WVLS Service Updates - April 2023

Scholarships and Grant Projects

ALA Annual Conference

WVLS recently awarded scholarships to Leah Giordano (MCPL) and Annette Miller (Tomahawk) to attend the national 2023 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference.

The 2023 ALA Annual Conference will be held in Chicago, IL and will run 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. Valued at $3,800, this WVLS ALA Conference scholarship includes the following: Conference registration, six nights of lodging/parking, round-trip mileage, parking and meals.

Continuing Education and Training

Continuing Education

Now in its second year, Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race, a statewide equity awareness project for public libraries, launches this month. All Wisconsin public library workers are encouraged to continue talking about and taking action toward racial equity in our workplaces, communities, and personal relationships, and are invited to the following three free webinars.

- Beyond Diversity 101: Micro-inequities, Implicit Bias, and Moving Toward Equity
  Tuesday, April 18, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- How to Move Past Midwest Nice Towards Safety and Belonging
  Tuesday, May 4, 1 - 2 p.m.
- Build Skills & Take Action to Stand Up for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
  Wednesday, May 17, 1 - 2 p.m.

Read more in *Inclusive Services.*

Training

WVLS continues to produce Digital Bytes once a month. All current and future Digital Bytes can be viewed on the WVLS webpage. Topic ideas are always welcome.

Consultant Services

Inclusive Services

Thanks to LSTA funding through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a group of Wisconsin consultants, including Sherry Machones, will be continuing the series of facilitator-led webinars, workshops, and mini-grants to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts in

libraries and communities called Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race. Throughout the months of April and May there will be three free webinars regarding active allyship.

In June, there will be two opportunities to attend an in-person workshop, "Becoming an Active Ally." Registration will open soon.

- Thursday, June 15: 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.; Waunakee Public Library
- Friday, June 16: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., L.E. Phillips Memorial Library in Eau Claire

The training will begin with a general discussion of allyship practices within organizations and wider communities, before moving into a specific focus of allyship practices that are supportive of BIPOC and LGBTQIA2S+ people. Finally, this training will highlight the role of allyship in racial and LGBTQIA2S+ justice movements. This training will give participants of all identities opportunities to reflect and learn how to enact allyship to create change personally and professionally. Participants will leave with tips and tools to more fully understand and enact allyship.

Youth & Adult Services

Children's Book Fest
The 35th Annual Children's Book Fest will be held in-person this year on May 1-2 at the Pines Event Center in Rhinelander. Two presentations will be given by the Children's Cooperative Book Center. Books will be available for purchase on site. The cost to attend Book Fest is $15. Register here to attend.

Beanstack Update
In late March 2023, The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction obtained the contract permissions from the Department of Administration for purchasing a reading engagement tool such as Beanstack. Contract negotiations are well underway, and a seamless transition is expected from the previous statewide contract. School and public libraries can continue to utilize this tool.

Summer Performer Grants
In its 2023 Plan and Budget, the WVLS Board of Trustees approved a $300 grant for each of the 25 WVLS public libraries and all MCPL and Antigo branches to apply toward Summer Library Program performers in 2023.

LEAN WI Website Service
The LEAN WI website service supports 92 websites for libraries in IFLS, WVLS, and NWLS. There are 159 webmasters who work with LEAN WI website team consultants that make this service possible.

Resource Sharing

WISCAT News

The best way to stay informed about WISCAT is to [sign up for the WISCAT listserv.](#) WISCAT will not be scheduling WISCAT User Group meetings until more staff are hired.

Makerspace Collection

A SHOTBOX is now available for booking in the WVLS Makerspace/Equipment Collection. The SHOTBOX is a Collapsible Tabletop Photo Light Studio that uses high powered LEDs to create a perfectly lit "micro-studio" environment to get great images with any camera, including smart devices.

Check out the [WVLS website](#) for information on booking makerspace equipment. This collection is available to all libraries in the WVLS service area.

WVLS Professional Collection
- WVLS has a collection of professional topical materials available for borrowing with a V-Cat library card.
- WVLS lends professional journals such as Library Journal, School Library School, AudioFile, and Library Technology Reports. Contact help@librarieswin.org for a full list of available titles. Journals are routed between public libraries.

ILS/V-Cat Projects

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

Aspen Discovery

WVLS staff continue to work with member libraries to use the new Aspen Discovery interface, including:
- Aspen Formats
- Cover Images: The V-Cat Consortium continues to add cover images to the online catalog.
- Grouped Records: The Aspen Grouped Records Work Group continues to identify and modify records.
- Forthcoming Fiction: The Forthcoming Fiction Work Group continues to curate a list of high interest / recommended forthcoming fiction titles.
- Local History Integrations: WVLS staff and member library staff continue to expand local history integrations.
- Purchase Suggestions: WVLS staff continue to assist libraries with purchase suggestion integration with Aspen Discovery's Materials Request module.
- Aspen App: WVLS staff plan to begin implementation of the Aspen LiDA (Library Discovery) app for library users in 2023.

V-Cat Bibliographic Interface Committee
The V-Cat Bibliographic Interface Committee is actively working to correct Aspen material format errors according to the Aspen Discovery documentation and to train catalogers to make record adjustments.

WVLS is participating in a A Cooperative Cataloging Project with seven Wisconsin library systems. The project is funded by LSTA grant funds.

ILS Evaluation and Review Committee
The V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee continues to explore other Integrated Library Systems / Library Service Platforms and their viability for V-Cat. The committee reviewed survey results and reduced the pool of potential systems to Koha (supported by ByWater Solutions), and Sierra (by Innovative). The committee may provide a recommendation to V-Cat Council in June of 2023.

Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) Project
A comprehensive joint ILS consortium exploration project is underway to determine the value and feasibility of an ILS merger between WVLS and NWLS respective ILS consortia. Named Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE), this project is funded by an LSTA grant.

Survey results and preliminary focus group findings indicate interest in pursuing a shared ILS platform, with the majority favoring a shared platform and collection with a movement toward sharing practices and policies. More information will be shared on the NICE Libraries website as it is available.

V-Cat Collection Development
WVLS will host a meet up for V-Cat member library staff interested in collection development on Wednesday, April 19 from 1 - 2:30 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity share how WVLS can support collection development work. Possible topics include group communication about collection development, training, weeding nonfiction titles, and more.

Other Projects and Trainings
- Further automate the creation and delivery of monthly reports in 2023
- Correct diacritical errors in bibliographic records
- Assist with the installation of an Automatic Materials Handling installation at MCPL-Wausau
- Make adjustments to the Shoutbomb text message notifications system
- Upgrade to Sierra 5.6
- Recent and upcoming V-Cat trainings are available on the V-Cat Training page. WVLS staff are planning an in-person training day on Wednesday, October 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Technology Support

LEAN WI Core Infrastructure

The partnership is in the process of reviewing core switching update options for the datacenter and working on a joint bulk procurement of networking equipment for as-needed replacements of failing equipment and proactive replacement of end-of-life equipment at libraries. Routers and certain network equipment for libraries are still on backorder or in limited supply so the partnership is reviewing new product generations to ensure seamless replacement. 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. This will also help LEAN WI to align new licensing schedules with the current software assurance schedule. 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.

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.
- Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) supported the acquisition of mobile hotspots, and data service plans were awarded federal funding through 2023. LEAN WI partners are working with Kajeet to extend existing services seamlessly and to add capacity.
- WVLS recently welcomed former EU Demmer Memorial Library (Three Lakes) director, Erica Brewster, to the team. Erica will devote time on technology services and support and oversee the LEAN WI website service.

Other Projects
- The review and update of the comprehensive WVLS IT assets tracking will be coming back into focus soon along with joint experimentation of an asset tracking application across LEANWI partners.
- The following projects will have initial focus and priority for all WVLS libraries:
    - Ensuring computers throughout the membership have updated firmware, device drivers and the latest Windows Updates.
    - Ensuring all libraries are using the currently supported stable version of Deep Freeze Enterprise.