## Grant Projects

- Google launched a workforce development initiative in 2017 called **Grow with Google** to deliver in-person training for job seekers, small businesses, and library staff across the country. The Wisconsin Department of Instruction partnered with Grow with Google and the American Library Association to offer virtual training opportunities to help our communities learn digital skills in fall of 2020. As the pandemic affected in-person trainings when it was Wisconsin's opportunity to participate, DPI added virtual training opportunities and purchase of technology-related equipment to help member libraries serve job seekers.

  Leah Langby of IFLS, Sherry Machones of NWLS, and Anne Hamland of WVLS, collaborated to vet technologies that would complement workforce resources, services, and programs provided by libraries. Each library could choose to receive a microphone/headset, webcam, or a light/phone stand. As of Monday, March 29, all equipment was shipped to participating libraries across the three library systems.

- The **CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act** grant is underway. WVLS is seeking reimbursement requests from LEAN WI member libraries and working with them to identify reimbursable expenditures already incurred, or new projects that fit within allowable costs. Expenditures must be completed by mid-June.

- The **FY21 LSTA Sparsity Aid** funding to LEAN WI partners has $20,000 unexpended funds remaining. This amount has been designated in the grant budget to core network switching. There have been some delays with the Statewide Backup Collaboration and planned implementation. A final assessment will be made early April as to whether the originally planned core switching procurement is still necessary. If not, a budget revision request will be made to redesignate the remaining grant balance to other infrastructure supporting projects, such as virtualization platform licensing.

## Continuing Education and Training

**Continuing Education:**
- **Public Services Webinar Series** scheduled for April 15, 22 and 29. All webinars are worth 1 contact hour in library certification and will be recorded.

  > **From Plexiglass to Physical Distancing: Library Spaces in 2021**
  > Thursday, April 15; 1 p.m.
  > Curt Beyler, Facilities Manager: Brown County Library (Green Bay)

  > **Diversifying Your Collection as a Small Library**
  > Thursday, April 22; 1 p.m.
  > Elizabeth Timmins, Director, Muehl Public Library (Seymour)

  > **RA for All: Flip the Script and Think Like a Reader (Covid Edition)**
  > Thursday, April 29; 1 p.m.
  > Becky Spratford, Reader's Advisor

Descriptions and Registration Information are available here.

- **Health Information Online: Finding Information You Can Trust--Train the Trainer**
  April 14 and 15
  These presentations will help librarians feel confident in helping others, especially from underserved populations and those at risk for low health literacy. Discover how to identify and effectively use trustworthy sources of online health information. Caitlyn Mowatt from Wisconsin Literacy will help you learn about:

  -Health literacy
  -Digital health literacy
  -Communication techniques
  -Community-based health online workshops

  [Read more and to register.](#)

- **Workforce Development Workshops: Spring and Summer 2021**
  The Workforce Resource Workshops originally scheduled for 2020 have been rescheduled to spring and summer of 2021.

  WVLS public library staff are invited to attend their choice of three upcoming virtual workshops offered through the [Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills (LAWDS) project.](#) This project aims to connect and build relationships between library and job center staff and is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Wisconsin Department of Instruction. Virtual workshop dates scheduled include Tuesday, April 17; Wednesday, May 19; and an additional date to be determined. [Registration information can be found here](#).

  The LAWDS statewide project has been a great catalyst for building strong relationships with workforce development regional teams since 2019.

- **WVLS Recorded Webinar**
  - Online Presentations Tips and Tools (coming this month)

- **Continuing Education Events for Fall 2021**
  - Tech Days (Virtual): September 15 and 16
  - WVLS Director's Retreat (in-person): Friday, October 15

**Training:**
**Future Digital Bytes:**
  - Inclusive Services Topics
  - Captioning Online Programs

All current and future Digital Bytes can be [viewed on the WVLS webpage.](#)

**Compassion Resilience Training**:
In January and February, the WVLS Team of Jamie Matczak (WVLS), Laurie Ollhoff (T.B Scott, Merrill) and Lyn Pietila (Demmer, Three Lakes) volunteered to participate in a "training the trainer" program conducted by [Rogers InHealth](#) and offered by the Department of Public Instruction using LSTA funds from IMLS. Compassion Resilience Training is used to support a library's organizational commitments and

goals. WVLS library members who are interested in completing a "train the trainer" program and facilitating training for its own library staff were asked to complete a survey.

## Delivery

**Quarantining:**
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.

**Statewide Delivery Discussions:**
Marla and Jamie have been in regional delivery discussions led by Bruce Smith, Library Services Projects Coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Public Library Services Team. Based on the recommendations from the PLSR (Public Library System Redesign) Delivery Workgroup, Bruce is working with the library systems in the southern half of the state on implementing more efficient, cost-effective delivery. WVLS anticipates that the northern library systems will be working with Bruce sometime in 2022.

## Public Library Services

**Inclusive Services:**
- The **NWLS/WVLS IDEA Team** will be meeting several times over the next six months to produce Digital Byte content on inclusive terminology to use when servicing and interacting with patrons. Topics will include terminology on race, gender, sexuality, and disabilities.

  **Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity in Action (IDEA) continuing education series** - Thanks to LSTA funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a group of Wisconsin consultants, including Sherry Machones, are planning a series of facilitator-led webinars, workshops, and mini-grants to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts in libraries and communities. The training will start in the summer of 2021 and is expected to continue through 2022.

  The "**Toward One Wisconsin**" Conference will be held in-person in Eau Claire on October 12 and 13. This year's conference theme is 'Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges.' As has been in past practice, there will be four tracks of sessions: Increasing Opportunities for Inclusion in Wisconsin's Workforce, Creating Inclusive Communities, Cultivating Equity in Education, and Building Health Equity in Wisconsin.

**Youth & Adult Services:**
Area youth services librarians continue to meet online each month to discuss timely and seasonal topics. Anne Hamland implemented these monthly meetings during the onset of the pandemic in 2020 as the YSIE (Youth Services Information Exchange) in-person opportunities were no longer possible. Librarians from WVLS, NWLS, IFLS, and northern SCLS attend as they are able. Variety in attendance contributes

to great discussion and idea generation. These meetings are held in conjunction with consultations and communications on youth services.

Future topics to be addressed may include: virtual/in-person summer programs, outdoor programs, program and/or service assessment, assistive technologies, collaboration, school library relationships and support.

Anne Hamland will be calling area adult services librarians to check in on services, programs, successes, and struggles. These phone calls compliment the routine consultations and communications in the area of adult services offered through WVLS.

Services, resources, and programs generated thus far by virtual check-ins in 2020-2021 include:

- WVLS StoryWalk® Library
- 2020 School Librarian Panel Virtual Workshop … and details.
- Storytime partnerships between public and school librarians. See Tomahawk and Rhinelander's program "Librarians Together!"
- Book Box Subscriptions everywhere inspired by Rhinelander District Library's Teen Book Boxes.
- Group discounts for summer performers (virtual and in-person).


**LEAN WI Website Service:**
Library website services and website functionalities have expanded as the partnership between Anne Hamland and the LEAN WI website team, and member library webmasters continues to grow and evolve. Capitalizing on this momentum, the LEAN WI website team is working with webmasters to ensure sustainability and standardization of these services.

- Webpages for virtual pre-recorded and live-streaming programming and performances.
- New title browsing using curated carousels: adult fiction, DVDs, children's fiction, audiobooks, Battle of the Books lists, and others.
- User-initiated appointment scheduling for curbside pickup, computer use, browsing.
- User-initiated online registration for digital only or full-access library cards.
- Mobile friendly and accessibility first adjustments.
- Internet speed tests to assist with broadband access and quality across Wisconsin.


## Resource Sharing (WISCAT, Wisconsin Digital Collection, Lend Items)

**WISCAT:**
Upcoming 2021 enhancements to WISCAT:

- Ability to Undo more statuses
- Lender ability to extend due dates without a renewal request
- New status: Lost and Paid

Upcoming User Group Meetings:

- Thursday, May 6: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 3: 1 - 2 p.m.


**Wisconsin Digital Collection:**

- The **WPLC Annual Meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, April 29 at 10 a.m.

- Due to a cooperative purchase by a few Wisconsin systems and libraries, **magazines have been added** to Wisconsin's Digital Library for the whole state to enjoy. The collection includes over 3,000 titles. All are simultaneous use and can be accessible via the website, and Libby and OverDrive apps.
- Check out WPLC Dashboard for a fun way to **visualize the circulation of the WPLC collection**.

**Makerspace Collection:**
New! Northern Waters Library Service's Memory Kits are now a part of the shared WVLS and IFLS Library System Makerspace/Equipment collection.

Keep an eye on the Makerspace webpage for more information about available kits. All libraries in the WVLS area are eligible for these kits, with directions to register for the booking software on the webpage. As items are sent to libraries through system courier, school libraries need to make arrangements with a local public library to receive and return items from in this special collection.

## ILS/V-Cat Projects

V-Cat continues to strive toward consistent borrowing experiences for library users, including:

- Implementing uniform check out periods for all libraries (as passed by V-Cat Council in 2020).
- Reviewing notices schedule, frequency and content to find areas for consistency.
- Selecting a discovery layer product that meets the needs of library users as expressed in library staff responses and a library user survey. (led by V-Cat Council).

Updates to V-Cat database maintenance:

- The Cooperative Circulation Committee is working on review of patron records standards.
- WVLS is considering ways to assist libraries with monthly reports and circulation tasks related to item statuses and patron records.
- The Bibliographic and Interface Committee, cataloging staff at WVLS libraries, and WVLS staff continue to work on a project to add subject headings to records where appropriate.
- The Bibliographic and Interface Committee continues to evaluate the quality and searchability of bibliographic records.

WVLS will be working on the following over the next several months:

- Gather feedback from member libraries to evaluate libraries' satisfaction with the effectiveness of V-Cat.
- Gather feedback from member libraries to assess and evaluate member libraries' satisfaction with Sierra ILS and begin investigating ILS options.
- Collaborate with ILS administrators from other library systems using Sierra and continue to explore opportunities.
- Refine current processes to automate report generation and data visualizations.
- Develop and promote ILS training using a variety of delivery methods.

## Technology System Collaborations

In 2019, SRLAAW began discussing potential models of project governance in response to the (then) new Statewide Backup and Archiving Collaboration that was in development. WPLC now has two new committees:  the Technology Collaboration Steering Committee and the Technology Collaboration Operations Committee; each well-represented by system directors and technology managers within the LEAN WI partnership.

The Statewide Backup project continues implementation.  The most recent setback was the discovery of failed hardware in the LEAN WI hosted appliance stack during an onsite implementation and configuration visit scheduled with Dell engineers.  Kris Schwartz (IFLS Library System) is working with Dell to coordinate replacement and a reschedule of the implementation and configuration effort.

LEAN WI partners will be working to consolidate antivirus licensing as the second stage of Faronics licensing consolidation.  During the second and third quarters of 2021, LEAN WI will be reviewing strategies to combine licensing within the Faronics product set with Cloud AV or Enterprise AV and will also be considering alternative products that fit within current licensing schemas (such as Microsoft Endpoint Protection).