

**Lester Public Library
Director's Report
May 2025**

News

- Please welcome Tierney Dewane, Customer Service Clerk, to the library. Tierney started working at the front desk May 6, 2025.
- Terry Ehle, Youth Services Coordinator, presented at the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries annual conference in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, May 1, 2025. Her presentation: "Book Talk 101: Engage, Excite, and Empower Readers," was very well received. Here is Terry's description of the presentation: "As a librarian, you already understand stories—now it's time to share that magic! Learn to create quick, compelling, and irresistible book talks that captivate your audience in under a minute. Whether or not you've read the book, you'll learn the skills to confidently present a title and make it come alive. Then, explore how to turn book talking into a powerful tool for building strong, lifelong readers within your community, with a focus on outreach to schools. Walk away with practical tips, strategies, and a new enthusiasm for connecting readers with the stories they'll love!"
- **NEW Book it! Personalized monthly book subscription** is coming in June: Looking for your next great read? Let us do the browsing for you! With *Book It!*, our expert staff will hand-pick 2-3 books each month based on your favorite genres or authors, or whatever vibe you're feeling. Find the request forms at the front desk, and fill out by the 15th of each month to receive your customized *Book It!* bundle at the start of the next month. No commitment required—sign up monthly or as you like. Library card required. For adults 18+. **Bundles available starting Monday, June 2—sign up by May 15 to get one.** Chris and Terry partnered to expand the popular teen subscriptions to our adult patrons.
- Shannon Derby was appointed to the Lester Public Library Board of Trustees as the City Council Representative to the Board at the May 5, 2025, City Council meeting.
- Terry Ehle toured Neenah Public Library youth staff (7) through the youth area, Tuesday, May 7, 2025.

Library Foundation – No Report

Library Legislation

- After firing the head of the Library of Congress, Dr. Carla Hayden, May 8, 2025, via email, the president put his former personal lawyer, Todd Blanche, in charge of the facility.

Dr. Carla Hayden was sworn in as the 14th Librarian of Congress on September 14, 2016. Dr. Hayden was nominated to the position by President Barack Obama on February 24, 2016, and her nomination was confirmed by the U.S. Senate later that year on July 13.

The first woman and first African American to lead the national library, Dr. Hayden's work to connect all Americans to the Library of Congress led to a redefinition and modernization of the Library's mission: to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt explained Hayden's firing by saying "[t]here were quite concerning things that she had done at the Library of Congress in the pursuit of [diversity, equity, and inclusion] and putting inappropriate books in the library for children," but the Library of Congress collects according to a list of principles to enable it to perform research for members of Congress and to keep a record of the American people. It is not a lending library. In order to conduct research at the Library of Congress, researchers must be at least 16 years old.

It is not likely a coincidence that the administration fired Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden May 8, 2025, and Register of Copyrights Shira Perlmuter on May 10, 2025. Both Hayden and Perlmuter have questioned the unauthorized use of copyrighted material to train AI.

Pushing back on Trump's designation of Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche as acting librarian, lawmakers said Tuesday, May 13, 2025, that control of the institution remains with its top career official, Robert R. Newlen. Newlen told staff at the library that he is the acting head, according to an email obtained by The Washington Post.

- Victory in Lawsuit Filed Against Trump Administration's Dismantling of IMLS, by Kelly Jensen, Tuesday, May 13, 2025. In what could be seen as a total victory, today Judge John J. McConnell, Jr. issued a temporary injunction in the case of 21 state attorneys general who sued Donald Trump over the unlawful dismantling of the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The short ruling requires the following actions:
 1. The directive in section two of Executive Order 14238 shall be enjoined as it pertains to the IMLS, as well as the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services (FMCS). This means that the demand to whittle these agencies down to the most basic functions shall not continue.
 2. Any actions taken to carry out the demands of that Executive Order as they pertain to those three above agencies must be reversed.
 3. No further actions can be taken upon the agencies listed above.
 4. Defendants are to hire back employees who were terminated as a result of this Executive Order.
 5. Money promised via grants must be returned to those who've earned them, with the only exceptions being that the grant recipients have failed to meet their end of their agreements.

6. Previously withheld funds from grant recipients must be disbursed.
7. The defendants have seven days to tell the court how they're going about meeting the requirements of the decision or explain where and how they are not abiding by the decision.

This is a major win for Americans and a major win for public libraries and museums nationwide, which have spent the past two months worried about whether or not federal funding would continue. On Friday, May 16, 2025, the Trump administration entered an appeal on the above stated decision.

Activities

05/01/25 – Two Rivers Business Association Monthly Meeting
05/01/25 – Met with Sharon Sleger, President, Lester Public Library Board of Trustees
05/02/25 – Help Desk Shift
05/05/24 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting
05/06/25 – Help Desk Shift
05/08/25 – Help Desk Shift
05/08/25 – Attended the Two Rivers 1st Annual National Travel and Tourism Week Celebration at Sepia Chapel
05/09/25 – Help Desk Shift
05/12/25 – Help Desk Shift
05/13/25 – Help Desk Shift
05/13/25 – Lester Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting
05/14/25 – Lester Public Library All Staff Meeting
05/14/25 – City of Two Rivers Department Heads Meeting
05/19/24 – Two Rivers City Council Meeting
05/20/25 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
05/20/25 – Lakeshore Community Foundation Annual Update at the Capitol Civic Centre, Manitowoc, with Terry Ehle, Youth Services Coordinator
05/27/25 – Lester Public Library Management Team Meeting
05/28/25 – City of Two Rivers Department Heads Meeting
05/28/25 – Manitowoc Calumet Library System Board Meeting
05/29/25 – City Manager Candidates Public Meet and Greet, Community House
05/30/25 – City Manager Candidates Department Heads Meetings, City Hall

Jeff Dawson, Director, Lester Public Library 06/02/2025