

Scholarships and Grants

Professional Learning Funds

WVLS is receiving LSTA funding for 2021-22 for continuing education and professional development for its member libraries. These funds should help offset costs to participate in continuing education courses and attend statewide and national conferences. More information will be shared as its available.

ARSL Scholarships

Because of these additional funds, WVLS was able to offer additional scholarships to attend the ARSL (Association of Rural and Small Libraries) Conference on October 23-26 in Reno, Nevada. The additional recipients are: Teresa Hall (Loyal Public Library), Julie Beloungy (Thorp School District and WVLS LAC Member), and Jenny Jochimsen (Abbotsford Public Library).

Continuing Education

- **Tech Days 2021 Online:** Scheduled for September 15-16, 2021. Four sessions will take place over two days. [Registration is open.](#)
- **Staff Empowerment Series:** Based on feedback from a Spring Continuing Education series, Jamie is developing a Fall Webinar Series on staff empowerment. Webinars will be held on September 22 and 29, and October 6. All webinars will take place at 1 p.m. More information and details on registration are available on the [WVLS website.](#)
- **Library Marketing Plan Workshop and Mini-Grant Opportunities:** Members of the Public Library System Marketing Cohort are developing a Library Marketing Plan workshop and mini-grant opportunity for libraries. The workshop will take place on Friday, November 12. Following the workshop, 15 mini-grants will be made available to libraries across the state to implement a marketing plan in early 2022. More information will be shared in September. This project is supported by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Public Library Development Team, with funding support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).
- **WVLS Director's Retreat Update:** Due to rising COVID cases and the uncertainty of the next few months, WVLS has decided to postpone the WVLS Director's Retreat, scheduled for Friday, October 15, until further notice. This decision was made with much consideration. WVLS staff feel that pivoting this event to online would not have the same impact. We look forward to the day that we can all safely "Come Together" and have this face-to-face experience.

Public Library Services

Inclusive Services:

- The NWLS/WVLS IDEA IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity in Action) 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.
- 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 late 2021 and is expected to continue through 2023. The NWLS/WVLS Team will lead this series.
- 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.’ 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 and Adult Services:

The **Annual WVLS Youth Services Workshop** will be held virtually on Thursday, December 9. **Erica Dischinger**, Youth Services Librarian, and **Jennifer Davis**, Teen Services Librarian, both of the Minocqua Public Library, will be showcasing their successful youth programs and the processes. Librarians who serve young library users continue to meet monthly to discuss timely and seasonal topics.

Check ins continue with WVLS area adult services librarians to discuss services, programs, successes, and challenges. Planning for the annual adult services workshop will begin soon.

Workforce Development

- The DPI Public Library Development Team and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development are partnering with a marketing firm to promote workforce resources in libraries as part of the [Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills \(LAWDS\) project](#). A Workforce Development Marketing Toolkit with social media images, press release templates, scripts for radio ads and more will be made available. This project aims to connect and build relationships between library and job center staff and is made possible by an IMLS grant administered by DPI.
- WVLS public library staff were invited to attend their choice of three virtual workshops offered through the [LAWDS project](#). Library staff and workforce partners gathered to learn about services and resources provided by job centers, workforce partners, and libraries. Attendees toured online resources, worked through service scenarios, and brainstormed communication and collaboration strategies going forward. [Find recordings here.](#)

LEAN WI Website Service:

Lean WI is moving ahead in providing website design, website building, quality control, hosting, and domain name services to member libraries in all three partner systems: WVLS, IFLS, and NWLS.

Resource Sharing (WISCAT, Wisconsin Digital Collection, Lend Items, V-Cat and V-Cat Discover Layer)

WISCAT Updates:

- The [WISCAT listserv](#) is the best way to stay informed on everything related to WISCAT.
- The next WISCAT User Group Meeting is at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 9.
- WISCAT libraries were recently encouraged to [shorten loan times](#) back to the recommended 35 days.
- Public Library System ILL coordinators worked together to review [the ILL Guidelines Document](#), which was last reviewed and updated in 2016. It will now go to COLAND for review.

Wisconsin Digital Collection:

- The WVLS Advantage Collection will be receiving an IMLS LSTA grant from DPI in the next few months, as well as a generous donation from the Antigo Public Library Foundation. This boost to the WVLS collection will help shorten wait times for popular digital items.

Makerspace Collection:

- [This collection](#) is available to all libraries in WVLS service area. School, academic or special libraries need to arrange pickups at a local public library.
- Northern Waters Memory Kits are now available. These kits are geared toward working with older adults.

V-CAT Projects:

- **The project to improve bibliographic records without subject headings continues.** V-Cat will use special project funds to outsource the improvement of bibliographic records without subject headings.
- **V-Cat Council** is working toward standardizing messages in circulation notices. They will also consider sending **pre-expiration notices to library users** 30 days before a library card's expiration date.

- **V-Cat trainings** will be offered this fall, and WVLS staff will continue to offer trainings upon request. WVLS Staff are considering Sierra training open office hours and Sierra Snacks video tutorials.
- **The transition to uniform checkout periods passed in 2020 is nearly 50% complete**, and all V-Cat libraries have scheduled a transition date in the next three months.
- WVLS took the first steps in **ILS evaluation and review** by conducting a survey to gather feedback from member libraries to assess challenges experienced with Sierra. Results will be made available in September.

Discovery Layer Update

After careful consideration by members of V-Cat Committees and WVLS Database Advisory group and WVLS staff, the **V-Cat Council selected [Aspen Discovery](#) as the next discovery catalog for library users**. The Aspen Discovery layer will improve the search and discovery experience for V-Cat library users.

The hands-on implementation and configuration window is roughly October 2021 through January 2022, but details are yet to be determined. There will be multiple phases of training and implementation including Administration, Customization and Integration, Patron Experience Training, Testing and Soft Launch.

WVLS looks forward to bringing a better search and discovery experience to library users.

Features include:

- Better performance of the public catalog via any mobile device
- Easier browsing of a title (print, e-book, audio book etc.) within one search result
- Ability to save searches
- Alerts when new, relevant materials arrive
- Creating, managing, and sharing lists of favorite books
- Highlighting events and online resources to library users with relevant searches

Technology System Collaborations

- The Statewide Backup project continues implementation. The new WPLC [Technology Collaboration Steering Committee](#) is developing governance and funding proposals for WPLC.
- The WPLC Technology Collaboration Operations Committee is exploring at least two proposal tracks of interest to LEAN WI partners: Statewide Deep Freeze licensing consolidation and statewide EZ Proxy licensing collaboration.
- LEAN WI partners are working to consolidate antivirus licensing as the second stage of Faronics licensing consolidation. The multi-year licensing terms for all three LEAN WI partners end this fall and renewal negotiations began this month.
- LEAN WI partners are preparing to coordinate on LSTA funds and [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \(ARPA\)](#) funds. Concrete funding support information is not yet available.