Exhibit 12

Director's Report
WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 20, 2021

CORRESPONDENCE

WVLS Board of Trustees Appointments

In January, following the WVLS Board of Trustees meeting, an announcement of 2021 WVLS Board Appointments was submitted to all the newspapers in the WVLS seven-county service area. The announcement also included the names of the newly elected officers and WVLS Executive Committee members.

V-Cat Year in Review - 2020 Accomplishments

As Wisconsin and libraries tentatively approach a "new normal," WVLS staff recently spent time reflecting on our accomplishments over the last year and exploring ways to improve services in the new year. During this exercise, we recognized that considerable progress was made in the areas of V-Cat-related services and ILS administration, and that our ILS support and V-Cat committee work remained strong throughout a very challenging 12 months. To celebrate the extraordinary achievements made by leaders in the WVLS area in 2020, WVLS is sharing a *2020 Top 10 Accomplishments* list with the WVLS community over the next several weeks. It is shared with this report as **Exhibit 12A**.

Public Library Annual Reports – Compliance Issues and System Effectiveness

All public library annual reports were submitted to DPI by the March 1 statutory deadline. The WVLS audit of members' 2020 annual reports revealed no issues of noncompliance. Also, all 25 member public libraries indicated in the system effectiveness section of the annual report that WVLS provided effective leadership in 2020. Favorable comments were reported in the areas of consulting, customer service, ILS administration and technology support.

Notes of Appreciation
2021 WWWWC

Several people shared thoughts about the 2021 Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference (WWWWC) with conference planner **Jamie Matczak**:

Teresa Hall, Loyal Public Library Director stated: *"I missed getting to attend the closing session on the actual day during the Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference. I finally got a chance today to go back and listen to it. SO GLAD I DID!! WOW!!! That was amazing. … I am so thankful that these sessions are recorded. The timing makes us focus on taking time for ourselves. The fact that they are recorded means we can go back to what we missed (or even listen a second time). We really get the best of both worlds. I was very pleased with all the sessions I attended, but the closing one was the cherry on top. Thank you for being part of the committee that puts the conference together."*

Ann Burlingame, Wake County Public Libraries Deputy Director (Raleigh, NC) and WWWWC presenter said: *"Katrina, Sarah, and I so enjoyed being part of the Wild Wisconsin Conference and presenting the webinar on*

Exhibit 12

Decreasing Barriers to Library Service. It was such a professional conference and we so appreciate all the support we received from everyone involved."

Jacqueline Pooler, from the Iron River (WI) Public Library said, *"Thank you for access to the Wild Wisconsin webinars. I was not able to participate during the live webinars, and the recordings have been very helpful."*

V-CAT ADMINISTRATION

Janay Ziebell, Neillsville Public Library Director, sent **Rachel Metzler** a note of appreciation for the cataloging training provided. She said, "*Thanks so much for the training today! Great information that I need very much in my position! ... Every little bit of learning helps!"*

In an email request from **Chris Luebbe,** MCPL Library Specialist and Chair of the V-Cat Bibliographic Control and Interface Committee, to **Katie Zimmermann** to present a Bib Committee report for an upcoming V-Cat Council meeting on her behalf, she stated, *"I really appreciate how responsive and knowledgeable you [and **Rachel**] both are. It is a pleasure to work with you."*

PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORTS

Susie Hafemeister received a thank-you card from Rhinelander District Library Director **Virginia Roberts** which said, *"I want to thank you and everyone at WVLS who made what could have been a harrowing, difficult, and stressful annual report as normal as it could have possibly been."*

Colby Community Library Director **Vicky Calmes** sent a thank-you card to the **WVLS Annual Report Team** stating, *"Thank you for your help with the DPI Annual Report for 2020. It was quite a year, but I surely appreciated your response to all my questions. It is nice to have the report completed."*

Teresa Hall, Loyal Public Library sent a note to "all of you who work on our annual reports" which said, *"Thank you hardly seems like enough. From the numbers and data that you gather and enter, to the previews of everything that we enter (or forgot to enter). All of your time and effort is very much appreciated. This year's data seemed so much harder, knowing you all were behind us made it easier. Thank You!!"*

WEBSITE SUPPORT

Anne Hamland received the following notes of appreciation:
"Thank you for your help today. I am disappointed this is the first webmaster office hours I have attended. I should have taken advantage of these long ago. There is so much to learn." -- **Beth Vold,** Youth Services Librarian at the Milltown Public Library

"I was scheduling Facebook posts and went to our site to grab the web address and saw [your] update. It is fantastic. You do such a great job for us. I appreciate your talent! Thanks so much. I'll see you next week for office hours." -- **Christy Rundquist**, Pepin Public Library Director

COVID-19 Update

Effective Monday, March 8, WVLS recommended a **24-hour quarantine** for library materials received by courier. Libraries are free to quarantine longer than this recommendation based on staff comfort levels and/or if following local/municipal/county guidelines. Courier bins should continue to be labeled with the time and date that it was last closed. The WVLS courier guidelines have been updated to reflect this change and shared with member libraries.

Due to smaller attendance for the monthly **Staying Together** gatherings in January, February, and March, these discussions will be scheduled as needed. An archive of these discussions is available here.

Exhibit 12

Information related to COVID-19 continues to be shared in the WVLS *Monday Mentions* email. The **WVLS website** COVID-19 Resources Page will continue to be updated as needed.

WVLS Newsletter Highlights

Published in the first week of the month, the **WVLS Newsletter** showcases ways that WVLS member libraries are providing service and supporting their communities.

The March newsletter shared these articles: "Virtual Library Legislative Day a Success," "Getting to Know: Jim Backus," "WLA Spring Virtual Conferences," "Three Lakes Holds Story Walk Campfire," and "Crandon Creates Tablet Training for Seniors."

WVLS libraries are welcome to submit upcoming or past programs, and new initiatives or services to **Jamie Matczak** for future newsletters. Current and past issues of the newsletter are available on the WVLS website.

MCPL Task Force Information

Since the last WVLS Board meeting in January, five updates were shared with the WVLS community regarding Marathon County Public Library's ongoing consideration of Marathon County membership in WVLS.

A January 23 Update announced the January 25 meeting of the MCPL Board and that the information packet indicated discussion and possible action on the MCPL Task Force recommendation that Marathon County leave WVLS.

A later January 26 Update announced that the seven-member MCPL Board of Trustees struck down a motion for Marathon County to continue its membership in WVLS in a 3-4 vote. Votes to stay with WVLS were cast by Marathon County Supervisors **Gary Beastrom** and **Michelle Van Krey**, and **Kari Sweeney**, MCPL (resource library) liaison to the WVLS Board. Dissenting votes were cast by MCPL Board President **Sharon Hunter**, and trustees **Scott Winch**, **Dino Corvino** and **Jeff Campo**. The recommendation moves to the Marathon County Extension, Education and Economic Development Committee (Marathon County EEED Committee) for further study.

The February 5 Update shared news that while the Marathon Co. EEED Committee had planned to set a date for a public hearing (the next step in a process for Marathon County to withdraw from WVLS), the MCPL Board requested the Committee postpone the public hearing until further notice. The update referenced a WSAU news post in which Committee Chair Sara Guild said "*she had received an email request from the Library Board in the morning to postpone setting a date for the public hearing. 'They would like to continue conversations at the Library Board level to gather additional information before a public hearing is scheduled.' Guild did not have details about what type of information the Library Board would be gathering regarding the request to change library systems. But she did mention the public hearing issue could come before the Committee again. 'Once the Library Board garners whatever information they are looking for, then at that time it could come back to this committee.'*"

A February 23 Update announced the MCPL Board's plan to invite DPI to its March 2021 meeting to respond to concerns they had been hearing regarding the impact to other libraries should Marathon County withdraw from the system. This action was taken following a discussion regarding agenda item: *Library System Review Process – request to DPI regarding effect of Withdrawal – For Discussion and Possible Action*. A summary follows.

Exhibit 12

Jeff Campo made a motion to invite DPI to come before the board to talk about what the effect would be for withdrawing from WVLS, specifically if Marathon County's departure would destroy the smaller libraries in the system.

Sharon Hunter stated, *"…I feel strongly we need to continue this process and move on with this process, and by that I mean, educating our patrons and the community, the county board. Sure, we can go ahead and have the public meeting, but if it's not going to go anywhere and it's going to be set backwards, why would we proceed with that? So that's why I'm thinking, let's slow down. If we don't go before the county board this year, we can do it next year. We are in no rush to leave WVLS, but we do need to do some kind of a marketing campaign to help our patrons understand why it benefits them to move with a new system. ...When we do a contract with WVLS, I feel like they are a vendor. We are contracting with them. They are to provide services to us. And if we are not happy with those services, or if we find another vendor that can do a better job, who will provide us different services, that will help us expand what we want to do, then we have a right to do that."*

Scott Winch seconded the motion.

Sharon Hunter then stated *"...at the March meeting, if we want, we can decide if we still want to move forward to the county board, or if we want to postpone, and sign the contract with WVLS for another year, and then proceed with moving forward with our motion to leave WVLS."*

A roll call vote was taken with all board members voting yes.

In preparation for Its March meeting, MCPL administration submitted a list of questions to **Shannon Schultz**, DPI Public Library Administration Consultant. The list follows.

- What is DPI's role when it comes to library systems?
- What is the role of a library system?
- Do all library systems operate the same?
- What is the role of a resource library?
- Can a library be a resource library to a system it is not affiliated with?
- What happens to all the libraries in Northeast Wisconsin that MCPL is currently serving as a resource library if we change system membership, and what is their step-by-step process to find a new resource library and how much inconvenience would that create for them, or not?
- WVLS and its proxies have been telling the public that our leaving for the SCLS would damage or harm the other WVLS member libraries. Is that true? Please elaborate.
- During the past 30 years, have any other libraries changed systems, and did the remaining libraries survive? Which systems and libraries can you identify that have done so?
- What structural mechanisms are in place to regulate the actions of state agency library systems when a member library chooses to explore its options for system membership? Are there any policies, procedures, or guidelines to inform or regulate the actions of that system, its board members, or proxies in that community? How would an ethics complaint be pursued against a library system for their actions if it were warranted?
- Did the PLSR have to account for the impact of any changes if libraries were to change systems, or if they were merged without consent of a member library?

The March 12 Update announced the MCPL Board's March 15 meeting and shared a reminder that DPI was invited to attend to respond to the above questions. This update also shared a letter that MCPL Board

Exhibit 12

members received from Owen Public Library Director **Loralee Petersen**. It is included with this report as **Exhibit 12B.**

An update that summarizes the information presented during this meeting will be shared with the WVLS Community once DPI's written response to MCPL's questions is received.

PEOPLE and LIBRARIES IN THE NEWS

WVLS Staff Assignment Change

Effective February 1, WVLS ILS and Database Support Specialist **Rachel Metzler** became the WVLS representative on the WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) board. She replaces WVLS Public Library Services Consultant **Anne Hamland. Exhibit 12C** shares more information about WPLC, including an Organization Chart, Explanation of Governance and WPLC Board Position Description.

Cataloging Assistance

The Antigo and Minocqua libraries are partnering with WVLS to provide temporary cataloging assistance. Trained in December 2020 and under oversight by **Rachel Metzler**, **Maria Pregler** from Antigo and **Cindy Wendt** from Minocqua are now providing up to 10 hours each week on cataloging tasks. WVLS appreciates their support.

Speaking Engagements

WVLS Continuing Education Consultant **Jamie Matczak** is teaching a continuing education course offered through the iSchool at UW-Madison. The four-week course, **"Creating a Positive Library Work Environment,"** examines such topics as work culture, handling stress during a pandemic, work ethics, collaboration, work-life balance and more. This is the second time Jamie has taught this course. The 16 learners enrolled are from public and academic libraries across the U.S. Jamie will teach **"Difficult Conversations in the Library"** for the iSchool this summer.

Matczak was asked by **Erica Reynolds**, Vice President of Library Engagement for Bibliocommons, to facilitate a Happy Hour Break Out room during BiblioCon '21. Bibliocommons is a company based in Toronto, Canada, that develops front-end, interactive, catalog and web services for libraries. The theme of Jamie's break out room was called "Travel Dreaming." (Jamie has traveled to 32 states and 40 countries. You can follow her adventures at thetravelingcheesehead.com). Erica wrote to Jamie, "Of course, when I thought of fun topics to discuss for these breaks outs, I thought of travel, and I immediately thought of you." For the Break Out, Jamie led a discussion with attendees on travel wishes for 2021, concerns about travel safety, and former vacation destinations.

Anne Hamland will be speaking at the **2021 Wisconsin Association for Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference** on "How libraries can (and did!) use their website to provide the best service possible during the pandemic." This year's conference is slated for May 4-7 and will again be virtual.

Retirements

The T.B. Scott Library (Merrill) Board of Trustees has selected **Jessica Zellers** to be the new director of the library. She will replace **Stacy Stevens** who plans to retire on June 1. Jessica was a Collection Development Librarian at Western Carolina University and Content Writer for the EBSCO NoveList database. Her first day on the job will be April 19.

Exhibit 12

Wisconsin Library Association Executive Director **Plumer Lovelace** resigned on February 26 to take on a new position at UW-Madison. The WLA Board has formed a search committee to find a replacement.

During the March 12 COLAND (Council for Libraries and Network Development) meeting, Assistant State Superintendent **Kurt Kiefer** announced he will be retiring on July 5.

Antigo and Three Lakes Awarded "Libraries Transforming Communities" Grants

The Antigo Public Library and E.U. Demmer Library (Three Lakes) are among the 200 small and rural libraries across the nation selected to receive a $3,000 "Libraries Transform Communities" grant. Open to all types of libraries serving small and/or rural communities in the U.S. and U.S. territories, this grant opportunity is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) in collaboration with the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL). The goal of the grant is to help libraries to better serve their communities.

Participating libraries receive training in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to 21st-century librarianship. Library workers complete a free ALA e-course on basic facilitation skills; host at least one conversation with community members on a chosen topic; and receive $3,000 to support community engagement efforts. Grant funds may cover a range of expenses, including staff time and collections and technology purchases.

Congratulations to Antigo, Three Lakes and the nine other Wisconsin libraries chosen from a very competitive field to receive a grant! More information is available here.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

New! Library Services Team at DPI

Two library teams at DPI, the Public Library Development team and Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning team, have consolidated to become the **Library Services Team**. Ben Miller was hired as the new director of this unified team at the end of 2020. The March 2, 2021 WI Libraries for Everyone blog post shares more information about this change.

New! Magazines Now Available in Wisconsin's Digital Library!

Due to a cooperative purchase by a few WI systems and libraries, over 3,000 magazine titles have been added to Wisconsin's Digital Library for the whole state to enjoy. All are simultaneous use and can be accessible via the website, the Libby and OverDrive apps. The collection can be searched or browsed by clicking on the Collections tab at the top of the Wisconsin's Digital Library home page.

WVLS thanks the following libraries and systems for this generous cooperative purchase:
> Brookfield Public Library
> Brown County Library (Green Bay)
> Kenosha County Public Library
> McMillan Memorial Library (Wisconsin Rapids)
> Milwaukee County Federated Library System
> Manitowoc-Calumet Library System
> Monarch Library System
> Nicolet Library System

(adapted from a WPLC news release)

Exhibit 12

Wisconsin's Digital Library Sees Significant Increase in Usage in 2020

In 2020, Wisconsin's Digital Library, provided through a collaboration of all 16 of the state's public library systems, broke records by lending nearly 7 million digital books and audiobooks. This total ranks as the fourth highest digital circulation worldwide for public library system. For each of the last six years, Wisconsin's Digital Library has seen steady usage growth between 10% and 20%, highlighting the value of public library lending of ebooks and digital audiobooks. Last year, with access to physical library buildings limited throughout the state and many school districts teaching students virtually due to the pandemic, the digital library's importance to the residents of Wisconsin was even more clear. New users of the library jumped 30% and checkouts increased nearly 20% over 2019.

Readers in Wisconsin just need a valid library card to access digital books from Wisconsin's Digital Library, powered by OverDrive, using any major device, mobile or desktop. Users can visit https://wplc.overdrive.com/ to download the Libby app, or call their local library to start borrowing ebooks and audiobooks anytime, anywhere, for free.
(edited from WOLC press release; Feb 8, 2021)

WVLS PROJECTS

Legislative Update (Exhibit 12D)

IFLS/WVLS "Lend-Items" Collection to Grow

Rachel Metzler is working with staff at the Northern Waters Library Service to add the system's collection of **memory kits** to the LEAN WI "lend-items" collection of **literacy kits** from IFLS Library System and **makerspace items** from WVLS. Once complete, 99 libraries in the northern half of the state will have access to specialized materials that may be used to support member libraries' programs for their communities.

Movie Licensing Coordination

The annual process of coordinating WVLS member library contract renewals with **Movie Licensing USA (MLUSA)** was recently completed by **Anne Hamland.** Rather than an annual contract as in the past, the renewal period is extended to run from April 2021 through December 2022. Information distributed to member libraries in early January included contract quotes for existing and new customers, and a continued outdoor movie allowance that offers select films for outdoor showings at no extra cost. Eighteen WVLS libraries are participating in this group offer in 2021-22.

Planning for Summer Youth Programs Underway

Sixteen libraries representing WVLS and NWLS met on February 28 to talk about plans for summer programs in 2021. Like 2020, many programs are being loosely planned and prepared to allow for service changes at any moment.

With support from the WVLS Board of Trustees, the 2021 WVLS Budget continued to offer each member library and branch a $240 **Summer Library Program Performer Grant** to support its programming initiatives. WVLS libraries have already begun to send in signed contracts for in-person or virtual performers depending on local safety guidelines in place.

WVLS Technology – Internal Projects
Staff Computer Lifecycle Replacement is underway

Exhibit 12

New computers were procured to replace targeted computers during the end of 2020. The remaining replacements were intended to be procured and deployed in February, but this effort has been pushed back to March.

Technology Training Priorities
- Infinity Task Management App Tutorial to resume in March/April timeframe.
- Active Directory and System Center Config Manager certification options: Early 2021 training start for **Achraf Ben Khalifa** and **Joshua Klingbeil** with certification support for Achraf.

V-Cat Project

The **V-Cat Voting Models Exploratory Committee** met on January 14 and brought a final set of recommended bylaw changes for action to the February V-Cat Council meeting.

During the February 9 **V-Cat Bibliographic Control and Interface Committee** meeting, members reported on their experiences working with lists of bibliographic records without subject headings. The committee further developed a plan to ask libraries to address the records where they have the only attached items. Libraries have the option of updating the records or weeding the items, especially in the case of items missing for the shelf or no longer needed. WVLS is investigating the cost and feasibility of outsourcing subject heading work. Libraries may begin receiving their lists in February, with a goal of completing the project by November 30, 2021. Committee members expressed the need for help with subject headings on local or unique items. The committee also discussed outdated and potentially offensive subject headings and will begin developing a process for request and implementation. A process for requesting local and alternative subject headings was developed by R. Metzler and K. Zimmermann following the meeting.

The **V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee** met on January 21, and will meet again on Thursday, March 11. The Committee finalized a "best practices for service changes" document to guide libraries. The committee discussed options for varying the schedule and frequency of telephone and text message notices. An expired cards alert and pop-up message was introduced and put in place for all libraries. This was recommended to allow due dates beyond a library card's expiration date to prevent truncated due dates for library users with nearly expired cards. After success with passing standard check out periods in 2020, the committee will consider additional circulation practices for consistency across all libraries. The committee will also review patron record fields to consider changes in training documents and promote consistent use of fields and data entry.

During its meeting on February 4, the **V-Cat Council:**
- appointed a nominating committee to search for a 2022 V-Cat Council Chair.
- approved to allow due dates to be applied beyond patron card expiration date instead of truncating due date to the expiration date of the patron record.
- adopted the bylaw changes as recommended by the Voting Models Exploratory Committee. If passed by the WVLS Board of Trustees, the bylaw changes may be in effect as early as April 2021.
- voted to continue with the Ebsco Discovery Service through June of 2021 and re-evaluate when a discovery layer recommendation is brought to the council.

Discovery Layer Review and Evaluation continues. A Discovery Layer Advisory meeting was held on Thursday, January 28. Aspects of the demonstrated discovery layers were discussed (Aspen Discovery, Bibliocore, and Pika) by members of the V-Cat Bibliographic and Interface Committee, V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee, and WVLS Database Advisory Group. The group expressed a desire to move forward with a layer that is focused on public libraries and meets the needs of the patrons as expressed in the library user survey.

Exhibit 12

Pika and Aspen were selected as the preferred products and will be receiving and in-depth review by WVLS staff. The committee members present agreed to postpone a decision on a new discovery product until the June 2021 V-Cat Council meeting.

Rachel Metzler provided **cataloging consultations** for cataloging staff at libraries working on Bibliographic Records without Subject Headings. Bibliographic Record Overlay Training was offered for libraries. **Katie Zimmermann** offered **Create Lists** and **Rapid Update** training with a focus on updating patron records when library users turn 18.

Shoutbomb Voice telephone notification and renewal system is working well. Changes were made to increase patron privacy and accommodate quarantine and book drop check in. Some libraries have requested changes to the schedule and frequency of notices. A survey has been offered to help select schedules that will work for multiple libraries. We anticipate that preferences for the frequency and schedule of notices may change after we are through with COVID-related service adjustments.

The following libraries have transitioned to the new **uniform checkout periods**, or have reached out to begin the process:
    Granton (first set completed earlier this year)
    Loyal – completed 12/15/2020
    Rib Lake – completed 12/22/2020
    Abbotsford – completed 1/5/2020
    Three Lakes – completed 2/15/2021
    Antigo – completed 2/8/2021
    Greenwood – scheduled for April
    Minocqua – schedule TBD
    Colby – scheduled for September
    Wabeno – Scheduled for September

Workforce Development Services
LAWDS Workforce Development Project Continues
The Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills (LAWDS) project is revisiting opportunities for workforce development and library teams to meet each other with virtual options in 2021. These virtual opportunities are in the early planning stages with no dates set.

Support to Communities: Recovery through Workforce Development
In January 2020, the West Central and Northwest Workforce Development Boards approached WVLS, IFLS, and NWLS to join as partners in a $1 million grant for opioid work in the area. Over the next four years, the northern library systems will participate on regional taskforces as a "partner to implement innovative approaches for addressing the economic and workforce-related impacts on local communities affected by the opioid and substance misuse and abuse epidemic." More information to come.

Home Internet Speed Test Project Continues
As a member of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access, the Department of Public Instruction is taking the lead on collecting data on broadband speeds to help broadband advocacy groups, researchers and the public understand the state of internet connectivity in Wisconsin. To assist, WVLS and the IFLS Library System marketed this project to libraries, and placed a link to a Measurement Lab Speed Test Tool on 35 member library websites for patrons to test and record their home internet speeds.

Exhibit 12

Collaborative Backup Project

LEAN WI partners are working to ensure overall project continuity after **Dan Jacobson's** departure from SCLS in January. Technical implementation work has not been impacted by Dan's departure but the impact on general collaboration coordination remains undetermined at this time.

Inclusive Services

Sherry Machones shared a lengthy *Inclusive Services Update* with member libraries in early March. The update shared links about the appropriateness of Dr. Seuss programs and resources, accessible gaming resources, and ALA accessible covid information from the CDC. The update also shared several continuing education opportunities, articles, and upcoming diverse holidays related to inclusive topics. Machones participated in the Compassion Resilience Training opportunity in January and February and will work with **Jamie Matczak** on a training rollout for member libraries. Also, on the education front, Machones has been working with a group of continuing education coordinators and Inclusive Services Consultants from systems around the state on an inclusivity training module with funding from LSTA. More details to come!

Grant Projects

FY20/21 CARES Act Grants to States (G2S) – Covid Response Support
A landing page resource: https://leanwi.org/grants/cares2020/ has been established in support of grant activities and reimbursement requests progress. The initial round of reimbursement requests from libraries has been received and is in process. Additional reimbursement rounds and new project planning and coordination is in progress for:

- procure various peripheral equipment to support safety through technology and the safe use of technology.
- expand wireless internet coverage and capabilities and adjust network cabling infrastructure to support rearrangement of existing and deployment of new technology resources.
- employ managed remote public (and staff) printing capabilities.

Y20/21 LSTA – Technology – Increase Capacity for Technology Tools and Resources Sparsity Aid
LEAN WI partners were awarded $23,190 to be used for Faronics licensing alignment and subscription renewals and $20,000 to be used for core network transport equipment expansion. Capital expenditures exceeding $5,000 per unit for network equipment has received pre-approval through DPI. The Faronics licensing subproject is complete. Network switching capital will either be procured with assistance from this grant by the end of March 2021 or the remaining $20,000 allocation will be repurposed toward one or more other eligible projects with a budget revision request.

FY21/22/23 TEACH Infrastructure – Supplemental funding support for technology infrastructure projects in schools and libraries
Several approvals were received for applications submitted. We will be reviewing the awards, working with the awardees to coordinate projects and funding allowances, and reporting more details on this project after June 2021.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

New *Digital Bytes*

Several new *Digital Bytes*, short training sessions produced by WVLS staff, have been recorded and made available online. Following are the *Digital Bytes* developed thus far in 2021.

Exhibit 12

Claiming Your Library's Information Online: In this *Digital Byte*, Anne Hamland talks about why a library should claim or remedy its online information for basic internet searches.

Facebook Insights: Jamie Matczak talks about how to find your library's Facebook Insights and what they mean for your library's Facebook page.

Animated Canva Templates: Anne Hamland shows viewers how to animate and add some pizzazz to their templates in Canva.

Website Services

Anne Hamland continues to host **"Website Office Hours"** twice a month for IFLS Library System and WVLS member library webmasters. The first portion of each office hour covers a topic of interest suggested by webmasters. Thus far, 2021 website office hours have addressed such topics as Accessibility Tools and Tips, Image Optimization, Creating New Pages, Adding Linked Documents, and Website Donation Tools.

Recordings of these tutorials can be found on the WVLS YouTube Channel. The Website Office Hours on February 18 gathered 23 webmasters, while the February 9 event gathered 12.

Webinars Coming Soon

Streamline for Success: Library Programs & Services Reboot; April 6 or 7/April 20 or April 21
Sponsored by all 16 public library systems and DPI, this workshop will lead participants through perspectives on creating and implementing mission-driven library services with a design thinking lens. Participants will have an immediate opportunity to put their learning into practice in this interactive workshop. The workshop will include two 3-hour sessions, with two weeks between sessions. Participants will also be able to continue working with the presenters during select open office hours after the workshops. Read more and Register.

Health Information Online: Finding Information You Can Trust--Train the Trainer; April 14 and 15
These presentations will help participants feel confident in helping others, especially from underserved populations and those at risk for low health literacy. Participants will discover how to identify and effectively use trustworthy sources of online health information. **Caitlyn Mowatt** from Wisconsin Literacy will share information on such topics as: health literacy; digital health literacy; communication techniques; and community-based health online workshops.

There are **two options** for learning about this material and participants may select whichever one works best for their schedule/learning style:
- **Webinar Presentations -** these two sessions are not interactive and will be recorded. The content is spread over two webinars, so to get it all, join for both (or listen to the recording):
    > April 14, 10 - 11 a.m. Part One Register here 1 contact hour
    > April 15, 10 - 11 a.m. Part Two Register here 1 contact hour
- **Interactive Virtual Workshops -** these two sessions are more interactive and a little longer. They will not be recorded.
    > April 14, 2:30 - 4 p.m. Part One Register here (for both parts) 1.5 contact hours
    > April 15, 2:30 - 4 p.m. Part Two Register here (for both parts) 1.5 contact hours

Exhibit 12

Public Services Webinar Series

WVLS, Southwest Library System and Northern Waters Library Service are excited to announce their 2021 Spring Webinar Series. Each webinar will focus on one aspect of public service and will count toward one contact hour for library certification.

> ***From Plexiglass to Physical Distancing: Library Spaces in 2021***
> > Speaker: Curt Beyler, Facilities Manager for the Brown County Library
> > April 15; 1:00 pm (Register)
>
> ***Diversifying Your Collection as a Small Library***
> > Speaker: Elizabeth Timmins, Director of the Muehl Public Library, Seymour, WI
> > April 22; 1:00 pm (Register)
>
> ***RA (Readers Advisory) for All: Flip the Script and Think Like a Reader [Covid Edition]***
> > Speaker: Becky Spratford, International Reader's Advisor Expert and Trainer
> > April 29; 1:00 pm (Register)

2021 Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference Recap

The Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference held on January 27-28, 2021 was a big success. There were 14 presentations over the two days, focused on marketing, library management, small libraries and public services.

- Total attendance for the conference was 1,748, with an average of 125 attendees per session. In comparison, 2020 attendance was 1,222 and 2019 attendance was 1,307.
- Session evaluations were positive, with most speakers scoring above 8.0 (on a 10.0 scale) if attendees found the webinar helpful in their library positions. The presentations were ranked as "mostly interesting/engaging."
- The *NEW* "Short Stretch Breaks" sessions had 31 attendees on the first day of the conference and 25 on the second.
- As of March 8, there have been over 1,200 views of the webinar recordings on the conference YouTube channel.

Additional information is available at https://www.wildwiscwinterweb.com/.The 2022 conference will be held on January 26 and 27.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- "Where Are We: The Latest on Library Reopening Strategies"; Library Journal
- 2021 WVLS Organization Chart (shared as Exhibit 19)
- 2021 WVLS Fact Sheet (shared as Exhibit 20)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 9 – System Directors/DPI discussion (Sepnafski)
- March 9 – Present at Southwest Library System's "Websites" webinar (Hamland)
- March 11 – **WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting (Zimmermann)**
- March 12 – COLAND (Council for Libraries and Network Development) meeting (Klingbeil)
- March 15 – Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting (WVLS Team)
- March 16 – System Directors/DPI discussion (Klingbeil)

Exhibit 12

- March 16 – LAWDS Super Pac meeting (Hamland)
- March 17 – COLAND Network Development Subcommittee meeting (Klingbeil)
- **March 18 – WVLS/V-Cat Steering Committee meeting** (Zimmermann, Klingbeil, Sepnafski)
- **March 18 – WVLS/IFLS Website Office Hours** (Hamland)
- March 18 – PLSR Delivery meeting with DPI (Matczak, Sepnafski)
- March 19 – WLA Library Development and Legislation Committee meeting (Wendt)
- **March 20 – WVLS Board of Trustees meeting** (Sepnafski, Wendt, Klingbeil, Matczak, Hafemeister, Metzler, Zimmermann)
- March 23 – Public Library System Marketing Cohort meeting (Matczak)
- March 23 – System Directors/DPI discussion (Klingbeil)
- March 23 – **Virtual Orientation for new Frances L. Simek Memorial Library Director** (Hafemeister, Sepnafski)
- March 23 – LAWDS (Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills) Advisory Council meeting (Hamland)
- March 24 – System Continuing Education Consultants/DPI meeting (Matczak)
- March 24 – System ILL (Interlibrary Loan) Coordinators/DPI meeting (Metzler)
- March 24 - COLAND Network Development Subcommittee meeting (Klingbeil)
- **March 25 – WVLS Youth Services Meetup** (Hamland)
- March 30 – System Directors/DPI discussion (Sepnafski)
- March 30 – WAPL (Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries) Conference Panelist Training (Matczak)
- March 30 – PLSR (Public Library System Redesign) Professional Learning meeting (Matczak)
- March 31 – COLAND Network Development Subcommittee meeting (Klingbeil)
- **April 1 – WVLS V-Cat Council meeting** (Zimmermann, Metzler, Klingbeil)
- April 2 – WVLS office closed
- April 4 – 19 - **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK** – The theme *"Welcome to Your Library,"* promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building – and that everyone is welcome to use their services. Information and resources are available here.
- **April 6 or April 7 – "Streamline for Success: Library Programs and Services Reboot (Session 1)"** – a webinar co-sponsored by all Wisconsin's library systems and DPI (Matczak)
- **April 8 – WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting** (Matczak, Sepnafski, Klingbeil, Hamland, Metzler, Zimmermann)
- April 12 – WI's 4K Leadership Forum and Networking Event (Hamland)
- April 13 – System Directors/DPI discussion (Sepnafski)
- **April 13 – WVLS/IFLS Website Office Hours** (Hamland)
- April 14 – WVLS AUDIT (Sepnafski, Hafemeister, Metzler)
- **April 14 – "Health Information Online: Finding Information You Can Trust: Train the Trainer (Part 1)"** webinar. See details above. (Matczak)
- April 15 **– "Health Information Online: Finding Information You Can Trust: Train the Trainer (Part 2)"** webinar. See details above. (Matczak)
- **April 15 – NWLS/SWLS/WVLS webinar "From Plexiglass to Physical Distancing: Library Spaces in 2021"** (Matczak)
- April 19 – Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting (WVLS Team)

Exhibit 12

- April 20 – System Directors/DPI discussion (Sepnafski)
- **April 20 or 21** – **"Streamline for Success: Library Programs and Services Reboot (Session 2)"** – a webinar co-sponsored by all Wisconsin's library systems and DPI (Matczak)
- **April 22 – NWLS/SWLS/WVLS webinar "Diversifying Your Collection as a Small Library"** (Matczak)
- April 27 – Meet Your Partners: Workforce Resources (LAWDS) North Central Regional meeting (Hamland)
- April 27 – LAWDS Project Advisory Council meeting (Hamland)
- April 28 – System Continuing Education Consultants/DPI meeting (Matczak)
- **April 29 – NWLS/SWLS/WVLS webinar "RA for All: Flip the Script and Think Like a Reader [Covid Edition]"** (Matczak)
- April 29 – WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Annual Membership meeting (Metzler, Hamland)
- **May 4 – WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Graphic Control and Interface Committee meeting** (Metzler)
- **May 4-7 – WAPL (Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries) Virtual Conference** (all WVLS trustees and staff may attend)
- **May 4 – WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control and Interface Committee meeting** (Metzler)
- May 6 – WISCAT User Group meeting (Metzler)
- May 11 – (Virtual) WiscNet Connections 2021 (Klingbeil)
- **May 11 – WVLS/IFLS Website Office Hours** (Hamland)
- **May 13 – WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting** (Zimmermann)
- May 14 – COLAND meeting (Klingbeil)
- May 14 – WLA's Library Development and Legislation Committee meeting (Wendt)
- May 14 – SOMBAW (System Office Managers and Business Administrators of Wisconsin) meeting (Metzler)
- **May 15 – WVLS Board of Trustees meeting** (Sepnafski, Klingbeil, Wendt, Hafemeister, Hamland, Matczak, Metzler, Zimmermann)

Happy Spring!

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