

# Director's Report

## WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 21, 2022

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### 2022 State Aid

WVLS was notified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction that our **second 2022 State Aid payment** in the amount of **\$262,639** was approved. This payment allows WVLS to continue to carry out this year's system plan as approved earlier by DPI's Library Services Team. Public library system funding is provided from the Universal Service Fund.

#### National Library Week Video

April 3-9 was National Library Week, a time to highlight the essential role libraries and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening communities. The theme for this year's National Library Week was "Connect with Your Library," which promoted the idea that libraries are places to get connected.

WVLS staff wanted to acknowledge the amazing work of its member libraries, so they created a video showing their thanks and appreciation. Staff members sent video recorded messages to Jamie, who then created the video in Splice, a mobile video editing app. The video can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/OhnibSuuSjE>

#### Note of Thanks for the National PLA Conference Scholarship

*"Marla and WVLS staff, thank you for the generous scholarship that allowed me to attend the 2022 PLA [Public Library Association] Conference. Attending in-person was a tremendous experience and the things I learned there will be incredibly valuable to the work I do at MCPL, as mentioned in my post-conference report (Exhibit 16). Without this scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to attend, so being selected as one of the recipients was very much appreciated. Thanks again!" – Dan Richter, Library Marketing Specialist, Marathon County Public Library*

### PEOPLE / LIBRARIES / SYSTEMS IN THE NEWS

#### Antigo Director to Resign

**Dominic Frandrup** has announced his resignation as Director of the Antigo Public Library effective June 3, 2022. He leaves his position to assume the directorship of the Door County Library, a consolidated county library with 8 locations and member of the Nicolet Federated Library System. The Antigo Public Library Board is undergoing a director search, and the job will be posted sometime soon. Assistant Director **Maria Pregler** has been named Acting Director in the interim.

## WVLS Trustee Interviewed on “Ask a Librarian” Podcast

WVLS and MCPL trustee **Kari Sweeney** shares her love of reading and of libraries with Julie Chavez in the March 22 podcast “Ask a Librarian with Julie Chavez: Libraries & Bookstagram”. In this Apple podcast series, Chavez, a school librarian and author of the upcoming Zibby Books memoir *The Anxiety Library*, interviews library-loving authors, librarians, and library-adjacent readers. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

## Antigo Public Library Wins \$230,000 Grant for Solar Roofing Project

The **Antigo Public Library and Foundation** were recently awarded a **\$229,540** grant from the **Wisconsin Public Service Commission’s Energy Innovation Grant Program** for a new solar roof. The project’s cost is \$307,000, and this grant will install an 87.8 kW solar roofing system on the east, south, and west sides of the library roof. It also will purchase a Tesla Powerwall battery backup to run critical infrastructure such as fire suppression and public wi-fi in case of power outage.

“I’m beyond thrilled to have won this grant,” said **Dominic Frandrup**, library director. “It’s been a couple of years in the making and a huge accomplishment for the Antigo Public Library Foundation and the Library. The library strives to be a leader in our community and this project proves we have the vision and the ability to accomplish that.”

This competitive statewide grant had 108 applications and, along with Antigo Public Library, awarded over \$7 million to 32 projects in this funding cycle. More information about this grant opportunity is available [here](#). (Edited from the May 2022 issue of “Shelf Space,” Antigo Public Library’s monthly newsletter)

## Minocqua High School Librarian named 2023 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year!

**Peggy Billing**, library media specialist at Lakeland Union High School, Minocqua, was paid a surprise visit by **State Superintendent Jill Underly** announcing that Billing and four other educators in Wisconsin had been named 2023 Wisconsin Teachers of the Year. The ceremony was completely unexpected for the librarian. “It hasn’t sunk in,” said Ms. Billing. “It was a total surprise. I’m totally awestruck.”



Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction: Peggy Billing (left) State Superintendent Jill Underly

Billing has been an educator for nearly 20 years and has spent many of those years building relationships, collaborating with colleagues, and incorporating relevant and cultural activities into a variety of classes. Lakeland Union Principal Chad Gaurke describes Billing as an “outside the box thinker” who successfully utilizes STEAM activities to enhance her classes. Billing is credited with helping design and launch a statewide

low-cost collection of audio, eBooks, and digital magazines through the Wisconsin Schools Digital Library Consortium, which she has served on since the group's inception in 2018.

Billing and the four other Teachers of the Year will interview with a committee that will select one of the five to represent Wisconsin in the National Teacher of the Year program. That individual will receive an additional \$6,000 from the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation. More information on the Wisconsin Teacher of the Year Program [can be found on the DPI's website](#).  
(Edited from [WIFW News; May 12, 2022](#) and [WISPOLITICS.com](#))

Congratulations, Peggy!

## MARKETING PROJECTS

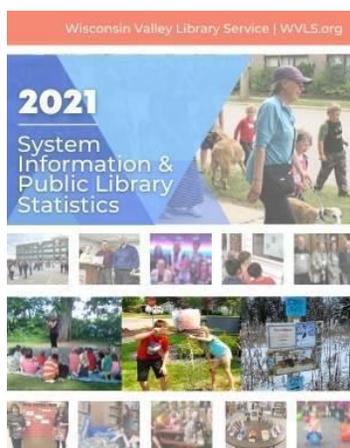
### Website Services

The LEAN WI website service continues to grow and is now serving 85 websites with the **Larsen Family Public Library** (Webster, WI in NWLS) and the **Friday Memorial Library** (New Richmond, WI in IFLS) joining the website service in April and March. Shell Lake Public Library (NWLS) will go live shortly.

With the launch of the successful and highly anticipated LEAN WI contract with **Princh**, a wireless printing service, **Anne Hamland** created a template for adding Princh information to websites for libraries in WVLS, IFLS, and NWLS. (Information about the grant that funded the new Princh printing service now being implemented in LEAN WI member libraries is provided later in this report.)

### Aspen Discover Layer Integration Crosses the Finish Line!

Implementation of individual libraries' custom-tailored Aspen discovery sites is now complete. **Katie Zimmerman, Anne Hamland** and **Rachel Metzler** helped the few remaining WVLS libraries complete the switch to the Aspen Discovery Layer online catalog. The Discovery Layer team will continue to improve the catalog as issues and ideas occur.



### Hot off the Press!

Printed just in time for the May WVLS Board meeting, the **WVLS 2021 System Information & Public Library Statistics** booklet (**Exhibit 22**) presents member library service trends with data recorded in members' annual reports and highlights how libraries benefited their communities in 2021. The booklet also shares the benefits of the system/member library partnership and highlights some of the system's key accomplishments in 2021.

In the coming weeks, additional copies of the booklet will be printed and distributed to member library directors and board presidents, county library board chairs, municipal and county clerks, and area legislators. The **WVLS 2021 System Information and Public Library Statistics** booklet will also be posted to the WVLS website [here](#).

Kudos to **Sue Hafemeister, Katie Zimmermann, Anne Hamland, Jamie Matczak** and **Brenda Walenton** for all they did to get this project completed in a timely manner. It was a true “team” effort!

## WVLS Newsletters

WVLS continues to publish a monthly newsletter to alert readers about member library news, training and education opportunities, and announcements from the system. Newsletters are completed at the beginning of each month and shared with colleagues across the state via the newsletter email list and the WI library email list. Following is a list of the articles featured in the January-May 2022 newsletters:

[January 2022](#) – Resources Available to Assist Wisconsin’s Workforce; “Wild Wisconsin” Coming Soon; WVLS Awards Six PLA Conference Scholarships; **MCPL** Collaborates on Teen Programs; **Rhineland** Shares Excitement for Library Marketing Grant; WVLS Members Share Resolutions

[February 2022](#) – WVLS Libraries (**Rhineland**, **MCPL** and **Three Lakes**) Celebrate Valentine’s Day; New Staff Member at WVLS; WVLS Represented at Library Legislative Day; WAPL Conference Accepting Proposals; Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race Project

[March 2022](#) – WVLS Aspen Update; Spring Webinar Series; **MCPL** Launches “Little Art”; ‘From Page to Film’ in **Colby**; **Antigo’s** Stockbox Program a Success

[April 2022](#) – Scholarships Available for WAPL Conference; WVLS Trustee Honored in Langlade County; **Abbotsford’s** “Wild Cookies Book Club” Has Outing; **MCPL** Brings Back In-Person Story Times; PLA Conference Has Big Impact; WLA Conference Accepting Program Proposals.

[May 2022](#) – ARSL Conference Scholarships Now Available; State Legislators Record Bedtime Stories in **Antigo**; **Rhineland** Delivers May Day Baskets to Seniors; Art Ledges Installed at **MCPL**; **Three Lakes** Librarian Participates in Leadership Program; WLA Conference Program Proposal Deadline Extended.

Submissions from member libraries are always welcome!

## GRANT and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

### WVLS Awards Six WAPL Conference Scholarships!

Six WVLS member librarians were awarded full scholarships to attend the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference, held May 11-13 in Pewaukee. Recipients were **Andrea Bennett** and **Jessica Zellers**, T.B. Scott Library (Merrill); **Cindy Wendt**, Minocqua Public Library; **Esther O’Brien**,

Rhineland District Library; **Katrina Kubeny**, Elcho School District; and **Krista Blomberg**, Rib Lake Public Library. Conference reports from the WVLS scholars will be shared with the WVLS Board in August.

## Scholarships Available to Attend National Association for Rural and Small Libraries Conference

Applications are currently available to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee from September 14-17. WVLS is offering several full scholarships for WVLS member libraries. More information and an application can be found on the [WVLS Scholarships and Grants page](#).

## WVLS Summer Performer Grant

WVLS has once again offered the **WVLS Summer Library Performer Grant**. Each of the 25-member libraries (including all MCPL branch communities) are eligible for \$240 to apply to performers' programs between May 22 and September 4. Libraries book and pay their own performers and receive grants as a reimbursement after the programs have taken place. This grant will support 21 performances across WVLS this summer with a total value of **\$6,440**.

## 2021 LSTA (FY21/22 LSTA) 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. It was originally intended for the ARPA grant, though out of an abundance of caution regarding the timing for implementation targets and grant application/awarding, we moved the project to the LSTA grant. The **\$13,000 MS Office Licensing project** is also being attached to 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. LSTA grant projects/progress updates are available via the LEAN WI landing page for LSTA <https://leanwi.org/lsta2021>.

## 2021 Emergency Connectivity Fund Program (FY21/22)

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 same organization and portal servicing the federal E-Rate program. 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**. Both grants were awarded but the utility of the first project is now determined infeasible and the partnership is focusing on the second project – **Mobile Hotspots and Data Plans – working with Kajeet**.

A third application window opened in late April, and the partnership will be submitting another two applications to supplement the current Mobile Hotspots project with additional months of covered services, and with additional devices plus services.

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

LEAN WI partners were allocated **\$195,791 in aggregate**. The Mobile Printing services project originally intended to be attached to the ARPA grant was moved to LSTA. The second add-on project with Princh will likely be attached to this grant, the estimated cost is approximately 65% of the initial project (\$50K - \$55K). 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. The ARPA grant was loaded into the WISEgrants portal during the week of March 7. An initial application for the capital projects and for already expensed eligible procurements is in progress at the time of this projects report. The resources below have been shared during various stakeholder discussions. Those and ARPA grant projects/progress updates are available via the LEAN WI landing page for ARPA <https://leanwi.org/arpa2021>.

- **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Project Funding Details and Ideas**
- **ARPA 2021 DRAFT Budget April 2021**
- **Project Funding List of Ideas - ARPA, LSTA, E-rate, Build America's Libraries, etc.**

### **Additional LSTA Grant Opportunities**

The WVLS ILS administration and cataloging staff met with their counterparts from several library systems throughout Wisconsin to pursue a LSTA grant to fund the development of a report on cataloging practices and opportunities for statewide standardization of records. The abstract for the 2022 LSTA Grant – Improved Discovery Solutions Cooperative Cataloging Project is shared as **Exhibit 19** in today's meeting packet.

WVLS and NWLS Directors and staff met to consider pursuing a grant for LSTA funding to explore a merged Integrated Library System. The abstract for the 2022 LSTA Grant – Improved Discovery Solutions Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Project is shared as **Exhibit 20** in preparation for a discussion later in today's meeting.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **Updated Boundaries for Voting**

The WI Legislature website had updated its very detailed "Who are my legislators?" map to include new districts since the last version of the maps that was shared with the WVLS Board in March. The completely revised handout is shared at the end of this report as **Exhibit 11a**.

## V-CAT AND ILS ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

### NEW Aspen Library Catalogs Go Live!

Aspen discovery implementation is now complete. All 25 member libraries have their 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.

### Status on Other Key Projects

**Sierra Web Application:** Katie has been working with MCPL to test and implement the Sierra Web Application, a better alternative than Sierra Offline Circulation for branch locations that intermittently cannot launch the Sierra Desktop Application.

**Recent Trainings:** Katie and Rachel were unable to attend Sierra Acquisitions A – Z Training in March due to illness. K. Zimmermann and R. Metzler registered for the Innovative Users Group (IUG) 2022 Virtual Conference and have access to the recorded content for the next few months and attended a “1-2-3 Steps to Clean Up Your Sierra Database” training on April 5 and 6.

**Cataloging and Database Cleanup:** Rachel and cataloging partners from Minocqua and Antigo continue the process of reviewing record formats in Aspen. Libraries have been asked to keep an eye out for record grouping errors and format issues and report them to [help@librarieswin.org](mailto:help@librarieswin.org).

**Discontinuing the Classic Catalog:** More time intensive service requests, and user experience troubleshooting in April caused WLVS staff to hold off on changes for discontinuing the Classic Catalog and EDS Discovery Catalog. Over the next few months, the WVLS Aspen site will take their place and library users will be encouraged to use the library specific Aspen sites.

**Time Study:** Katie and Rachel are completing a time study to gain an understanding of staff time required for ILS administration and database work. This study will be a helpful tool to measure current capacity of WVLS staff and to establish future needs when scaling up project work with partner libraries and/or systems.

### Council and Committee Meeting Highlights

During the **V-Cat Council meeting** on April 7:

- **Financial reports** from December 2021 (revised), January 2022, and February 2022 were approved. A revised 2022 V-Cat Allocations plan with updated starting balance and Special Projects balance was passed as well.
- Members were asked to keep an eye out for a couple specific record errors. 1) Records with misspellings of names and titles that have diacritics, such as umlauts, accents or other specialty characters. For example: Bronthe (incorrect) instead of Brontë (correct) or Mhotley Crhue (incorrect) instead of Mötley Crüe (correct). These records can be fixed by catalogers by overlaying a record with the correct diacritics. 2) Records that need to be grouped or ungrouped in Aspen. Books in all formats, with the same title/author combination should be grouped together (Books, Large Print, Audiobooks, ebooks, eAudiobooks etc.). Visual media (Blu-Ray, DVDs and Blu-Ray / DVD Combo) should be grouped together. Libraries are asked to

report any records that could be grouped or ungrouped. A team of library staff will be working on record grouping improvements.

- A draft **2023 V-Cat Budget** that was first vetted with the WVLS/V-Cat Steering Committee was presented. The V-Cat Council will vote on a 2023 budget at its June meeting.
- A list of **2021 V-Cat Top 10 Accomplishments** was shared and is included in the 2021 WVLS System Information and Public Library Statistics booklet (**Exhibit 22**).
- An update on **Aspen Discovery** was presented. Libraries shared positive feedback about Aspen Discovery. Messaging and links will be added to the classic V-Cat catalog to encourage library users to make the transition to libraries' Aspen sites. It was anticipated that a WVLS Aspen site will replace the classic catalog in May. Aspen projects in process can be viewed on the [Aspen Implementation Projects in Progress](#) document, which is available on the [V-Cat Aspen Implementation Page](#).
- **The Council chose to keep EBSCO Discovery Service in place through July of 2022** to maintain the ability to search for BadgerLink Articles and Databases within Aspen while the Aspen team develops EBSCO host integration.
- [V-Cat Guidelines](#) for [Renewals](#), [High Demand Items](#) and [Reports](#) were reviewed.
- Minocqua Public Library Director **Peggy O'Connell** was selected as the 2022 V-Cat Chair Elect.

The new **V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee** held its second meeting on April 14. Meeting highlights include:

Katie indicated that LSTA funding and other funding might be available for collaborative projects related to discovery and resource sharing between systems between 2022 and 2027. The committee and V-Cat as a whole may want to consider the benefits to working with other systems, including NWLS who has expressed interest in working with WVLS. See **Exhibit 19** and **Exhibit 20** included in this packet.

The committee reviewed a draft list of tasks for the V-Cat ILS Review Process and discussed a possible schedule. A timeline document and Gantt chart were developed. It is possible that the Committee could complete an RFI (Request for Information) in the next few months, host demonstrations towards the end of 2022, select a product in 2023 and implement changes by the end of August 2024.

A draft V-Cat Request for Information document was reviewed. The committee agreed to add an appendix to the RFI with a request for a quote including both V-Cat and Northern Waters libraries. It was noted that gathering information about economy of scale could be helpful, but conversations about a shared ILS are outside the scope of the ILS Evaluation and Review committee.

Available Integrated Library System and Library System Platform vendors and products were discussed. Priority was given to products designed for public library consortia, in active development, in use at Wisconsin public library consortia, and being considered by NWLS or MCFLS. The committee is considering sending out RFI requests for the following:

- Innovative, Sierra (current ILS)
- Evergreen
- Innovative, Polaris

- Koha, supported by Bywater Solutions
- The Library Company, CarlX
- SirsiDynix, Symphony

The committee will meet again in July.

**The Bibliographic and Interface Committee** met on Tuesday, May 4, 2022. The committee discussed uploading our own cover images to the catalog when an image is not available from the cover image services available in Aspen. Prior to the meeting, WVLS staff met with **Dr. Tomas Lipinski**, a librarian and lawyer, who currently is a professor at University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, to share their concerns regarding copyright and fair use. He provided examples to illustrate how he would argue that what we would like to do would be considered Fair Use under Copyright law. This was welcome news to the committee and a procedure for scanning our own images to be uploaded was discussed.

Additionally, the committee discussed starting workgroups to assist with grouping records in Aspen for more accurate sorting and browse categories in Aspen, and to assist with maintaining forthcoming fiction lists. Other items discussed included the process for removing foreign language subject headings from OCLC records when copied into the Sierra database and discontinuing the practice of side-loading of Overdrive records in Sierra. Lastly new ideas were shared by Rachel and Katie for updating records with incorrect diacritics in Sierra.

## TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS OVERVIEW

### LEAN WI Core Infrastructure

The partnership is now reassessing previously planned capital replacement (core switching and virtual host server updates) and preparing for procurement.

### LEAN WI Service Explorations

LEAN WI partners are testing an alternative managed Antivirus product and an application version management utility as part of a joint effort intended to consolidate Antivirus licensing and client management and common application updates support.

### Libraries Win Services

LEAN WI partners are supporting a large multi-site implementation of Princh Mobile Printing services, currently in-progress with a final goal of having all interested member libraries set up and operating with the Mobile Printing service (branded as the BYOD Service) by the end of May 2022. Libraries that did not opt into the service during the initial implementation wave will be able to do so at any time over the next several years. Based on a higher-than-expected level of interest and uptake with an additional service level – public PC printing management – we are negotiating a quote for that add-on to be co-termined with the original BYOD procurement targeting an approximately 50% utilization rate. We will be reviewing other print management options from Princh in the future and working with interested

libraries to provide as much funding and technical support as feasible once the initial implementation sweep is complete.

LEAN WI partners procured 250 seats of MS Office Desktop licensing to ensure member libraries have continued access to such licensing – at State contracted discounts – after the loss of availability through Tech Soup. The licensing is available to the partners for immediate use as needed to supplement member library needs. The partners are still working out a meaningful joint usage and cost sustainability model and will continue to monitor changes to MS licensing programs to ensure the partnership is offering the most impactful support to libraries.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT SERVICES

### WPLC / Digital Library News

Rachel Metzler attended the **Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) Budget Committee meeting** on April 4. During this meeting the committee reviewed the first draft of the 2023 WPLC Budget and made recommendations to offer with the WPLC Board.

In April, Rachel also facilitated a **meeting of the WVLS Overdrive Advantage Selectors**. The committee decided how much to spend each month for the remainder of 2022 and updated its selection process, which can be found at <https://wvls.org/digital-library/>. The **WPLC Annual Membership Meeting** was held on May 11 just prior to the WAPL Conference in Pewaukee. Several 2021 WPLC activities were highlighted, including the usage of the new magazine collection, the initiative to improve the juvenile and YA collection's diversity, and the creation of a *Technology Backup Committee* and *Digital Archives Backup Steering Committee*. During the **WPLC Board meeting** that followed the annual membership meeting, the board approved a new item reconsideration policy, discussed the 2023 draft budget, and heard a request from the South Central Library System for WPLC support of their data center. The WPLC Board will meet again in June.

The **WPLC Steering Committee** will meet on May 19. The committee plans to review the Collection Development Committee Reconsideration Form and Policy and to consider adding the WPLC Board as the final arbiter in an appeal process. They will also discuss the removal of local videos purchased through OverDrive and the new OverDrive Hub.

### Youth Services Librarians Continue to Meet Regularly

WVLS and IFLS youth services librarians met for the first combined virtual Youth Services Meetup in April to talk about early childhood programs (like 1000 Books Before Kindergarten) and ways to support families and caregivers.

Youth librarians from WVLS, IFLS, and NWLS are invited to gather at the Rib Lake Public Library outdoor picnic shelter on May 25. Rib Lake Public Library Assistant Director **Krista Blomberg** will give a tour of the public park shelter, playground next to library, and remodeled youth space. Librarians will bring summer reading program printables to share and spark ideas: brochures, reading logs, prize slips, letters inviting sponsors, handouts at public service desks. Information shared during these gatherings is archived on the [WVLS website](#).

### Inclusive Services Updates Shared Monthly

**Sherry Machones**, Northern Waters Library System Director and WVLS Inclusive Services Consultant, continued to share an *Inclusive Services Update* with member libraries monthly.

The **April update** highlighted the International Transgender Day of Visibility and included resources about digital equity, ALA accessibility grants for small and rural libraries, and a report on library broadband services during the pandemic. Inclusive continuing education opportunities, topical news stories and monthly list of diverse holidays were shared.

The **May update** highlighted Mental Health Awareness month and included resources from the WI State Superintendent on equity, diversity, and inclusion along with ALA's list of inclusive financial literacy books for youth, and a source for diverse presentation images. Inclusive continuing education opportunities were shared along with topical news stories and the monthly list of diverse holidays.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### Matczak to Teach iSchool Course, Provide Webinar Presentation

Jamie Matczak will provide a recorded, online presentation for the Wisconsin Library Association's Support Staff and Circulation (SSCS) One-Day Conference on Thursday, May 26. Jamie's presentation is called "Providing Great Customer Service (During a Pandemic)." Jamie was asked to present in-person, but because she will be on vacation on May 26, she offered to do the session as a recording.

### Upcoming Webinars

The following webinars for 2022-23 are scheduled and/or in the planning stages:

- **2022 Wisconsin Trustee Training Week**; August 22-26
- **2022 Tech Days**; September 20-21
- **2023 Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference**; January 25-26

### Recent Trainings

Several new *Digital Bytes*, short training sessions produced by WVLS staff and colleagues from other libraries, have been recorded and made available online:

- [Supporting & Representing Indigenous People in the Library](#): **Angela Bodzislaw** from Spooner Memorial Library and **Laura Merchant** from Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College Extension discuss how to represent and support indigenous people in the library. This presentation includes topics of Land Acknowledgement, addressing historical trauma, cultural responsiveness, evaluating collections, and partnering with Indigenous organizations.
- [Mote](#) is an audio content tool. Learn how to use it when collaborating with others on a document.
- [7 Tips for Unpleasant Conversations](#): In this *Digital Byte*, Jamie offers tips on how to prepare for those uncomfortable conversations we all experience from time to time.
- [Making a Mistake](#): Jamie talks about steps to take when an employee makes a mistake at work.

Two **Aspen trainings** were provided to V-Cat member library staff on March 16. An *Aspen Question and Answer* training was held from 10 am – noon and an *Aspen Materials Request / Purchase Suggestion* training was held from 1-3 pm. Recordings for both sessions are available upon request.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### State of America’s Libraries Report

Released annually during National Library Week in April by the American Library Association, this year’s issue, “**2022 State of America’s Libraries Special Report: Pandemic Year Two**,” highlights the challenges U.S. libraries faced in the second year of the pandemic, as well as the ways they innovated to meet the needs of their communities. The report also sites that library staff in every state faced an unprecedented number of attempts to ban books. ALA’s Office for Intellectual freedom tracked 729 challenges to library, school and university materials and services in 2021, resulting in more than 1,597 individual book challenges or removals. [Read more.](#)

### Intellectual Freedom Resources

#### FREE and Open Resources from the American Library Association:

##### New Resource Guides

- [Challenges to Materials and Programs: The Role of the Friends of the Library](#) (4/12/22)
- [Challenges to Materials and Programs: The Role of Library Trustees & Board Members](#) (3/31/22)
- [Terms and Definitions Related to Intellectual Freedom & Censorship](#) (2/15/22)
- [Materials Challenges - Key Library Policies to Review and Revise](#) (2/15/22)

##### Tip Sheets

- [The Role of the Library Trustee](#)
- [Public Library Trustee Ethics Statement](#)
- [Terms and Definitions Related to Intellectual Freedom & Censorship](#) (2/15/22)
- [Materials Challenges - Key Library Policies to Review and Revise](#) (2/15/22)

##### Sample Policies

- [Sample Ethics Statement](#)

- [Sample Conflict of Interest Statement](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- **May 21 – WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- May 24 – DPI-hosted WISCAT Interlibrary Loan Coordinators’ meeting
- May 24 - LAWDS (Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills) SuperPac meeting
- May 25 – DPI-hosted System Continuing Education Consultants’ meeting
- May 25 – Youth Services Meetup at Rib Lake Public Library
- **May 30 – MEMORIAL DAY; WVLS office closed**
- **June 2 – WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- **June 7 – WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic/Interface Committee meeting**
- **June 8 – WVLS/IFLS Youth Services Meetup**
- **June 9 – WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- **June 14 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- June 20 – Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting
- June 21 – DPI-hosted System Youth Services Consultants meeting
- June 22 - DPI-hosted System Continuing Education Consultants’ meeting
- June 23 – Oneida County Library Board meeting
- June 28 – DPI-hosted WISCAT Interlibrary Loan Coordinators’ meeting
- June 28 - LAWDS (Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills) SuperPac meeting
- **July 4 – WVLS office closed**
- **July 8 - WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting**
- July 8 - Council for Libraries and Network Development (COLAND) meeting
- **July 12 - WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic/Interface Committee meeting**
- **July 12 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- **July 14 - WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- July 18 - Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting
- July 22 – WLA’s Library Development and Legislation Committee meeting
- July 26 – DPI-hosted WISCAT Interlibrary Loan Coordinators’ meeting
- July 26 - LAWDS (Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills) SuperPac meeting
- **August 2 - WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic/Interface Committee meeting**
- **August 9 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- **August 10 – WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting**
- **August 11 - WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- **August 12 - WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting**
- **August 13 – WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- August 15 - WPLC Technology Steering Committee meeting
- August 15 - Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting

- August 16 - DPI-hosted System Youth Services Consultants meeting
- **August 22 – 26 – “Trustee Training Week”**
- August 23 - DPI-hosted WISCAT Interlibrary Loan Coordinators’ meeting
- August 23 - LAWDS (Libraries Activating Workforce Development Skills) SuperPac meeting
- August 24 - DPI-hosted System Continuing Education Consultants’ meeting
- **September 1 - WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**

Thank you for reading!

Marla