

Memorandum to OMB: Description of Changes to the FY 2026 State Library Administrative Agency (SLAA) Survey (OMB #3137-0072)

Background

The State Library Administrative Agency (SLAA) Survey is a biennial universe survey of the 51 SLAAs in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC). Conducted by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the survey provides timely, policy-relevant data on state library agencies and supports an ongoing evaluation of trend analysis across collection cycles.

This memorandum requests OMB approval for select changes to the FY 2026 State Library Administrative Agency (SLAA) Survey. The proposed changes are based on recommendations from the Library Statistics Working Group (LSWG), informed by stakeholder feedback, FY 2024 statistical findings, and methodological review. They do not alter the purpose, scope, respondent universe, collection frequency, or respondent burden of the previously approved information collection.

FY2026 SLAA Survey Instrument Changes

OMB approved the FY 2024—FY 2026 SLAA Survey collection materials in September 2024, with an expiration date of September 30, 2027. Following the FY 2024 collection, IMLS began preparing for the FY 2026 cycle by convening a working session with members of the Library Statistics Working Group (LSWG). The session focused on identifying potential improvements for the upcoming (FY 2026) collection, scheduled to open in January 2027. IMLS and the survey vendor presented results from this session to the LSWG in Summer 2026.

IMLS requests approval of the following changes to the FY2026 SLAA Survey instrument included in **Table 1** and summarized below:

- **REVISIONS:** One data element to distinguish LSTA and State grant sources to examine variation in grant trends.

Included in this submission are the following components that help illustrate these changes:

Appendix A – SLAA Survey FY 2026 Instrument (tracked changes version)

Appendix B – SLAA Survey FY 2026 Instrument (clean version)

Table 1: Data Element Revisions for the FY2026 SLAA Data Collection

Data Element	Change Description	Justification
H-010	Revised to collect the number of awarded LSTA grants and State grants separately, which auto-sum to the total collected in the current H-010 measure. A skip option is included for respondents that cannot distinguish between the two grant types in their reporting systems. Those respondents skip to report the total number of grants in the current H-010 item.	Stakeholder feedback and FY 2024 findings indicate a need to better understand changes in grants awarded. Total grants awarded decreased by a statistically significant 34 percent between FY 2022 and FY 2024, but the current H-010 measure does not distinguish whether changes are associated with LSTA grants, State grants, or both. The proposed revision preserves comparability by continuing to collect the combined H-010 total, while adding optional exploratory subitems that improve analytic value to examine grant trends by source.