

Director's Report

WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 19, 2023

CORRESPONDENCE

2023 WVLS Board of Trustees Appointments

In February, following the WVLS Board of Trustees meeting, a press release announcing the 2023 WVLS Board Appointments was submitted to all the newspapers in the WVLS seven-county service area. The announcement also included the names of the newly elected officers and WVLS Executive Committee members.

Notes of Thanks

Thanks, from Outgoing Library Director

"Thanks to the WVLS team for the beautiful flowers that came just in time for the open house the library board held on Monday [February 13] for the "Director transition." They really added to the sunshine of the day and kept the hope of spring alive through the rain the last two days. Plus, they matched the book covers and brought some amusing (at least to me) irony to the "icy cold reads" book display. I'm still not sure what the flower in the front is, but it is unusual and beautiful! It was a great selection.



Thanks to all of you for being a great behind the scenes support team. It's been an interesting ride these last 8 years and I've learned a ton. Thank you for all your patience and teamwork and for being an amazing "pit crew" for us out on the racetrack of library land. I know you always dream of doing more, but everything you have done is greatly appreciated. Sometimes it's done so well we forget you're even doing it!

All the best for the best that's yet to come,

Erica Brewster; former director of the E.U. Demmer Memorial Library, Three Lakes

Public Library Annual Report Help is Appreciated

Sue Hafemeister and other members of the WVLS Annual Report Team received many thanks for the support provided during this year's member library annual report project.

"Thank you, Susie, and everyone else behind the scenes!" – Rita Ludvigsen, Western Taylor County Public Library (Gilman) Director

“Susie and the Annual Report Team, once again you have amazed me in how easy you make the annual report season. Thank you for your clear instructions and helpful notes. As rules change from year to year, you are all staying on top of them so we can be efficient. Thank you for your continued support!”

-Teresa Hall, Loyal Public Library Director

“...Thank you, Susie, Brenda and the entire WVLS annual reports team for a (mostly – and mostly none of our fault’s) smooth AR process. We will follow through on the rest of the steps on our end and get the report to you ASAP after our February 21 meeting. Appreciate all of your help over the years and wishing everybody the best as you continue to support those who provide public library service to rural/remote Wisconsin!” – Erica Brewster and April Hansen, E.U. Demmer Memorial Library

“Thank you, Susie! I couldn’t have done it without you.” – Melissa Highfill, Westboro Public Library

Library Legislative Day Thank You

Thank-you messages were received from two first-time LLD attendees.

A card from Loyal Public Library Director Teresa Hall to the WVLS Staff stated *“Once again I find myself being thankful, you’re here. Thank you for the nudge to apply for the scholarship to attend Library Legislative Day. The opportunity was an eye-opening event to how connected we are to the legislators. Thank you for your advice, detailed itineraries, and encouragement for such an important event. Here’s hoping our stories made an impact as [the legislators] make their financial decisions.”*

MCPL Library Services Manager Katelyn Sabelko’s email to Kris Adams Wendt and Marla Sepnafski stated *“Just a quick note to say thank you for all the work you poured into Library Legislative Day. Kris, your capitol directions were a godsend! Thank you for holding a prep meeting the Friday before, too; that was so helpful. Marla, thank you for being our team lead! I’m grateful for the whole WVLS crew. Please pass my thank you on to them! Looking forward to Legislative Day 2023!”*

Public Library Annual Reports – Compliance Issues and System Effectiveness

The WVLS Annual Report Team is pleased to report that all 25 public library annual reports were submitted to DPI by the March 1 statutory deadline. The WVLS audit of members’ 2022 annual reports revealed no issues of noncompliance. Also, all 25 member public libraries indicated in the system effectiveness section of the annual report that WVLS provided effective leadership in 2022. Favorable comments were reported in the areas of consulting, customer service, ILS administration and technology support. Comments shared by library boards are shared as **Exhibit 11a**.

PEOPLE / LIBRARIES / SYSTEMS IN THE NEWS

Three WEMTA Conference Scholarships Awarded

WVLS awarded scholarships to three area public and K-12 school library staff to attend the 2023 Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA) Conference held February 5-7 in

Rothschild. The recipients were **Julie Beloungy** (School District of Thorp), **Kay Heiting** (Granton Community Library and Granton School District), and **Kristie Heistad** (Antigo Public Library). The scholarship provided for full conference registration, one-year WEMTA membership, lodging, mileage, and meal reimbursement. Applicants had to currently work at a WVLS area public or K-12 school library and have one year of library work experience. Conference highlights are shared as **Exhibit 12** in this Board Packet and via this [short video](#).

2023 WLA Conference Planning Committee Hard at Work

Planning for the 2023 WLA Conference in Middleton on Tuesday, October 25 - Friday, October 27 is in full swing. The theme for the 2023 state library conference is “Don’t Stop Believing.” After selecting volunteers for the Conference Planning Committee in 2022, WVLS Education Consultant **Jamie Matczak** led online committee meetings in January and February, and an in-person meeting earlier this month. The volunteer committee roles and members are:



- **New!** Accessibility and Inclusion: **Mark Jochem**, South Central Library System
- Book Signing: **Jean Anderson**, South Central Library System
- Conference App: **Nancy Bell**, Oshkosh Public Library
- Exhibits: **Michelle Dennis**, Hedberg Public Library; **Brenda Walenton**, WVLS
- Local Arrangements: **Katharine Clark**, Middleton Public Library
- **New!** On-Site Volunteer Coordinator: **Emily Rogers**, Brown County Library
- Programming: **Carol Hassler**, Wisconsin State Law Library; **Meredith Lowe**, UW-Madison
- Proofreading: **Desiree Bongers**, Ripon Public Library
- Publicity: **Chad Glamann**, Outagamie Waupaca Library System
- Registration: **Elizabeth Timmins**, Muehl Public Library (Seymour)
- Technology: **Brendan Lenzner**, Marquette University

Current priorities are to determine keynote speakers, develop a conference timeline, coordinate local arrangements, and send out a call for program proposals.

WVLS and Area Library Staff Outreach

Sabelko to Present at Upcoming WILSWORLD Shorts. WiLS is hosting a panel discussion, *Book Challenge Hindsight: What You Wish You'd Known*, on Friday, March 24 at 1:00. WiLS is honored to welcome representatives from K12 and public libraries who have valuable experience and advice to share on handling book challenges. Panel members include:

- **Ashley Knapp**, Library Media Instructional Technology Specialist at West De Pere High School
- **Matt Mulder**, Current Oconomowoc Common Council member and former Oconomowoc Public Library Board of Trustees member
- **Katelyn Sabelko**, Library Services Manager at Marathon County Public Library

WiLSWorld Shorts are webinars provided to WiLS members for free on a quarterly(ish) basis. Visit <https://www.wils.org/do/giving-back/shorts/> to register for the upcoming webinar and to watch recordings or view slides of previous WiLSWorld Shorts.

Metzler to Serve on WPLC Budget Committee. During a February 20 meeting of the WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Board, the 2023 Budget Committee was formed to include Rachel Metzler and three other members of the WPLC Board. As a Board Liaison to the Digital Library Steering Committee, Metzler will help determine the amount of the annual buying pool.

Matczak Completes iSchool Course, Perfecting Your Presentations

WVLS Continuing Education Consultant Jamie Matczak completed a new Continuing Education course called “Perfecting Your Presentations” for the iSchool at UW-Madison. This four-week course examined strategies and best practices on being prepared and confident public speakers. Learners had to create and deliver a presentation as a culmination of the course. One person shared, “*Thanks for this course, its resources, and the opportunity to develop a presentation that I will eventually give to my library board.*” The 10 learners enrolled in the course were from public and academic librarians all over the world, including one from Doha, Qatar!

Bridges Library System Receives National Award

[Family Caregiver Alliance](#), in partnership with the [Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation](#) and [Bader Philanthropies, Inc.](#), named Bridges Library System as one of three recipients of their 2022 *Innovations in Alzheimer’s Caregiving Award*. The award recognizes model programs that address the needs of caregivers and those they care for living with Alzheimer’s disease or a related condition.

Bridges Library System will receive \$20,000 for the [Library Memory Project](#) (LMP), an initiative consisting of 21 public libraries across multiple counties and library consortia. The LMP offers rotating monthly social opportunities for those with memory loss and their caregivers, serving more than 200 people annually. Individuals living with memory loss and their care partners can count on finding warm

companionship, acceptance to be who they are, and enjoyable discussions and engagement in music, art, theater, poetry, and literature.

“It is such an honor to be recognized with an Innovations in Alzheimer’s Caregiving Award for the work library staff have done in our community,” said Angela Meyers, Inclusive Services Coordinator at the Bridges Library System. *“The Library Memory Project wouldn’t be possible without the passion and dedication of the library staff involved and the relationships they’ve built with those who attend every month.”*

An award reception will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on Tuesday, March 28 during the Aging in America Conference. The award funds will be used to help further the LMP’s innovative service to family caregivers and those they care for. <https://bridgeslibrarysystem.org/caregiver-award/>

GRANT and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

WVLS Offering ALA Conference Scholarships

WVLS is awarding scholarships to area library staff to attend the 2023 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference that will be held in Chicago from June 22-27. As the world’s largest library event, the ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition brings together thousands of librarians and library staff, educators, authors, publishers, friends of libraries, trustees, special guests, and exhibitors.

The WVLS scholarship is valued at \$3,800, and covers costs such as conference registration, lodging, round-trip mileage and meals. Scholarship recipients are expected to attend the entire conference. The scholarship application deadline is Monday, March 13.

2022 LSTA Improved Discovery Solutions Grants

LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Grant. Eight Wisconsin Public Library Systems were awarded an LSTA grant to investigate current and potential cataloging standards across the state as suggested during the multi-year Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) study. Colleagues from each system worked with WILS consultants to complete survey and focus group processes that was completed in February.

During the Focus Group session on February 17, catalogers throughout Wisconsin discussed their policies and practices for cataloging materials. WVLS’ cataloging process is more collaborative than what is seen in other consortiums. WVLS employs cooperative cataloging from its member libraries. All WVLS catalogers must attend training to be able to save records into the V-Cat database, cataloging procedures vary depending on an individual’s level of training. WVLS uses [standards](#) set by the V-Cat Bibliographic/Interface Committee, as well as [training guidelines and standards](#).

Many other methods of cataloging are used in the state. These include centralized cataloging done in contract with a resource library, centralized cataloging done at the system, and hybrid cooperative/centralized models that allow for some cataloging by library staff and are then checked by cataloging partners or system staff.

Staff at WVLS libraries have permission to edit bibliographic records. In the state, 31% of systems allow bibliographic record edits by library staff and 77% have this controlled by centralized catalogers.

WVLS staff use spot checking methods to ensure an accurate database. Library staff are also encouraged to report bibliographic records that seem incorrect to WVLS staff for follow up.

Overall, allowing more library involvement in cataloging allows for libraries to get items circulating very quickly, as they do not have to wait for centralized staff to catalog materials.

Next, WiLS will use data analysis from the survey and focus group to create a report. Feedback from the survey and follow up focus groups will help to establish mapping of inclusive subject headings in an effort to standardize the use of alternative vocabularies where deficiencies exist in Library of Congress Subject Headings.

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. Recent activities of the NICE Team is shared with this document as **Exhibit 11b**.

2022-2023 Grants

Technology – Increase Capacity for Technology Tools and Resources Sparsity Aid.

LEAN WI partners were allocated **\$75,297.00** in aggregate and were notified of award. LEANWI partners are planning utilizations for this funding pending official notice of award. Planning was partially on hold until ECF award announcements came through mid-January 2023.

2023 Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) - Extension of services for existing mobile hotspot devices and additional of devices and services.

LEAN WI partners were awarded an aggregate of **\$309,832.45** across three applications for continuity of existing mobile hotspot data services through 2023 and for additional devices and funding of services through 2023. Our vendor advised we request changes to the invoicing model from BEAR 472 (passthrough with reimbursement) to SPI (direct payments to provider) and we are currently waiting for final confirmation from USAC for the changes.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dates Set for JFC Public Hearings

The legislature's powerful Joint Finance Committee has announced [dates and locations for four public hearings](#) to solicit citizen input for the 2023-2025 biennial state budget. JFC members will be taking testimony during marathon sessions from 10 AM to 5 PM in Waukesha on April 5, Eau Claire on April 11, Wisconsin Dells on April 12, and at Lakeland Union High School in Minocqua on April 26. WLA LD&L members are serving as site captains. Kris Adams Wendt and Northern Waters Library System Director Sherry Machones are organizing library supporters to literally stand up for state library aid

behind designated speakers at the Minocqua hearing. Please contact kawendt@wvls.org for additional information regarding the Minocqua hearing or at other locations.

New this year is [an online portal featuring a public comment form](#) for testimony that will be gathered and shared with all 16 [members of the Joint Finance Committee](#) through the end of April. WLA is asking library supporters to message in favor of a modest increase of \$6 million for regional public library system aid in the 2023-2025 biennial budget, as well as cost-to-continue funding for BadgerLink, Newsline for the Blind, and contracts with providers of specialty library services from the Wisconsin Talking Book & Braille Library, Cooperative Children’s Book Center, UW-Madison and Milwaukee Public Library.

[More information about state aid for Wisconsin library services is linked here.](#) Identify yourself and your relationship to a specific local library. Share an anecdote about the way your library makes a difference to the people who value its services and programs. In closing, thank the JFC members for their past support of Wisconsin library services.

State aid budgeted for public library systems like WVLS benefits all residents of Wisconsin by providing cost effective infrastructure and expanding access to library resources well beyond what is funded with local investments. Receiving a remarkable number of public comments will enable WLA’s library champions on the Joint Finance Committee like 12th District Senator Mary Felzkowski to demonstrate citizen support for our biennial budget requests.

V-CAT and ILS ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

Key Projects

Cataloging. On January 17, Rachel Metzler facilitated a discussion with catalogers from MCPL and Antigo to have a plan for the best method of cataloging braille items.

Collection Development. Libraries reported positive feedback about the lists of materials over 10 years old and not checked out in the past 10 years sent by WVLS as a result of goals set during the V-Cat Collection Development meet up. The list proved to be a helpful tool for record clean up and item review. Libraries were invited to email WVLS staff for assistance with similar lists.

2022 LSTA Improved Discovery Solutions Grants. Information on the LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Grant Project and LSTA Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Grant Project is provided above in this report under GRANTS and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS.

Council and Committee Meeting Highlights

V-Cat Council. During its meeting on February 3, Council members approved the October-December 2022 financial reports and revised 2023 V-Cat Appropriations Plan, and elected Neillsville Public Library Director **Janay Ziebell** as 2023 V-Cat Council Vice Chair/Chair Elect. Minocqua Public Library Director

Peggy O'Connell is serving as Chair of the V-Cat Council this year. WVLS announced that a Sierra upgrade to 5.6 was planned for March and shared the [Spring 2023 V-Cat Training Schedule](#) that included additional opportunities slated for the fall.

Council members had a lengthy discussion about high demand item types and serving patrons. Library staff were encouraged to contact other libraries when a local patron requests access to an item that is set to high demand at another library. Overall, council members expressed openness to granting access and were reminded to communicate with staff about how to handle this type of request consistently.

During the Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) project update, WVLS staff shared that the feasibility study is exploring the benefits of V-Cat and the Northern Waters Library Network working together and that it is building on the previous Project WIN (WVLS, IFLS and NWLS) study. The Public Library System Redesign multi-year study facilitated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction indicated that merging Integrated Library Systems is a priority.

Libraries were invited to update Aspen browse categories to limit new materials features to titles first published in 2022 and 2023.

Kitty Roesler (MCPL) demonstrated how to use the Sierra Clear Expired Holds and Holdshelf function. It is recommended that libraries perform this task on a daily basis every day that the library is open. Instructions were provided and are posted on the V-Cat Training page.

V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee. In November and December 2022, committee members, and staff from WVLS and NWLS member libraries were invited to product demonstrations by Koha, supported by ByWater Solutions, The Library Corporation's CARL, and Innovative's Sierra. Each demonstration took place over the course of a day and a half with presentations organized by modules. All demonstrations were fully remote and recorded to encourage maximum participation.

Staff who attended the demonstrations were encouraged to fill out a survey on the specific modules they attended. The results of the surveys were aggregated for the committee's review, and committee members were asked to complete a second survey to rate and rank the products ahead of its February 9 meeting.

During its meeting in February, the Committee decided to pursue site visits to libraries using Koha and Sierra. At its March 10 meeting, the Committee discussed site visit priorities and the viability of remote vs. in person site visits. Site visits will be scheduled in April and May. The Committee will meet again in May to discuss information gathered during site visits.

V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee. During its meetings in December and March, the Committee reviewed requests for changes to the V-Cat Standardized Checkout Period Recommendation and the V-Cat High Demand. No changes were recommended by the committee. Work continues on recommendations for a standardized library card application, patron record fields and related

procedures. The committee discussed overrides on item level holds and will bring an updated recommendation to V-Cat Council in April. A procedure specific to damaged and missing pieces was discussed, and committee members are testing out a flow chart to assist with steps and options for libraries to consider.

TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS OVERVIEW

LEAN WI Core Infrastructure

The partnership will be reviewing core switching update options in March and April. Routers and certain network equipment for libraries are still on backorder or in limited supply. The partnership continues monitoring supply for opportunities to procure operational and lifecycle replacement equipment.

LEAN WI Service Explorations

LEAN WI partners received quoting for antivirus management licensing to be implemented as an alternative to Faronics as a managed Antivirus product. The licensing quote was tricky to secure as the generation of the product we were seeking is scheduled for end of sale. As our 3-year cycle ends/renews mid-2023, we are holding off on procurement until we've had more time to review the new generation of Microsoft's endpoint security management products and determine if it is cost-feasible. An application version management utility has also been identified for procurement and implementation as part of a joint effort intended to consolidate antivirus licensing, client management, and common application updates support. The partnership is pursuing version management licensing but has not yet executed an order.

Libraries Win Services

LEAN WI partners will be reviewing the "take rate" of member libraries adopting the BYOD (bring your own device) and Public PC printing management services available through Princh. Libraries that have not yet opted into the service will be able to do so at any time over the next several years. 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 of Princh services is complete with operations and support models stable.

WVLS Internal Projects, Library Projects, and Core Services Support

The review and update of the comprehensive WVLS IT assets tracking remains on hold pending the hire of a new technology support technician and other project completions. The portion of large cap assets necessary for annual audit was presented to the auditors last year for the 2022 audit, and we will do the same this year. We still intend to review and update our comprehensive internal tracking, and this may move into the LEAN WI scope as discussion about implementing the same asset management application has now come up from partners as well.

All WVLS Libraries: Prior to departure, Achraf was working on ongoing/recurring maintenance projects including:

- Ensuring computers throughout the membership have updated firmware and device drivers and have the latest Windows Updates (remains on hold for proactive service but is accomplished per PC during PC-related support resolutions).
- Ensuring all libraries are using the currently supported stable version of Deep Freeze Enterprise. This project is in slow progress using related support cases as an opportunity to review and remediate Deep Freeze Consoles. The proactive project to sweep through all member libraries is on hold.

PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT SERVICES

Youth Services Meetup

IFLS Library System and WVLS hosted a Youth Services Meetup on January 24. During this listening and sharing opportunity, staff who work with youth discussed collection development practices, challenges and solutions. Approximately 26 people participated in the event. The upcoming Children’s Book Fest will provide the next networking opportunity for area youth services staff from school and public libraries.

WVLS OverDrive Advantage Selectors Committee

Rachel Metzler facilitated a meeting of the WVLS OverDrive Advantage Selectors Committee on February 27. During its first meeting of the year, the committee reviewed processes for selecting and ordering materials and determined a monthly budget for the year. Members of the committee include **Kate Sullivan** (MCPL), **Cindy Hultman** (Minocqua Public Library), **Jenny Jochimsen** (Abbotsford Public Library), **Maria Pregler** (T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill), and **Loralee Petersen** (Owen Public Library).

Website Services Projects

“Hi Anne, I can't thank you enough for all your help with the new website. It only took 6 weeks to design, move the content, and publish the site, which has to be some sort of world record (especially with all the snow days and extra stuff happening at the library). It is a joy to work with you.” --**Kim Kiiskinen**, Reference and Technology Librarian, River Falls Public Library
to **Anne Hamland**, WVLS Public Library Services Consultant

A compromised website in January inspired the River Falls Public Library to move to the LEAN WI website services shortly thereafter. The new website, launched on March 1, features a translation function and soon will have a plug-in with additional accessibility features similar to the [City of River Falls Website](#).

The [Hudson Area Public Library](#) also went live with a new website on March 6.

With the addition of five new databases from the Northern Waters Library Service to its member libraries, websites for libraries participating in the LEAN WI website services were updated in February to announce and provide access to these resources. Visit the Spooner Memorial Library [Spooner Memorial Library](#), [Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library \(Hayward\)](#), or [Ben Guthrie Lac Du](#)

[Flambeau Public Library](#) to see Kanopy, a video streaming service, The New York Times, New York Times Cooking, Creativebug, and Transparent Language Online. With these new resources, the NWLS libraries no longer subscribe to Gale Courses.

WVLS Newsletter Highlights

Published during the first week of each month, the WVLS newsletter showcases ways that member libraries are providing service and support to their communities, national library news, WVLS updates and more. Recent articles include:

- [March 2023](#) – “WVLS Acknowledges Leaders,” “Library Legislative Day Sees Record Attendance,” “Matczak Connects and Communicates,” “ALA Conference Scholarships Available,” “WVLS WEMTA Conference Scholars Enjoy the Experience,” and “Privacy Tutorials Now Available,”
- [February 2023](#) – “Tomahawk Aims to *Light Up Your Winter*,” “MCPL Partners with Community Outreach Specialist,” “Merrill Serves as Warming Center,” “Abbotsford Creates *Blind Date with a Book*,” “Loyal Starts Golden Agers Gab and Gobble,” and “Crandon Asks Community to *Spread the Love*.”
- [January 2023](#) – “Scholarships Available for WLA’s Library Legislative Day,” “Don’t Forget to Register for ‘Wild Wisconsin’ Sessions,” “WAPL Conference Accepting Program Proposals,” “MCPL Aquarium Celebrates 10 Years,” “Delivery Reminders This Month,” “WVLS Awards WEMTA Scholarships” and “NICE Update.”

Thank you to the area library staff for their contributions!

Inclusive Services Consulting Report

Sherry Machones, NWLS and WVLS Inclusive Services Consultant, continues to share an *Inclusive Services Update* with each system’s member libraries each month.

The **January Update** shared facts about Braille, a list of classes available through UW-Madison’s iSchool and other continuing education opportunities, a \$2,500 grant opportunity for new library programs that directly serve patrons living with dementia, a toolkit of resources to work with underserved patrons, a list of diverse holidays in January, and more.

The **February Update** highlighted February’s Black History Month, a list of upcoming continuing education opportunities including [Toward One Wisconsin 2023](#) - a conference on equity, diversity and inclusion held April 25-26 in Appleton, [the Lincoln and Marathon County Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Welcomeness Study](#) conducted by WIPPS (Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service), “People Like Me in Places Like Mine: Authentic Representation in Rural Picture Books” (*Children and Libraries*, Winter 2022), and WTMJ-TV Milwaukee news feature ["Could bolstering public libraries be the key to reducing crime and violence?"](#).

The **March Update** announced BadgerLink resources for Women’s History Month, ADA requirements for individuals in the workplace with hearing disabilities, a new brief on [Wisconsin's Older Population and](#)

[Vision Loss, Tips For Creating a More Inclusive Workplace](#), tips for creating a more inclusive work place, and diverse holidays in March.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW! Privacy Tutorials Now Available

Wisconsin public library workers now have access to tutorials covering the basics of privacy and public libraries, with specific attention to Wisconsin laws. These tutorials were created by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's iSchool and are sponsored by Wisconsin Public Library Systems with support from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, with funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

- [Privacy and Wisconsin Public Libraries Tutorial for Front-Line Staff](#): This tutorial includes three modules. Each module consists of a short (8-9 minute) video, links to additional reading, and a short comprehension quiz. The goal is to help front-line staff understand the reasons behind privacy policies and laws, as well as learning how to interact effectively with library users about privacy.
- [Privacy and Wisconsin Public Libraries Tutorial for Managers and Directors](#): Library directors and managers can access a short tutorial with suggestions for working with staff, creating policies, and other administrative tasks related to protecting patron privacy. Completion certificates are available.

Children's Book Fest Set for May

WVLS and the Rhinelander District Library are pleased to announce that the 35th Annual Children's Book Fest will be held in-person at the Pines Event Center in Rhinelander on May 1-2.

This event provides school and public librarians a unique opportunity to browse recommended youth and teen titles published in 2022 made available through the Children's Cooperative Book Center (CCBC). Stay for the CCBC presentation "Current Trends in Children's Literature and the Best New Books of 2022" and learn how its nationally renowned Intellectual Freedom Information Services can help libraries.

Books will be available for purchase on site with special thanks to Mind Chimes Bookshop. Cash, card, check, or invoice request will be accepted for payment. Attendees should bring a copy of their organization's 2022 tax exemption form. The May 1 evening session offers 1.5 hours, while the May 2 morning session 2.0 contact hours, toward public library director certification.

[Register here to attend](#) either session, or both. Light refreshments will be provided.

2023 Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference Recap

The Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference took place on January 25-26, 2023, and was a big success. There were 14 presentations over the two days, focused on marketing, library management, reference and reader's advisory and sustainability. Total attendance for the conference was 1418, with an average of 101 attendees per session. The recordings are averaging close to 100 views on the conference YouTube channel. Feedback for the conference was positive. Some of the comments were:

- *Thanks so much for all of the thought-provoking information!*
- *Thank you for inspiring me. I feel like I've been born again into librarianship.*
- *I loved how the presenter invited people to share with each other! She did a great job of getting everyone involved and talking to each other.*
- *Thanks again, Jamie, Leah and Jean, for your work on another great conference!*

Slides and videos of the 14 one-hour sessions may be found on the Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference website <http://www.wildwiscwinterweb.com/> under "Post Conference Resources." Next year's Wild Wisconsin Winter Web conference will be held on January 24-25, 2024.

INFO TO GO

- "Exclusive Report: Marathon County Supervisors Violated First Amendment Protections in Library Fight; Wausau Pilot; February 14, 2023 (**Exhibit 11c**)
- "A Love Letter to Libraries, Long Overdue;" New York Times; February 14, 2023 (**Exhibit 11d**)

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- March 2 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Focus Group meeting**
- March 7 – **Clark County Libraries' Advocacy meeting**
- March 8 – **V-Cat Sierra Cataloging Training (Attaching Items)**
- March 9 – WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting; Madison
- March 9 – **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- March 9 – WPLC Technology Backup Steering Committee meeting
- March 10 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- March 10 – **WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting**
- March 14 – LSTA Collaborative Cataloging Grant meeting
- March 15 – **WVLS V-Cat Steering Committee meeting**
- March 18 – **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- March 21 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team meeting**
- March 22 – **V-Cat Sierra Cataloging Training (Z39.50)**
- March 28 – Library Workforce Connection meeting
- April 6 – **WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- April 7 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**

- April 11 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- April 11 – Taylor County Library Board meeting; Gilman
- April 12 – **WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting**
- April 13 – WPLC Digital Library Steering Committee meeting
- April 17-18 – WVLS Audit
- April 18 - **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team meeting**
- April 18 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Youth Services Consultants
- April 20 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- **April 23-29 - NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**
- April 25 – Library Workforce Connection meeting
- April 26 – Joint Finance Committee Hearing; Lakeland Union High School, Minocqua
- April 26 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- April 26 – SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrators Association of WI) meeting
- April 26-28 – **WAPL Conference; Oshkosh**
- May 1-2 – **WVLS Children’s Book Fest**
- May 9 – **WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting**
- May 9 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- May 9 – WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- May 9 – WPLC Technology Steering Committee meeting
- May 11 – **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- May 12 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- May 16 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team meeting**
- May 18 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- May 20 – **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- May 24 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- May 29 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- June 1 – **WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- June 8 – **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- June 13 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- June 13 – WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- June 15 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- June 20 – **NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team meeting**
- June 20 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Youth Services Consultants
- June 22-27 – **ALA Conference, Chicago**
- June 27 – Library Workforce Connection meeting
- June 28 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- July 4 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**

Thank you for reading!

Marla