

# Director's Report

WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 19, 2022

## WVLS "RISES TO THE CHALLENGE" AT WLA CONFERENCE ...



### ...We Showed Up!

Themed "Rising to the Challenge," this year's 2022 WLA (Wisconsin Library Association) Conference was held November 1-4 in Lake Geneva. Whether to reconnect with colleagues and vendors, meet new acquaintances or learn from others, this year's conference gathered a remarkable group of colleagues from across the state. Colleagues who attended from the WVLS area include: WVLS Board members

**Tom (and Judy) Bobrofsky, Sonja Ackerman and Kari Sweeney** as well as **Marla Sepnafski, Kris Adams Wendt, Jamie Matczak and Brenda Walenton** from the WVLS staff.

WVLS Member Library colleagues who attended include: **Laurie Renel-Faledas** (Crandon Public Library); **Heather Bain, Tara Hornbeak and Sarah Moscatello** (Marathon County Public Library); **Laurie Ollhoff** (T.B. Scott Library, Merrill); **Janay Ziebell and Kathy Wagner** (Neillsville Public Library); **Denise Chojnacki** (Rhineland District Library); **Tammie Blomberg** (Rib Lake Public Library); **April Hansen** (E.U. Demmer Library, Three Lakes); **Carsyn Soderstrom** (Thorp Public Library); **Heidi O'Hare** (Tomahawk Public Library); **Melissa Highfill** (Westboro Public Library)

### ...We Offered WLA Conference Scholarships!



Four WVLS member librarians received scholarships to attend the 2022 WLA Conference in Lake Geneva: **Sarah Moscatello**, Marathon County Public Library Mosinee Branch; **Heather Bain**, Marathon County Public Library Hatley Branch; **Melissa Highfill**, Westboro Public Library; and **Carsyn Soderstrom**, Thorp Public Library. Video highlights from the recipients [can be found here](#). Conference reports from the scholarship recipients will be available in the February 2023 Board of Trustees packet.

### ...We Presented!

WVLS and member colleagues shared experiences and stories on ways they and their organizations were rising to challenges encountered during the last several years and advised WLA Conference attendees on the following topics:

- ***“Yes, You Can: Library Legislative Day Tips and Tricks”*** with **Kris Adams Wendt**, along with Dr. Steven Conway and Kathy Pletcher, NFLS and Brown County Library Trustee
- ***“Dressing for Maximum Performance”*** with **Jamie Matczak**, along with Elizabeth Timmins, Muehl Public Library Director; Karol Kennedy, Bridges Library System Director; and Abby Armour, Mukwonago Community Library Director
- ***“You are a Manager Now, Wait, What?”*** with **Denise Chojnacki**, Rhinelander District Library Children’s Librarian and Ann Cooksey, Appleton Public Library Children’s Librarian
- ***“Exploring Connections for Wisconsin Libraries”*** with **Laurie Ollhoff**, T.B. Scott Library Director (Merrill) with Monica Treptow, School Library Education Consult at WI Department of Public Instruction; Raquel Rand, Library Media Coordinator Green Bay Area; and Amanda Struckmeyer, Library Media Specialist, Middleton Cross Plains Area School District.

### ...We Supported!

**Room Monitors.** Jamie Matczak and Tom Bobrofsky served as room monitors for one or more conference sessions.

**Basket for the WLA Foundation Silent Auction.** WVLS and other public library systems each created a gift basket for the WLA Foundation’s Silent Auction, an event held annually at the conference to raise money for scholarships. The WVLS basket had a movie night theme: “Cozy up with a blanket, make some hot cocoa, eat some popcorn, and watch a movie. The basket included a 5-flavor variety pack of Funky Chunky popcorn, 1 large bag of Valley Pop popcorn, 11-flavor variety of Land O Lakes cocoa classics, 6 boxes of assorted candies (Dots, Mike and Ikes, etc.), plush throw blanket, 2 packs of microwave popcorn, and a \$30 Netflix gift card.

**Sponsorship.** NWLS and WVLS each contributed \$250 to the Wisconsin Library Association fall conference to sponsor the Author and Presenter Fair. Our donations were acknowledged in the WLA Conference booklet.

**Training Videos.** Jamie Matczak created two training videos for volunteers for the WLA Conference in Lake Geneva. One video covered responsibilities for session [room monitors](#), and the other covered responsibilities for [silent auction](#) volunteers. Both videos can be edited for future conferences.

## Correspondence

### WVLS Board Appointments

Five WVLS trustees have terms set to expire at the end of the year: **Christy Janczewski** (Forest County), **Diane Peterson** (Lincoln County), **Jim Backus** and **Kari Sweeney** (Marathon County), and **Paul Knuth** (Oneida County). Notifications were sent to the clerks in those counties in October, and we anticipate hearing back from them following their county board meeting in December.

**Christy Janczewski** (Forest County) and **Mandy Wright** (Marathon County) have announced their plans to resign from the WVLS Board, so those counties will be making new appointments. A replacement to fill the unexpired term for Tyson Cain (Marathon County) who resigned in 2021 remains unfilled.

## Public Information Request

On September 23, WVLS received a public information request from Eileen Hilton, Manager of Proposals at SirsiDynix, to send her electronic copies of all proposals and pricing information from ILS vendors the V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee received, as well as the V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee's internal scoring for vendor proposals.

On June 3, the V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee emailed six vendors a Request for Information with a response deadline of July 5. Beginning on July 9, the V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee met on several occasions in closed session to review and evaluate the RFIs received. When the review and evaluation of RFIs was completed, the committee determined that more information from four of the vendors would be welcome. SirsiDynix was not one of the vendors selected.

A WVLS email response was sent to SirsiDynix on October 11. It shared the WVLS website link to [V-Cat ILS Evaluation & Review Committee](#) information, as well as RFI responses not marked as confidential by the vendors. To honor confidentiality statements on most vendors' RFI documents and pricing, as well as closed session discussions regarding RFI responses and evaluation of vendors, all information received from vendors and the committee's internal scoring documents were not shared.

There has been no further communication between WVLS and SirsiDynix.

## Words of Appreciation

**Website Support.** *"I wanted to reach out and personally thank you for the work you did to set up a voter information page for our library website. This will be of great help to our staff and community. Thanks for all of the work you do to make Wisconsin libraries stronger."* - from **Joleen Sterk**, Menomonie Public Library Director to **Anne Hamland**

**ARSL Conference Scholarship.** *"Again, I would like to thank WVLS again for sponsoring such a wonderful scholarship. The ARSL (Association for Rural and Small Libraries) Conference is a tremendous opportunity for library staff and small and rural libraries to connect, learn, and share ideas. I would highly recommend this conference to anyone eligible!"* – from **Laura Wood**, Marathon County Public Library Branch Services Lead / Rothschild Branch Coordinator to **Jamie Matczak**

**V-Cat Support.** *"I would like to thank you for taking the time to instruct me on cataloging questions, etc. You were very helpful and many of my questions and concerns were addressed, [and gave] me new avenues to use for the end result. Thanks for always being there to answer questions."* – **Judy Bobrofsky**, library volunteer at the Loyal Public Library and Granton Community Library, to **Rachel Metzler**

*"I really want you to know that I am very pleased with the services Katie and Rachel are offering to member libraries. I really love that they are sending us reports of things we need to fix. For example, we just got a 'stuck in transit' list. I would never think to run this report, so an email that says 'action needed' ... that lays out exactly what is needed to fix the items and communicate with other libraries is very helpful. The instructions are clear and easy to understand, and both are very receptive to answering*

*questions if I get stuck. While there are many ways Rachel and Katie are assisting us, I wanted to share this one example with you. I don't have time or understand which reports need to be run, so I am grateful this is something that the system can do for small libraries.*

*Also, it truly has been a pleasure to work with them on the V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee. Katie has all of her documents organized and helps keep it all straight. Rachel has such valuable insight into all of the cataloging and behind the scenes stuff.”* –**Kay Heiting**, Granton Community Library Director to **Rachel Metzler** and **Katie Zimmermann**

## PEOPLE / LIBRARIES / SYSTEMS IN THE NEWS

### T.B. Scott Library Hires New Director

The T.B. Scott Library Board of Trustees has selected **Laurie Ollhoff** to be the new director of the library. She replaces **Jessica Zellers** who resigned from the position earlier in the year. Laurie has worked at the library since June 2017 and had served as the library’s Assistant Director prior to her promotion.

### MCPL Receives WiLS’ Ideas to Action Fund Grant

The Marathon County Public Library has been awarded a WiLS 2022 Ideas to Action Fund grant to digitize oral histories and transcripts. The [WiLS Ideas to Action Fund](#) provides grants of up to \$5,000 so member organizations can bring their projects to life. The Fund encourages partnerships and collaborations among WiLS members and with community partners, supports innovative and exploratory work, and seeds the development of processes, methods, or resources that can be used by other WiLS members. WiLS received 33 proposals in this round of funding, and MCPL’s application was one of 8 applications awarded. Anne Hamland is providing support to MCPL Adult Services Librarian **Julie Kinney** on this project.

### WVLS Movie Licensing Project

**Brenda Walenton** and Anne Hamland have negotiated a group discount for libraries interested in an annual movie license from SWANK Movie Licensing USA in 2023. Following are the 16 libraries that have signed on for the discount: Abbotsford, Antigo, Colby, Crandon, Greenwood, Loyal, MCPL (Main), Merrill, Minocqua, Rhinelander, Rib Lake, Stetsonville, Tomahawk, Three Lakes, Westboro and Withee. While a single film showing license is available for libraries wanting to show one approved movie without purchasing a license, the addition of outdoor movie showings is a significant addition to the annual movie license purchased through SWANK Movie Licensing USA.

### Arrowhead and Lakeshores Public Library Systems Merge!

In October, Walworth County became the third and final county to approve the merger of Arrowhead Library System (ALS) and Lakeshores Library System (LLS). The newly merged entity, **Prairie Lakes Library System (PLLS)**, will take effect on January 1, 2023, and will serve the counties of Racine, Rock, and Walworth.

Following Walworth County’s vote and ahead of the October 15 deadline, the necessary annual

system plan was filed with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction declaring the formation of PLLS and the dissolutions of ALS and LLS. A few of the next steps include appointing representatives to the PLLS board of trustees and developing policy recommendations for the new board to adopt.

*“This merger process has been years in the making, really, but the last 10 months have been an intense stretch of research, planning, and collaboration,”* said **Steve Platteter**, Director of Arrowhead Library System.

**Steve Ohs**, Administrator of Lakeshores Library System added, *“It’s tremendously rewarding to see the partnerships we’ve forged become solidified, the research the exploration committee completed used to inform our communities, and the strategic goals of this merger be embraced so enthusiastically not only by every library in both systems but also by all three counties.”*

The merger’s primary benefit is reduced overhead and administration costs, which will result in more dollars for services. The ALS/LLS Joint Merger Exploration Committee’s Final Recommendation Report, PLLS’s System Plan, and other public documents relating to the proposed merge are available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kgm2-75arnZG2xBdV-LXVx28-JNL094m?usp=sharing> (edited from a ALS/LLS news release; October 24, 2022)

*WVLS would like to congratulate the library, county and system leadership at the Arrowhead and Lakeshores public library systems, and for the tremendous patience, perseverance, and cooperative spirit it took to give the new Prairie Lakes Library System the green light! Well done!*

## MARKETING PROJECTS

### LEAN WI Website Services

Anne Hamland is updating websites for libraries in the LEAN WI website service with content for winter library closures, holiday programs and services. She is assisting the Hudson Area Public Library, Northern Waters Library Service and the Colfax Public Library with website redesign projects, and design projects for the Rhinelander District Library and Ellsworth Public Library are now completed. WVLS welcomes the Shell Lake Public Library to the LEAN WI website services with a [brand new website!](#)

## GRANT and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

### WVLS Offers Scholarships to Attend 2023 WEMTA Conference

WVLS scholarships are available to public and K-12 school library staff to attend the 2023 WEMTA (Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association) Conference in Rothschild, WI on February 5-7, 2023. Valued at \$1,000, the WVLS 2023 WEMTA Conference Scholarship will cover a one-year WEMTA membership, conference registration, two nights conference lodging, mileage reimbursement, and meals at per diem rates when a conference meal is not provided. Information about the 2023 WEMTA Conference may be found [here](#). The deadline to submit a scholarship application is **December 9**. More

information about the scholarship and link to download a scholarship application are shared on the WVLS website at [wvls.org/scholarships-and-grants/](http://wvls.org/scholarships-and-grants/).

## 2022 LSTA Improved Discovery Solutions Grants

**LSTA [Cooperative Cataloging Project](#)** : Work continues on this grant. A NWLS/WVLS Cooperative Cataloging Memorandum of Understanding, shared as **Exhibit 18** in the WVLS Board meeting packet, will be discussed later on the agenda.

**LSTA [Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Project](#)**: The grant for the WVLS/NWLS ILS Consortium Exploration has been awarded. A name for the project has been selected, Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE). With the announcement of the grant award, a NICE Team was formed. Members include:

- Alexander Johnson, MCPL Library Support Services Manager
- Gina Rae, NWLS Database and Support Specialist
- Jackee Johnson, NWLS ILS Administrator
- Katie Zimmermann, WVLS ILS Administrator
- Molly Lank-Jones, Hayward Public Library Director
- Peggy O’Connell, Minocqua Public Library Director
- Rachel Metzler, WVLS Database and Support Specialist
- Sue Heskin, Superior Public Library Director
- Tammie Blomberg, Rib Lake Public Library Director
- Teresa Schmidt, Mercer Library Director

More information about the Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Project and activities of the NICE Team are shared in the WVLS Board meeting packet as **Exhibits 14, 19** and **20**.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Relationship Building Exercise

Now is the time to write congratulatory notes to new and re-elected officials. **Exhibit 13a** provides contact information for legislators in the WVLS area organized by county and by library.

### FY 2023-2025 Biennial Budget

An updated document from the Wisconsin Library Association’s Library Development & Legislation (D&L) Committee regarding WLA-endorsed state library aid funding requests submitted by the Department of Public Instruction for the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget process is shared with this report as **Exhibit 13b**.

## Save the Date for Library Legislative Day in 2023

The Wisconsin Library Association's 2023 Library Legislative Day will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. A morning briefing will be held at the Madison Public Library followed by afternoon visits with legislators at the Capital. The invitation to participate at 2023 LLD is shared as **Exhibit 13c**.

## V-CAT AND ILS ADMINISTRATION PROJECT

### Status on Key Projects

**Aspen Discovery.** The [V-Cat Catalog URL catalog.wvls.org](http://catalog.wvls.org) (formerly the Classic V-Cat Catalog) is now associated with the WVLS Aspen IP address.

Archives from the Central Wisconsin Digitization project are now searchable in the WVLS Aspen site. Adjustments will be made based on feedback from T. B. Scott and MCPL who have added most of the content to the CWDP archive. Once adjustments are complete the archives will be added to individual library sites upon request.

The implementation of the Aspen Mobile App, an app which offers features to improve the customer experience, is on hold until next spring to allow time and attention for ILS product demonstrations and the NWLS/WVLS ILS Evaluation and Review.

**Voice and Text Telephone Notices.** A change to the Shoutbomb code in May 2022 would have created some difficulties for folks who attempted to change their phone or text message notice settings. Our setup is configured differently than many other libraries because of concerns regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. As a temporary solution, WVLS worked with Shoutbomb to revert to the old code.

**Collection Development.** A group of library colleagues interested in collection development gathered on September 28 to review the results of the V-Cat Collection Development Practices Survey, and to share resources for selecting new materials and weeding materials. Notes and slides were shared with all V-Cat staff participating in collection development.

The group identified and prioritized a number of possible projects for collection development collaborations and will meet again in late February or early March 2023 to begin work on them.

**ILS Administration Team Training.** Over the last few months members of the WVLS ILS Team attended several training opportunities. WVLS ILS Administrator Katie Zimmermann attended a Technical Services Training and a User Administration Consultation hosted by Sierra. WVLS Database and ILS Support Specialist Rachel Metzler attended a WILIUG (Wisconsin and Illinois Innovative User Group) one-day, virtual conference which included a session on Create Lists, an update from Innovative, and an open session to discuss Sierra experiences. She also attended *Library Journal's* Inclusive Cataloging Intensive Workshop.

## Council and Committee Meeting Highlights

**V-Cat Council.** During its meeting on November 11, the V-Cat Council

- received the weighted vote calculations for 2023
- approved an updated “On Order and Pre-publication Records” recommendation
- received updates on the NWLS/WVLS Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Project, as well as the Cooperative Cataloging Project which includes WVLS and six other Wisconsin library systems
- was briefed on the Aspen recommendations for reader’s advisory tools

**V-Cat Bibliographic and Interface Committee.** During its meeting on October 18, the committee discussed Aspen-related format quirks, considered a process for Diacritical updates to Bib records, and reviewed the new trend of including ISNi (International Standard Name Identifier) numbers in the author field. The committee will meet again in February 2023.

**V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee.** During its meeting on October 15, the committee reviewed a standardized library card application draft and discussed revisions. It outlined recommended standards for conversion of juvenile patrons. These standards, as well as standards for new library cards, will be presented to the V-Cat Council at a future meeting. Also, the committee discussed the results of the juvenile and YA high demand survey and will revisit the standardized checkout periods for juvenile high demand items at the next meeting.

**V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee.** Meetings were held on September 22 and October 14. Three vendors have been invited to demonstrate their products to the committee and other staff members. All demonstrations will be fully remote and recorded. Dates are noted below, with each demonstration taking place over the course of a day and a half:

- November 16-17: Koha, supported by ByWater Solutions
- November 29-30: CARL, from the Library Corporation
- December 14-15: Sierra, from Innovative

Staff from all WVLS libraries are invited to attend, as is staff from NWLS libraries. The committee developed a standard format for vendors to follow when conducting their presentations to simplify comparison between the products and to ensure that staff with time limitations could attend just the portions of the demonstrations that most apply to their work. Demonstration information is available on a password protected page on the WVLS website.

The committee also designed an initial procedure for evaluating the products. Staff who attend the demonstrations will fill out a survey in order to offer feedback on the specific modules of each demonstration they attended. The results will be aggregated for the committee's review.

The committee developed an evaluation framework and timeline:

1. Demonstrations; November – December
2. Demonstration Attendee Survey I; November – December

3. Committee Members Review Survey I Results; November - January
4. Committee Meeting to Develop Survey II; December 8
5. Committee Meeting to Discuss Demonstrations and Survey I Results; January – February
6. Committee Members Complete Post Results Survey II to Rate and Rank Products; January – February
7. Committee Members Review Post Results Survey II; February - March
8. Committee Meeting to Discuss Survey II Results and Select Vendors for Site Visits; March
9. Committee Site Visits; April
10. Possible additional metrics

## PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT SERVICES

### State Meetings

**WISCAT / Interlibrary Loan.** Rachel Metzler attended a meeting of the ILL System Coordinators on September 27. During this meeting, system staff shared updates on ILL trends in their libraries. It was shared that all systems are experiencing lower circulation in interlibrary loan and a lot of staff turnover. **The WISCAT team shared that there will be no \$200 licensing fee for WISCAT participating libraries in 2023.**

**Wisconsin Public Library Consortium.** In October, Rachel Metzler attended her first meeting as a new member of the WPLC Collection Development Committee. At this meeting the committee was updated on current projects and encouraged to brainstorm projects for 2023. Additionally, the committee spent some time on the patron survey that went out to patrons via the Libby and Overdrive apps.

The WPLC Board met on October 24. During this meeting, Rachel Metzler, was selected to be the Digital Steering Committee Board liaison. All other board exec committee members were also selected. The board spent some time discussing what will happen to the budget once Lakeshore and Arrowhead combine systems. While there will be no changes for the 2023 budget, the budget committee will review this matter as it prepares the 2024 budget. Additionally, the board decided to continue to have WiLS be the fiscal sponsor for WPLC for 2023.

### Inclusive Services Consulting Report

**Sherry Machones**, NWLS and WVLS Inclusive Services Consultant, shared an *Inclusive Services Update* with each system's member libraries in October and November. The October *Update* highlighted 2022 WLA Annual Conference sessions planned on inclusive topics sessions and on the W.J. Niederkorn Library's newly launched accessibility app for patrons. Several links to continuing education were shared as well as links to stories about misconceptions about deafness, libraries helping water crises, and successful multilingual storytimes. The November *Update* featured resources and dialogue about Native American Heritage Month, the Wisconsin Historical Society's traveling kits and the new WVLS *Digital*

*Byte on the Justice Gap*. Continuing education opportunities including several in-depth classes were also shared.

### Building and Space Services

Anne Hamland met virtually with Granton Community Library Director Kay Heiting to assess the flow of the library's youth space with a goal of refreshing the space with no cost ideas working with existing furniture and shelving. Hamland created a draft floor plan of the current space arrangement and a second floor plan with space adjustments after brainstorming with Kay. An advocacy plan for the project that includes the vision and goals for the library's space is the next step in the process.

Anne is working with Antigo Public Library Director **Ada Demlow** and her team to assess the Antigo youth, teen and audiovisual spaces and general flow of the library, and has created a building project web page for the D.R. Moon Memorial Library (Stanley) here: <https://stanleylibrary.org/building-project/>.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### NEW! Joint Collaboration in Support of Professional Learning

In a collaborative partnership brought forth through needs addressed during the Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) process, the DPI Library Services Team and the Wisconsin Public Library Systems have announced a *new* Wisconsin Libraries Professional Learning Calendar.

Hosted by DPI using the Team Up platform and curated by the Public Library Systems, the calendar gathers learning events from Wisconsin library systems, associations, DPI Library Services, and other groups all in one place. Public library staff and trustees are now able to find relevant professional learning without searching multiple calendars and websites. Most events are Wisconsin-based, however major national library conferences are also included.

Search for specific events or browse by categories like Interest Areas, event host, whether the event fulfills a technology requirement for certification, and more. Locate recording links for previous sessions and the applicable number of CE Contact Hours for each event. Share individual events using a unique URL, through email or social media, or add to your own calendar. No account is needed to use the calendar. A [User Guide](#) is also available for quick reference.

Find the Wisconsin Libraries Professional Learning Calendar on the DPI website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries/professional-learning>, or [WVLS Continuing Education webpage](#), or by bookmarking the [Team Up link](#).

(edited from *Wisconsin Libraries for Everyone*; September 22, 2022)

### MCPL Staff In-Service Day

Jamie Matczak hosted a staff in-service for MCPL staff on Friday, September 16. MCPL locations were closed to the public, and over 40 MCPL employees participated. The event consisted of a morning presentation on safety and security, followed by role playing and meditation in the afternoon by WVLS

Trustee **Mandy Wright**. The events of the day were well received. MCPL Circulation Services Lead/Library Specialist **Kitty Roesler** said the day was fun and worthwhile.

*"WVLS did a great job coordinating a full day workshop with **Dr. Steve Albrecht**, who shared extensive information with us. I thought the role-playing exercises were very helpful with problem solving challenging situations,"* she said.

## Upcoming Webinars and Workshops

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

- The **"Annual WVLS Youth Services Workshop"** will be held at the Marathon County Public Library on December 2. Visit the [WVLS website](#) for more information about this half-day workshop and to register.
- **"The Reluctant Library Advocate"** [Fall Webinar Series](#) coordinated through the 4-system collaboration of WVLS, IFLS Library System, Southwest Wisconsin Library System, and Northern Waters Library Service focuses on library advocacy is underway. The third session in the series will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.
- **Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference:** Fourteen sessions are planned for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on January 25-26, 2023. Conference tracks include Management, Marketing, Sustainability and Reference/Reader's Advisory. Registration will open in early December.

## Training Opportunities

### NEW in 2023! Public Library Trustees to Have Access to Statewide Training!

Starting in 2023, Wisconsin public library trustees will have access to statewide training from [United for Libraries](#): Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations. As a division of the American Library Association, United for Libraries is a national network of enthusiastic library supporters who believe in the importance of libraries as the social and intellectual centers of communities and campuses. Content will include short videos, online courses, tip sheets and more. Watch for more information in 2023!

### WVLS Partners with Wisconsin State Law Library to Produce 5-Part *Digital Bytes* Series

WVLS and the Wisconsin State Law Library (WSLL) have produced three training videos in a 5-part Digital Byte series since the collaboration began earlier this year. Topics include:

- ["Navigating the Legal Reference Interview."](#) In this first video of the series produced in August, WSLL's Web Services Librarian **Carol Hassler** addresses how to handle legal reference questions.
- ["Discovering Legal Resources."](#) Hassler shares quick tips on legal research in the second video of the series.
- ["Access to Justice."](#) The third video in the series features WSLL's **Elizabeth Manriquez** discussing the Justice Gap, who it impacts, and how libraries can assist.

*Digital Bytes*, short training sessions produced by WVLS staff and colleagues from other libraries, are available on the WVLS website at <https://wvls.org/digital-bytes/>.

## WLA Conference 2023 – “Don’t Stop Believing”

Jamie Matczak will serve as the Chair for the 2023 Wisconsin Library Association Conference that will be held at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton on Tuesday, October 24 - Friday, October 27, 2023. The theme is “Don’t Stop Believing.” She has selected most of the conference committee volunteers and the first planning meeting will be in January.

## INFO TO GO

**New Report on Broadband Disparities in Wisconsin** – a [report](#) shared through the Broadband Access, Equity, and Deployment (BEAD) grant program in Wisconsin reveals that only 68.1% of non-metro populations in the state have access to what the FCC defines as adequate internet speeds. This disparity plays out on the ground as libraries work to meet the demand for hotspots and in-library wifi use. And in the long term, this is an equity question. As libraries work with their communities and partners to provide equitable access to technology and other resources, understanding the existing baseline disparities is critical. (edited from *WiLS Community Chronicle*; October 2022)

## UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- November 1 – 4 - **WLA (Wisconsin Library Association) Conference; Lake Geneva**
- November 9 – **“The Reluctant Library Advocate – Session 1” – a WVLS/IFLS/NWLS/SWLS webinar**
- November 10 – **WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- November 11 – Council for Library and Network Development (COLAND) meeting
- November 14 – WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Technology Steering Committee meeting
- November 15 – Meeting with DPI and other systems regarding delivery
- November 15 – DPI-hosted meeting with System Directors
- November 15 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) meeting**
- November 15 – **“The Reluctant Library Advocate – Session 2 (repeat of Session 1)” – a WVLS/IFLS/NWLS/SWLS webinar**
- November 16 – **Koha ILS Demonstration Day 1**
- November 16 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- November 17 - **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- November 17 – **Koha ILS Demonstration Day 2**
- November 18 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Interlibrary Loan Coordinators
- November 19 – **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- November 21 – Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting
- November 21 – New Director Orientation with Antigo Public Library Director
- **November 24 – WVLS Office closed**
- **November 25 – WVLS Office closed**

- November 29 – **Carl ILS Demonstration Day 1**
- November 30 – **Carl ILS Demonstration Day 2**
- December 2 – **WVLS Annual Youth Services workshop**
- December 6 – DPI hosted meeting with System Directors
- **December 6 – WVLS Staff Gathering; Office closed half day**
- December 7 – **“The Reluctant Library Advocate – Session 3” – a WVLS/IFLS/NWLS/SWLS webinar**
- December 8 – **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- December 8 – WPLC Technology Backup Committee meeting
- December 9 – **WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting**
- December 13 - **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- December 14 – **Sierra ILS Demonstration Day 1**
- December 15 – **Sierra ILS Demonstration Day 2**
- December 19 – Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting; WVLS presents 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report
- December 20 – DPI hosted meeting with System Youth Services Consultants
- December 20 – DPI hosted meeting with System ILL Coordinators
- December 20 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) meeting**
- December 23 – WVLS Office closed
- December 26 – WVLS Office closed
- **January 2 – WVLS Office closed**
- January 3 - **WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic/Interface Committee meeting**
- January 13 - Council for Library and Network Development (COLAND) meeting
- January 16 - Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees meeting
- January 17 - **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) meeting**
- January 19 - **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- January 24 - **WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic/Interface Committee meeting**
- January 25 – **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- January 25-26 – **“2023 Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference”**
- February 2 – **WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- February 5-7 – **2023 WEMTA (Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association) Conference**
- February 7 – Wisconsin Library Association’s LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE DAY
- February 18 – **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- V-Cat Steering Committee Meeting (TBD in February – March)

Thank you for reading!

Marla