



Memo

To: John Szerlag, City Manager
From: Cathleen A. Russ, Library Director
CC:
Date: 10/1/2009
Re: Governor Granholm's Executive Order 2009-36

On Monday, July 13, Governor Granholm issued Executive Order 2009-36, which abolished the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries. There were several other provisions in the Executive Order which affected Michigan's libraries and museums. Following the issuance of EO 2009-36, many library boards and museum boards discussed this at their August meetings, and made resolutions which stated their position on the Governor's action. The Troy Public Library Advisory Board did not meet in August, but addressed this issue at the meeting held on Thursday, September 10, 2009.

Since July 13, there have been some changes to the original Executive Order. Below is a brief summary of what has changed:

1. On August 26, the governor issued an executive directive clarifying some of the issues. On September 9, the governor issued an amending executive order, 2009-43 (<http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-21975-221451--,00.html>). This addressed concerns about:
 - a. The priority of the Michigan eLibrary, MeL (Michigan Electronic Library), and MeLCat (statewide interlibrary loan system)
 - b. Keeping the Library of Michigan whole and in state government
 - c. Having representation from the library community on the Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention Board
 - d. Retaining the position of a state librarian
2. Although the Senate attempted to pass a series of bills to address the original concerns about EO 2009-36 before EO 2009-43 was issued, the House did not follow suit. On

September 11, EO 2009-36 as amended by 2009-43 took effect. In short, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries will be eliminated. The Library of Michigan will be moved to the Department of Education.

3. Funding remains the most important and most contentious issue. While the EO 2009-43 addressed many concerns, it also made statements about "subject to available appropriations." With regard to the \$10M in state aid to public libraries and the maintenance of effort required for the \$5M in federal funding that supports MeL and MeLCat, there are serious problems. To start, the governor and House did hold state aid to libraries at the requested \$10M in the Department of Education budget. The Senate had cut state aid to \$7.5M in the HAL budget. When they came to the conference committee meetings last week, the House had libraries funded at \$10M and the Senate had libraries as a line item with nothing. On Sunday the committee ended up with proposing a 40% cut to state aid at \$6M. This has serious implications for the ongoing operations of the Suburban Library Cooperative and the maintenance of effort required for the federal funds for MeL and MeLCat. A potential loss of \$800,000 to those programs is anticipated and there are serious questions as to whether they will survive at that reduced level of funding.

There is talk in the House of a supplemental budget with the potential of restoring the \$10M in state aid. With regard to the Library of Michigan, the Michigan Library Association has been asked to make a recommendation for an appointment to the MCIR Board. At this point the MCIR Board's focus has been significantly curtailed and its purpose seems somewhat questionable.

Michigan Library Association President Larry Neal, in an email to me, stated, "If state aid to libraries is not restored to \$10M by the time your city council meets on October 5, then the most effective course of action would be for them to have you send a letter to your legislators illustrating the impact of the loss of state aid and its consequences on the library, and thus citizens, you serve."