewide services to all Indiana libraries not only continue but are enhanced and expanded."

INCOLSA has been a line item in the State Library's budget since the cooperative was formed in 1974. If the budget is adopted, the State Library will retain INCOLSA's annual appropriation from the state's general fund for continued services to Indiana's libraries. The State Library expects to provide these taxpayer supported library services at a lower cost than currently administered. These savings will be reinvested by the State Library to provide enhanced and additional programs and services for Indiana's libraries and citizens.

"This is about providing services that benefit all Indiana libraries and their patrons, while at the same time providing the accountability and efficiency Hoosier taxpayers deserve," said Brooker.

The Indiana State Library will begin making the necessary preparations and infrastructure improvements for the provision of new library services as proposed in the Budget Agency's recommendation. In the coming months, the State Library will continue to work with Hoosier librarians and statewide organizations to ensure a smooth transition of library services.

The Indiana State Library will be holding town hall meetings at several sites across Indiana to provide information and seek input about statewide library services. The Indiana State Library also plans to keep Indiana's library community informed of developments relating to the transition of services. Updates and important information will be relayed through our website, www.statelib.lib.in.us, newsletters, and listservs.

[Press release from Indiana State Library media contact, **Drew Griffis**, (317) 234-5067, AGriffis@statelib.lib.in.us.]