

***Regional Depository Coordinator Report***

***NGIN Fall 2014 Meeting***

***Submitted by:***

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Hi everyone,

Here is a recap of the Regional Report/State Library Update that I gave at yesterday’s NGIN (Northwest Government Information Network) Meeting:

Shortly after the last NGIN meeting in May, the State Library went through another round of budget cuts and layoffs.  One position was eliminated from Public Services (the group I supervise) and the Head of Technical Services position was eliminated as well.  The Central Library Services Program Manager (my boss, Steve Willis) took on the responsibilities of the Head of Technical Services, and we reduced our service hours to help mitigate the impact of being short another person in Public Services.  On June 16th, our operating hours changed from 8-5, Monday – Friday, for all services to 8-5, M-F for online chat and email and 12-5, M-F for telephone (main building & Reference numbers) and in-person users.  At the same time we eliminated our obituary lookup service, which we had limited to State Library cardholders in the fall of 2013.

More recently, we received word that analysts are predicting a $2.4 million shortfall in the account that funds the State Library during the next biennium.  The account is filled through the payment of filing fees at the county level and revenue is not meeting expectations.  $2.4 million is one quarter of the Library’s operating budget.  We will be asking the Governor and Legislature for backfill funding to fill the projected hole, but if we do not get it a possible outcome is that the Central Library Services Program of the State Library will close.  Central Library Services is comprised of Digital Collections, Technical Services, and Public Services and it is, essentially, the “actual library” part of the State Library.  We will not know anything for sure until the spring when the final budget is passed, but we will get our first indication of how things are going when the Governor’s budget proposal is released in December.  We are hoping that our supplemental funding will be in the Governor’s budget and that it will stay in the versions drafted by the House and Senate.  If we are not in the Governor’s budget, all hope is not lost, but it is usually more difficult to be added into the House and/or the Senate budget.

At this point, I know nothing about what will happen if we close.  We will be getting in touch with GPO to let them know about our situation and to find out what, if anything, we should be doing now, and what we will need to do if the worst happens and we need to close.  One thing to keep in mind, if there is no Regional you cannot discard federal items outside of what can normally be superseded or otherwise replaced.

Meetings are taking place about contingency plans, but as I am not a part of them I do not know what is being discussed.  I would imagine that other options besides closure, as well as what we would do if we receive only part of the funding we’re asking for, are among the topics being discussed.

In other news, Steve Willis, the Central Library Services Program Manager, is retiring at the end of the year.  A decision about hiring to replace him will not be made until we have a clearer picture of what our future holds, so in the meantime someone, or some people, will take over his job duties.  At the moment we do not know who will be taking over or what they will be doing.

Also, my Head of Circulation/ILL left for a new job at the end of July.  I was told I could hire, but so far we haven’t managed to get the job posted.  Everyone in my unit (now 2.8 positions, plus me) has been helping with desk coverage and daily ILL and circulation tasks, while I have also taken on many of the administrative pieces of the job.  I’m not sure when, or at this point if, hiring will happen.

As I learn more about our situation and what GPO wants us to do, I will share what I can with you.  If you have any questions for me, please don’t hesitate to ask.  Also, don’t hesitate to remind me about a question you haven’t gotten a response to, a disposal list I haven’t approved, or something you’d like me to be doing that I’m not.  I’m trying to keep on top of things, but with less staff and more to cover, things are unfortunately falling through the cracks.

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