

**TESTIMONY ON HB1013
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT DIVISION**

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Dear Chairman Monson & Members of the Committee,

I am Mary Soucie, State Librarian of North Dakota, and I am giving testimony in support of our agency's budget bill, HB1013. Libraries continue to play a vital role in today's world. Libraries enrich the communities that they serve by supporting lifelong learning, workforce development, and student's educational and research needs. Libraries faced challenges in 2020 like so many entities but I am proud to say that North Dakota Libraries quickly pivoted and were able to provide much needed services to their communities. Libraries across the state began home delivery and curbside pickup of physical library materials and increased the e-materials offered. The State Library offered curbside pickup or mail delivery for our local Bismarck-Mandan-Lincoln area patrons and continued to mail library materials directly to patrons across the state. Libraries offered "take and make" craft kits and virtual programs- both live and pre-recorded for all ages, assisted people with completing the census

and provided needed printing services for patrons through email and contactless pickup. The State Library sponsored our first ever Statewide Summer Learning Program Kickoff Week; libraries of all types from across the state partnered with the State Library on this innovative and unique program and have asked us to continue it. Libraries are more important than ever as showcased by the increase in database usage and e-materials.

Libraries remain one of the few institutions that serve everyone regardless of age, race, religion, economic status, or education level achieved. The libraries in North Dakota have a long history of working together to share resources and services to meet the needs of citizens across the state. The North Dakota State Library works together with all types of libraries to offer statewide services to North Dakota citizens and especially to students. The State Library began hosting weekly and then bi-weekly “Library Community Meetings” for librarians across the state to assist them with responding to community needs during the pandemic and our librarians have said that these meetings are so beneficial to them.

Our budget request supports the services that the State Library offers to libraries and patrons throughout North Dakota. We provide continuing education and training to public and school librarians; technical support to

public libraries; digitization services to libraries and citizens; reference services for libraries and citizens and coordination of statewide services such as InterLibrary Loan, Statewide Cataloging, and Talking Books Service for the visually impaired, as well as the purchase of Online Library Resources (OLRs). Online Library Resources, or databases, provide credible information to students and citizens as well as enrichment opportunities for people of all ages. Universal Class, which includes over 500 courses on a variety of topics including business and personal interests was used extensively during the pandemic while people were staying home and looking for ways to improve their lives and fill their time; some people were even able to use Universal Class as a source for professional development. RB Digital provides materials in e-book, e-audio, and e-comic formats, as well as over 120 digital magazines. In December of 2020, the State Library joined Library2Go, a digital consortium of North Dakota Public Libraries, and migrated our e-books to a new platform called OverDrive. This greatly improved the access to these materials because library patrons across the state now have a single collection to search instead of separate collections. All North Dakota citizens have access to these materials either through their local public library if they belong to Library2Go or through the State Library. By coordinating the purchases of

the OLRs and e-materials, we achieve savings over \$17.6M. If the databases were purchased separately by each library that participates, the total cost would be over \$18M; we collectively pay \$488,336. Public and school libraries have indicated that they would not be able to provide access to these much needed online library resources without the coordinated purchases. The State Library also provides in-library access to a genealogy database, Ancestry, and during the pandemic remote access was provided to our citizens at no additional cost.

The State Library circulates 110 kits to libraries, including bookclub, historical display and STEM kits. Through a partnership with the Grand Forks Air Force Base, we have over 60 STEM kits. The kits circulate to school and public libraries. McKenzie County (Watford City) Library Director Stephanie Galeazzo shared this about the kits: “The S.T.E.M. kits available through the North Dakota State Library have allowed us to provide educational opportunities to the youth in McKenzie County that would have otherwise been impossible. While our budget is gracious, we do not have the extra funds, space, or storage necessary to keep different S.T.E.M. kits on hand. These kits from the State Library are giving our youth the chance to explore topics such as engineering and robotics, while expanding their future career options.”

The budget proposed by Governor Burgum includes State Aid for Public Libraries in the amount of \$1,650,703 and Library Vision grants in the amount of \$237,500. Both are very important to the North Dakota library community. State Aid funds are used to improve collections, provide innovative library programming, and support communities. The statutory formula is based on \$1 per capita for city libraries and \$1 per capita plus \$5 per square mile for county libraries. Divide County (Crosby) Library Director Traci Lund summed up the importance of State Aid with these words “We rely on State Aid to keep our budget intact and alleviate our already stretched budget. Without State Aide we would have to cut somewhere, and this is not an option. Our patrons deserve the services and quality we are providing for them.” Library Vision grants support our statewide resource sharing network, ODIN or Online Dakota Information Network, improved technology and collections, and increased bandwidth to support community needs. All competitive Library Vision grant opportunities include a matching component, increasing the impact of the state's investment. In 2020, we offered two rounds of a COVID Response Grant which assisted North Dakota libraries in responding to the coronavirus pandemic; to help libraries prepare to reopen to the public and to adapt their services for reducing the impact of COVID-19. Many of the recipients said that these

grants enabled them to re-open to the public. In 2019 we offered a Network Infrastructure grant for public libraries. Our IT staff is running new CAT6 cabling, updating network equipment, improving Wi-fi access; we have invested a total of \$25,000 for this grant and estimate that we have saved local libraries well over \$150,000 in equipment and labor costs. If a library had to hire someone to provide these services, it would cost the library between \$4,000-5,000 for a simpler upgrade and over \$10,000 for the more complex ones. The 2019 Partnership Grant required libraries to build partnerships to expand and improve their capacity to meet library needs. Additional grant categories during this biennium included technology, professional development, and collection development.

In 2019 our advisory board, the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC), adopted new standards for public libraries to be eligible to apply for Library Vision grants. The new standards have three levels: Developing, Excelling and Future-Focused with compliance determined through the Public Library Annual Report. Thirty-seven libraries achieved Developing, four achieved Excelling and three achieved Future-Focused status. The NDLCC also adopted updated guidelines for the Library Vision grant program in 2020.

Our Operating budget is \$2,103,396; it provides funding for all operating expenses for the State Library, including materials in all formats; resource sharing; Online Library Resources; equipment; continuing education and training for librarians of all library types across the state; ITD services for public libraries; postage for mailing library materials statewide; Minitex databases and resource sharing and ODIN connectivity. The budget also includes OMB's additional rent of \$280,693 for their new rent model.

Our Salary and Wages Optional Budget general fund request of \$151,00 was incorporated into Executive Budget to retain 1.0 FTE Professional Librarian III position to deliver training, technical assistance and information to K-12 school librarians, staff, and administration.

The State Library is on track to deliver services using all 2019-21 appropriated funding except for the remaining salary from a currently vacant position.

One-time funding during the current biennium totaling \$323,970 was for a Coding Grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to provide public libraries the ability to organize coding clubs for students to improve computer and coding skills. There are no one-time funding requests for the 2021-23 biennium.

There were no changes to the State Library's special fund.

We anticipate receiving a 10% increase in our federal funding from IMLS which will total approximately \$200,000 for the biennium. These monies will be used to increase services to the library community.

Our agency was directed to cut 5% by the Governor's guidelines as well as 2.0 FTE. This reduced State Aid to Public Libraries by \$86,879. We identified one Librarian III position and Library Associate I position.

We are requesting one change to the Executive Recommendation. We are asking that State Aid for Public Libraries be funded at the same level as the 2019-21 biennium in the amount of \$1,650,703.

The State Library requested the optional adjustment of 1.0 FTE Librarian III position and the Executive Budget Recommendation included this optional request.

The State Library received \$68,860 in CARES Act monies from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. These funds must be expended by September 30, 2021. The State Library paid for an online resource, BeanStack, for public libraries to use when they switched the Summer Reading Program to an online format during the pandemic. We paid \$6,264 for the first year and will pay the same amount for the 2021 Summer Reading Program for a total of \$12,528. The remaining monies will be

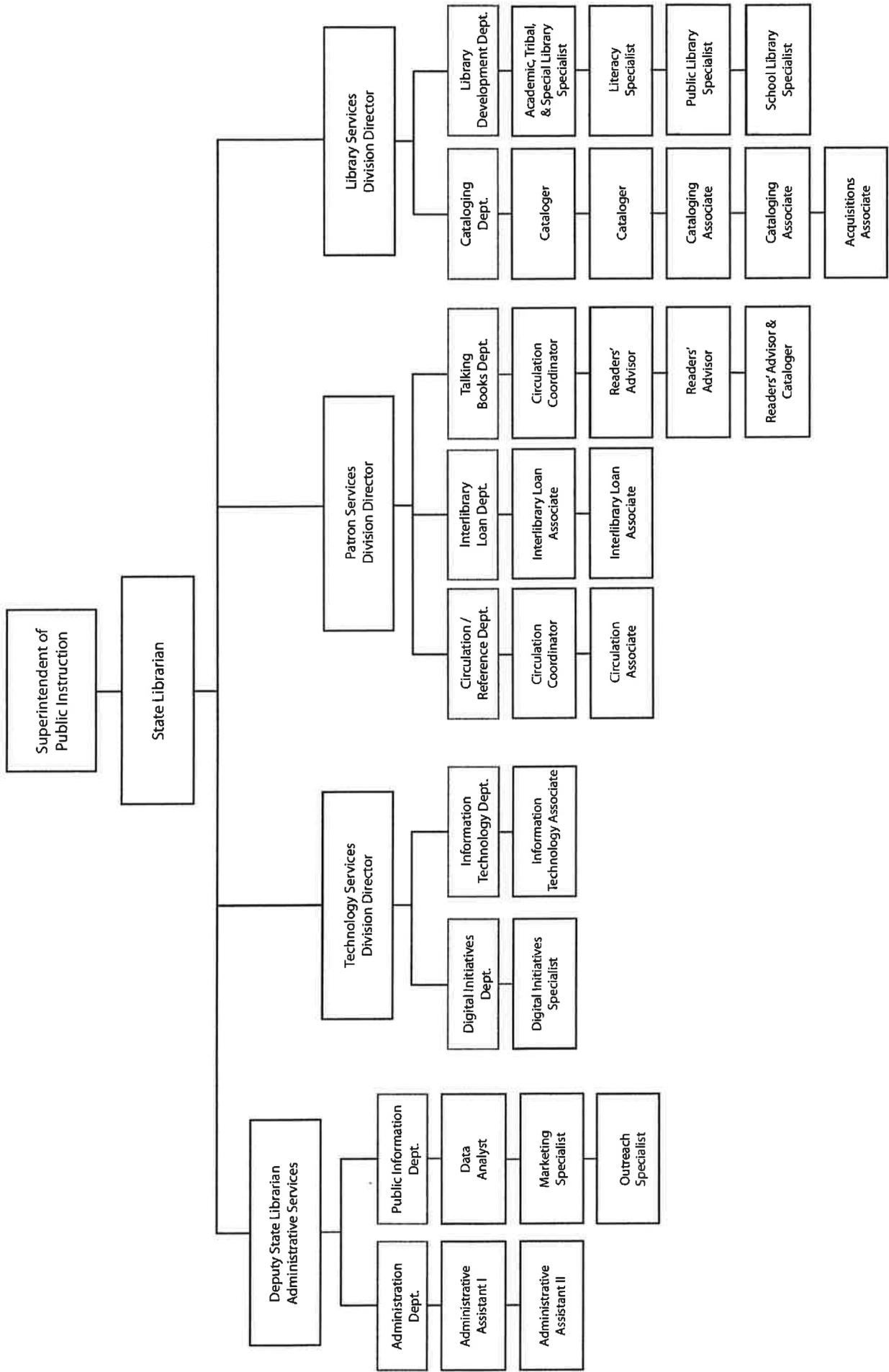
spent to enable libraries to increase technology services to their communities.

The State Library had four audit findings for the 2017-19 biennium. They have all been addressed. More detail can be found on page 14 of this testimony.

We are very grateful for the legislative support for libraries in the past and look forward to continued support. Libraries are far more than buildings that house books. They are the heart of every community. Libraries are centers for social and cultural gatherings, lifelong learning advocates, and contributors in community innovation. Therefore, investing in libraries is also investing in the communities in which the libraries serve. Thank you for your time and attention. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Itemized listing of changes being requested to the Executive
Recommendation

1. State Aid for Public Libraries funded at the 2019-21 level of \$1,650,703.



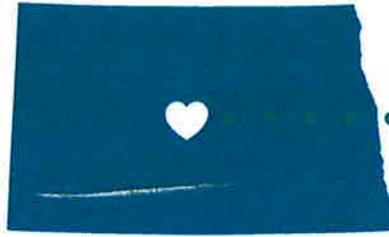
	Base Budget	Executive Recommendation	Optional Request	OR funded
SALARIES/WAGES				
S & W	\$4,300,335	\$4,142,089	\$151,000	\$151,000
SUBTOTAL *	\$4,300,335	\$4,142,089	\$151,000	\$151,000
Grants				
State Aid Grants	\$1,737,582	\$1,650,703	-\$86,879	\$0
Library Vision Grants	\$237,500	\$237,500	\$0	\$0
Other Grants	\$258,446	\$258,446	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SUBTOTAL *	\$2,233,528	\$2,146,649	-\$86,879	\$0
Operating				
OLR,e-resources,book	\$625,000	\$625,000	\$0	\$0
Postage	\$72,000	\$72,000	\$0	\$0
ITD Data Pr & Telecom	\$240,000	\$240,000	\$0	\$0
CE & Training	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
Pro Serv(ODIN, Minitex	\$377,560	\$377,560	\$0	\$0
Rent,new OMB model	\$40,000	\$321,479	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$86,000	\$86,000	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$0
Print,Supply,Eq.Lease	\$81,000	\$81,000	\$0	\$0
Operating fees,service	\$30,357	\$30,357	\$0	\$0
Add library and resourc	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SUBTOTAL *	\$1,621,917	\$2,103,396	\$200,000	\$200,000
* GRAND TOTAL	\$8,155,780	\$8,392,134	\$264,121	\$351,000

	Base Budget	Executive Recommendation
GENERAL FUND	\$5,781,419	\$6,023,909
FEDERAL FUND	\$2,287,102	\$2,280,966
SPECIAL FUNDS	\$87,259	\$87,259
TOTALS	\$8,155,780	\$8,392,134

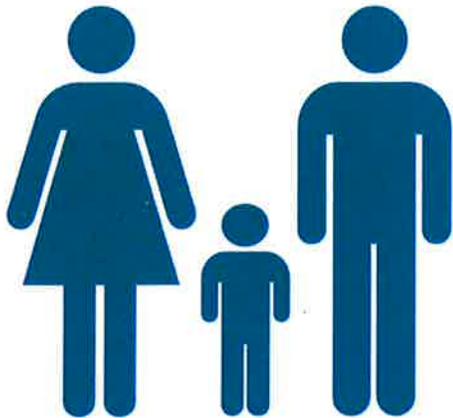
Financial Audit Findings for the State Library 2017 - 19 Biennium

Audit Defaults Found	Default Descriptions	State Library Amendment
Violated Agency Appropriation Law	The State Library exceeded its operating expenses by \$16,111 after audit corrections were made.	The State Library in the future will work to not exceed its operating expenses.
Violated Appropriation Law for Grants to Public Libraries	The State Library exceeded its appropriation for state aid to public libraries by \$19,092.	The State Library will code all State Aid to Public Libraries payments to the Grant Line Item.
Improper Distribution of State Aid to Public Libraries	The State Library made incorrect eligibility determinations and misspent \$12,458 on ineligible libraries.	The State Library has reconfigured the State Aid work sheets to assure that payments will be made only to eligible public libraries.
Lack of City/County Auditor Certified Applications	The State Library accepted applications without the required city/county auditor certifications.	The application process for State Aid now requires city/county auditors provide a certification document as part of the updated process.

NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC LIBRARIES BY THE NUMBERS



254,097
1 IN 3 ND CITIZENS
HAS A LIBRARY CARD



2,074,624
VISITS TO ND LIBRARIES

Visits to North Dakota Libraries (2019)

2,074,624

Attendance At All Vikings Games (2019)

1,070,025

Attendance At The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally (2019)

490,000

Attendance At The ND State Fair (2019)

318,348

Attendance At All NDSU Football Games (2019)

318,248

393,883

USES OF PUBLIC
COMPUTERS



2,126,563

WIRELESS (WI-FI) SESSIONS

266,750

LIBRARY PROGRAM
ATTENDEES

\$18.95

AVERAGE COST TO
TAXPAYERS

\$1.28

MATERIALS
EXPENDITURES PER
CIRCULATION

3,552,881

TOTAL NUMBER OF
CIRCULATIONS



THAT'S OVER 4.5
CIRCULATIONS
PER RESIDENT

825,583

TOTAL NUMBER OF
ELECTRONIC MATERIALS
CIRCULATION

STATISTICS WERE PULLED FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC LIBRARY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

NORTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY



BY THE NUMBERS

	January 2019 - December 2019	January 2020 - December 2020
Number of Library Cards Added	 863	 1065
Number of Items Circulated	 21,298	 12,871
Electronic Materials Checked Out		
E-Books	6,831	6,434
E-Audiobooks	11,314	13,852
E-Magazines	41,980	41,053
Database Usage		
Ancestry	181,348	129,241
EBSCO Databases	796,660	806,555
Universal Class	10,089	16,654



2020 North Dakota
Star Library

Maddock Community Library

Presented by:



North Dakota
State Library





