



INFO ⊕ LETTER

NEIU LIBRARIES
a monthly update

Issue #22

September 2025

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IMLS Impact

The Institute of Museum and Library Services ([IMLS](#)) is an independent federal agency that supports libraries, archives and museums in all U.S. states and territories. An [executive order](#) of March 14, 2025 directed that the IMLS be eliminated from the federal government “to the maximum extent consistent with applicable law”. What impact does this have on NEIU Libraries?



INSTITUTE of
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SERVICES

The executive order is currently the subject of two lawsuits, which place the IMLS in a sort of limbo until the lawsuits are resolved. A lot of IMLS grant funding is issued through a “Grants to States” program by which, in the case of Illinois, the [state library](#) regrants funds on a

competitive application basis. Illinois Secretary of State, Alexi Giannoulias, issued a statement regarding the impact of the elimination of IMLS. For NEIU Libraries, there is no direct and immediate impact on our operating budget. However, a research grant application by NEIU librarians, in collaboration with other Illinois academic librarians, has essentially been canceled by the executive order.

According to Giannoulias, Illinois received \$5.7 million from IMLS in fiscal year 2025. IMLS funds through the Grants to States program fund a wide range of library initiatives, including library professional and workforce development, community literacy programs, and library materials for corrections facilities. A large portion of IMLS funds (\$2.5 million) are allocated to Illinois Heartland and Reaching Across Illinois Library Systems (RAILS) to facilitate the delivery of interlibrary loan materials for public, school, academic, and special libraries throughout the state. NEIU Libraries rely greatly on this ILL system. Without that funding, library organizations like the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois ([CARLI](#)) and its member libraries (like NEIU Libraries) would likely need to replace that funding from their own budgets, which will have a domino effect on the operations of all libraries in the state. It would mean less money available to spend on library books, periodicals, media, and databases, not to mention furniture, equipment, and programs for students. Libraries are an important part of our social infrastructure, providing immeasurable benefits such as increased literacy, an informed citizenry, and lifelong learning. IMLS has always operated as a buttress to that infrastructure, helping make functional libraries available to the entire nation. I hope we can resolve the conflict over the elimination of IMLS and restore the funding to this important agency.

The Fall of Affirmative Action: Book Talk

Professor at Yale Law School (formerly of the University of Chicago Law School), **Justin Driver** will discuss his most recent book, *The Fall of Affirmative Action: Race, the Supreme Court, and the Future of Higher Education*, with an NEIU panel of students.

Book Talk with Justin Driver

Date: October 13, 2025

Time: 4:00 - 5:00pm

Location: Alumni Hall

Read the [NEIU ebook](#)



Hispanic Heritage Month: Book Displays

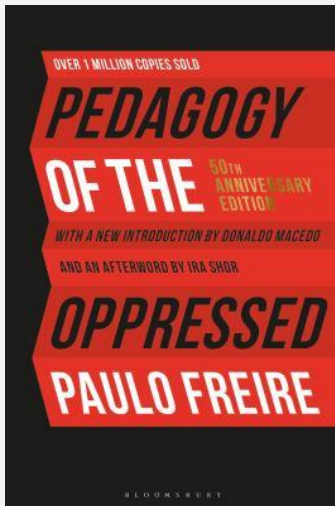
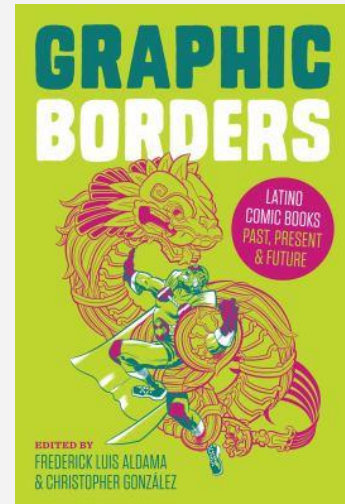
[Online](#) and [Physical](#) (Visit the Ronald Williams Library)

Graphic Borders by Frederick Luis Aldama (Editor): Christopher Gonzalez (Editor)

Call Number: PN6790.L29 G73 2016

ISBN: 1477309179

Publication Date: 2016-04-12



Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire; Donaldo Macedo

ISBN: 9781501314131

Publication Date: 2018-03-22

Freire's book is hugely influential in educational theory, critical pedagogy, and critical theory. Though written in Portuguese, it first saw publication in Spanish translation.

Stress Reduction

Cats and Dogs in the Library

Cats on Mondays, Dogs of Thursdays, 3-5pm, Library Café
with Peer Wellness Coaches

Massage Chair

Now in the Ronald Williams Library, 2nd floor, first come first served
RELX Mars Pro Massage Chair ([manual](#))
Courtesy of Student Health Services

Events, Displays, Programs

- Thursdays 6pm - Geeks & Nerds United (student group),
- Oct 5-11 - Banned Books Week
- Oct 10, Veterans Center Ribbon Cutting, 4th floor
- Oct 13, Book Talk with Justin Driver, 4:00pm, Alumni Hall
- Nov 27-28 - Thanksgiving, Holiday, libraries closed

Peer Wellness Coaches in the Library

- Mondays 2:30-5pm - Sound study (light white noise and other calming color sounds to support focus while studying and completing assignments), 2nd floor
- Mondays 3-5pm - Cat Cafe Study skills, coffee and tea provided, Café
- Wednesdays 12-2:30pm - Art Healing with digital collaging, Café
- Wednesdays 12:30-2:30pm - Chair yoga, light stretch-meditation, 2nd floor
- Thursdays 3-5 pm - Dog therapy, Café/Gallery
- Student Parent Club TBA

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neiu-libraries@neiu.edu

773.442.4400

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