

**Ohio Library Council  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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ITEM NO.: **3.B**

MEETING DATE: **July 19, 2024**

SUBJECT: **Small Libraries Division  
Recommendation**

SUBMITTED BY: **Michelle Francis**

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**REPORT FOR ACTION**

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For several years, the OLC Small Libraries Division Action Council has discussed changing the definition of “small library” as related to the Small Libraries Division. The current definition includes, but is not limited to, libraries that meet the following criteria:

- An operating budget under \$1,000,000
- A service population of 20,000 or less people

The Small Libraries Division Action Council met on May 9 at the OLC Office and is requesting the OLC Board of Directors change OLC’s definition of “small library” to include the following:

- Libraries with a legal area population of 25,000 or less, and
- Located in an area that’s at least five miles from an urbanized area.

This would make OLC’s definition consistent with the definition used by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (a division of the American Library Association).

As a reminder, Individual Membership in OLC includes complimentary membership in two OLC Divisions. It is important to note that even though OLC has a definition, participation in the Small Libraries Division and participation in the Small Library Director Forums has never been denied based on the definition.