

## Grant Projects

### **Library Marketing Plan Workshop and Grant Update:**

After attending a Library Marketing Plan Workshop led by Kathy Dempsey and Angela Hursh last November, the 15 public libraries selected in 2021 to receive Library Marketing Plan Mini-Grants are now working on their marketing plans and other activities stated in their grant applications. During this aspect of the grant project, Jamie Matczak and other members of the Public Library System Marketing Cohort are offering support and guidance to grant recipients. Jamie is mentoring Amery Area Public Library, E.D. Locke Public Library (McFarland), Fond du Lac Public Library, Menomonee Falls Public Library and Mercer Public Library, and, since December has been holding monthly office hours for them to share their progress or ask questions.

Rhineland District Library was one of the 15 libraries awarded a Library Marketing Plan Mini-Grant. This grant 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.

### **2021 LSTA (FY21/22) Technology – Increase Capacity for Technology Tools and Resources Sparsity Aid:**

LEAN WI partners were allocated \$108,490 in aggregate. The LSTA grant was available for application and initial budget submission prior to the ARPA grant in the WISEgrants portal. The \$82,000 project to fund Princh Mobile Print Management services for all public libraries in the LEAN WI footprint was attached to the initial application for this grant. Planning for the utilization of remaining LSTA allocations will follow the planning of ARPA grant funds (see next bullet) to support non-conflicting projects.

### **2021 ECF (FY21/22) – [Emergency Connectivity Fund Program](#):**

LEAN WI partners submitted two applications for federal Emergency Connectivity Fund grants managed by the Universal Service Fund Co (USAC) via the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) portal. The first application was for 110 laptops with a funding cap at \$400 each totaling \$44,000. The second application was for 240 mobile hotspot devices and data plans for January 2022 – June 2022 (the allowed period of performance) totaling \$51,247. On March 18, 2022, both grants were awarded. LEAN WI partner systems will be working with member libraries to distribute devices, and coordinate processes and operational aspects of this project to begin lending devices to users as soon as feasible.

### **FY21/22 ARPA Grants to States (G2S) – Additional Covid Response Support:**

LEAN WI partners were allocated \$195,791 in aggregate. LEAN WI partners will still be focusing on major projects under ARPA including capital equipment updates originally intended for 2021, and additional updates to improve capacity and cost efficiency within the LEAN WI virtualization platform. Those and ARPA grant projects/progress updates [are available via the LEAN WI landing page for ARPA](#).

## Continuing Education and Training

### **Continuing Education:**

In January, a continuing education survey was sent to members in WVLS, NWLS, Southwest Wisconsin Library System and the IFLS Library System. Participants could choose their top areas for webinars. The

results showed “Countering Misinformation, “Local Advocacy” and “Creating a Positive Work Culture “ as the top areas of interest. As a result of this survey, a Spring Webinar Series is scheduled for April 19, 28, and May 5. All webinars are worth 1 contact hour in library certification and will be recorded.

- **Enhancing Your Workplace Culture**  
Tuesday, April 19; 12 p.m.  
Brenda Viola, Communications Consultant
  
- **Where Does the Money Come From? Public Library Funding in Wisconsin**  
Thursday, April 28; 1 p.m.  
John Thompson, IFLS Library System
  
- **Public Libraries and Fake News: How to Educate and Inform in the Age of Disinformation**  
Thursday, May 5; 10 a.m.  
Barbara Alvarez, Information Specialist and Sam Molzahn, Adult Reference and Technology Librarian

[Descriptions and Registration Information are available here.](#)

- **Continuing Education Events for Summer/Fall 2022**
  - Wisconsin Trustee Training Week: August 22-26
  - Tech Days (Virtual): September 20 and 21
  - Recorded Webinars (Topics to be determined)

#### **Training:**

WVLS continues to produce Digital Bytes once a month. Ideas will be generated by the NWLS/WVLS IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity in Action) Team and the MCPL Director.

All current and future Digital Bytes can be [viewed on the WVLS webpage.](#) Topic ideas are always welcome.

## **Public Library Services**

### **Inclusive Services:**

- The NWLS/WVLS IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity in Action) Team will be meeting over the next few months to brainstorm Digital Byte content on inclusive subjects.
- Thanks to LSTA funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a group of Wisconsin consultants, including Sherry Machones, will be continuing the series of facilitator-led webinars, workshops, and mini-grants to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts in libraries and communities called Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race. Throughout the month of April, there will be small discussion groups covering the March topic of 'Engaging in Sensitive Conversations & Handling Pushback' and April 14<sup>th</sup> is our last module 'Understanding Why

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Matter in Majority White Spaces' which will include options for small discussion groups on this topic throughout the month of May.

### **Youth & Adult Services:**

- Summer Performer Grants:  
WVLS public libraries are ramping up plans for summer 2022 including in-person performers supported by the WVLS Summer Performers Grant. Summer programming for 2020 and 2021 did not feature many in-person programs with the ongoing pandemic. Increasingly, libraries are using larger, local indoor or outdoor space to allow for ventilation, social distancing, and safe gathering this summer.
- Beanstack Tandem: School & Public Libraries:  
With funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Library Services and Technology Act grant, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction funded two contracts offering [Beanstack](#) to all [Wisconsin public libraries](#) and [Wisconsin DPI schools](#). The Division awarded two discretionary grants to WVLS to contract with Beanstack on behalf of Wisconsin public libraries and Wisconsin schools through 2023.

Early in 2022, Beanstack announced [Beanstack Tandem](#), a new service that “allow[s] students and teachers to link their school and library accounts. This is a great way to encourage collaboration between your school and library and boost participation in reading challenges.”

There are over 50 Wisconsin schools and over 120 public libraries using Beanstack. [Information and webinars for Beanstack Tandem are available now](#) for libraries to learn how to use the service this spring. WVLS is looking forward to assisting libraries and schools using Beanstack.

### **Workforce Development:**

[A toolkit](#) to promote the services, resources, and programs that libraries provide for job seekers and the under-employed was released for libraries to use online and in their marketing efforts.

Images to complement pre-existing Job Seeker Resources webpages were integrated on websites for libraries in WVLS, IFLS Library System, and Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) through the LEAN WI partnership.

The Department of Public Instruction Public Library Development Team and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development partnered with a marketing firm to promote workforce resources in libraries as part of the [Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills \(LAWDS\) project](#). The LAWDS project aims to connect and build relationships between library and job center staff.

### **LEAN WI Website Service:**

The LEAN WI partnership continues to provide website design, website building, quality control, hosting, and domain name services to interested member libraries in the three partner systems: WVLS, IFLS, and NWLS.

As stated previously by library marketing expert Angela Hursh, [library websites are an important gateway](#) for advocating for the value of libraries. LEAN WI is proud to support its members in this capacity.

## Resource Sharing

### WISCAT News:

- The best way to stay informed about WISCAT is to [sign up for the WISCAT listserv](#). The next WISCAT User Group Meeting is Thursday, May 5, from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. All users of WISCAT are encouraged to attend these meetings. More information and meeting links are shared on the WISCAT website.

### Wisconsin Digital Collection:

- 50 'always available' audiobooks have been added to the WI Digital Library collection and will be active until March 18, 2023. The titles are curated in the "Always Be Listening" collection in Libby.

### Makerspace Collection:

- Multitype libraries can arrange for item pick-up and drop-off with their local public libraries.
- More information [can be found here](#).

## ILS/V-Cat Projects

The [V-Cat Strategic Plan for 2021-2023](#) is available on the [V-Cat Resources and Documents page](#).

### Aspen Discovery:

Aspen Discovery implementation is nearly complete. There are four remaining V-Cat libraries to transition. Each library has its own custom-tailored site to highlight new materials and special collections while still allowing library users to access the wide variety of materials available throughout the V-Cat consortium.

Many training sessions were offered to prepare staff for customizing their libraries' sites and assisting patrons. Meetings were held with each V-Cat library to determine their site's specific settings and configuration.

In April, the Classic Catalog and EDS Discovery Catalog will be discontinued and a WVLS Aspen site will take their place. Library users will be encouraged to use the library specific Aspen sites.

### Standard Check Out Periods:

The transition to standard checkout periods is complete. Thank you to the V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee, and the V-Cat Council for their hard work and dedication to the project.

**ILS Evaluation and Review:**

A V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee was formed at the February V-Cat Council meeting and met on Thursday, March 10. Functionality lists have been reviewed by the Bibliographic/Interface and Cooperative Circulation committees. Library directors and other key staff have been asked to share feedback on draft lists as well. Zimmermann plans to compile the functionality information and bring a draft Request for Information (RFI) document to the ILS Evaluation and Review Committee in April. The Committee and WVLS staff are working on a list of vendors to consider.

Milwaukee County Federated Library System and Northern Waters Library System are also working through ILS Evaluation and Review processes. DPI is allocating LSTA funds for collaboration among systems for discovery and resource sharing during the 2022-2027 fiscal years. WVLS will be looking for opportunities to collaborate with other systems.

**Technology System Collaborations**

The LEAN WI broad [landing page for Grants](#) is a work in progress. Part of the intent of that resource and the dedicated landing pages for certain grants or individual sub-projects is to deduplicate reporting efforts across the partnership. The LEAN WI website, once fully staged, is intended to be usable as a “live” reporting tool for all common service areas and services supported by the LEAN WI partners.

**LEAN WI Core Infrastructure:**

The Backup and Archive appliances are now operating in production, and the production backups have been migrated to the new system. LEAN WI maintains one site of a two-site colocation system in collaboration with SCLS and other participant library systems. The LEAN WI partnership is well represented within the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium’s (WPLC)’s newest governance arm, the [Technology Collaboration Steering Committee](#), along with the three subcommittees for operations and specific project steering.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

April 19: WPLC Technology Backup Steering Committee Meeting

May 9: WPLC Technology Steering Committee Meeting

May 17: WPLC Digital Archives Backup Steering Committee Meeting

**LEAN WI Service Explorations:**

LEAN WI partners are testing an alternative managed Antivirus product along with an application version management utility (already in production use by NWLS) as part of a joint effort intended to consolidate Antivirus licensing and client management and common application updates support. These explorations and preparations for core service level licensing and management strategy changes will be ongoing through 2022.

**Libraries Win Services:**

LEAN WI partners are supporting a large multi-site implementation of Princh Mobile Printing services. Libraries that expressed interest will be set up and operating with this service by the end of April. This service will be available over the next several years.

LEAN WI partners procured 250 seats of MS Office Desktop licensing at state-contracted discounts to ensure member libraries have continued access after the loss of availability through Tech Soup. The partners are working out a joint usage and cost sustainability model and will continue to monitor changes to MS licensing programs. This “soft service” update will be presented more formally to member libraries within the LEAN WI partnership.

**WVLS Internal Projects, Library Projects, and Core Services Support:**

- The WVLS technology team is reviewing and updating the WVLS IT assets tracking in preparation for the 2022 audit. This includes the review of WVLS-owned network equipment assets deployed throughout the member libraries’ facilities for WAN access and local networks.
- Tomahawk Public Library is planning a comprehensive network cabling update project including moving the library’s main networking equipment to a new area, and expanding WiFi coverage inside and outside the building.
- WVLS and MCPL tech support teams are working together on the first stage (discovery) of a soft project to help bring WVLS’ awareness of MCPL network operations and operational documentation up to date.
- WVLS is working on ongoing/recurring maintenance projects including updating firmware, device drivers, Deep Freeze Enterprise, and installing the latest Windows Updates.