



1) WVLS August Newsletter

The WVLS August Newsletter [is now available](#). Features include:

- New Staff Member to Join WVLS
- Rhinelander Serves as Food Wagon Location
- Guest Feature: Library Offers Menstrual Products

Libraries who are interested in submitting a feature for the September newsletter should contact Jamie at jmatczak@wvls.org before Tuesday, August 29.

2) DPI Seeking Feedback

September is fast approaching and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is interested in hearing about any innovative programming or initiatives planned for Library Card Sign Up Month. They want to highlight your stories in upcoming communications from DPI, including the Wisconsin Libraries for Everyone newsletter. Contact Jeni Schomber at jeni.schomber@dpi.wi.gov if you have cool stuff to share.

In addition, Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Darrell Williams is hoping to schedule visits to public libraries around the state during the month of September. If you'd like to schedule a visit with him, please reach out to Beth Tomev at Elizabeth.Tomev@dpi.wi.gov to work out logistics and scheduling.

3) Wisconsin Science Festival Mobile Kits

In preparation for the 2023 Wisconsin Science Festival held October 16-22, public libraries are again invited to request mobile kits of STEM activities to distribute to patrons during that week. Last year's "Science in a Bag" mobile kit featured 3-5 activities that youth or adults could do on their own, with a family, or as a group activity at the participating library. Topics for this year's kits include Wonders of Physics, Color Changing Pencils, DNA Tubes, Alliant Energy "The Power Chronicles" and Bioblitz with the WI Science Festival.

As in previous years, there are no special parameters for participation. Three public libraries from each system will be able to receive mobile kits, so libraries that may be interested in participating should not wait to complete the [Registration Form](#). Additional information is available on the [WSF Website](#) and by contacting Jerrod Buckner, Outreach Coordinator at the Morgridge Institute for Research, at 608-316-4675 or jbuckner@morgridge.org.

4) Upcoming Webinars

- [The 5 Most Common Mistakes Supervisors Make](#) - 3 p.m. on Monday, July 31
- [The Practice of Leadership Empathy within the Workplace](#) - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2
- [Understanding Intellectual Freedom and Censorship](#) - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2

- [Achieving Success Through a Better Approach to Decision Making](#) - 12 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3
- [How to Prepare Your Team for Changes](#) 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 8

5) Reading Legislation

Governor Evers recently signed a bill [related to literacy outcomes](#). The DPI worked with legislators to make significant changes to remove a third-grade retention requirement or requirements for school districts to use specific instructional materials or reading training. DPI is beginning to work to implement this legislation, but certain items will take a decent amount of time. Currently, DPI is working to create an informational website. The Library Services Team is monitoring the implementation and will communicate relevant information to libraries as it becomes available.

6) Survey from UW-Madison Student

A PhD student at UW-Madison iSchool is conducting a survey about abortion information in public libraries. On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that abortion is no longer protected by federal law. This repealed *Roe v. Wade*. The questions in this survey are about the aftermath of that decision and its impact on public libraries in the United States.

To be eligible, participants must be at least 18 years old, work in a public library in a state or territory in the United States, specifically in reference or collection development. All study materials have been approved by the University of Wisconsin Madison's Institutional Review Board (IRB). Participation is confidential - no identifying information is collected. The survey will take approximately 10 - 15 minutes to complete. The consent form and survey [can be accessed here](#). Feel free to contact Dr. Rebekah Willett (rwillett@wisc.edu) if you have any questions.

7) Reminders

- **Next Ryan Dowd Training**
Social Workers in Libraries: A Conversation with Beth Wahler and Sarah Johnson
Thursday, August 3; 1 p.m. (60 minutes)
Ryan will be interviewing Beth Wahler and Sarah Johnson, authors of the upcoming book *Creating a Person-Centered Library: Best Practices for Supporting High-Needs Patrons*. They will talk about how libraries can partner with social services. Contact Jamie at WVLS (jmatczak@wvls.org) for the registration link. The recording of the live training will be available for four weeks.
- **United For Libraries Virtual 2023**
This interactive three-day virtual event on August 1-3 will feature expert speakers on current topics facing library Trustees, Friends, Foundations, and staff who work with them.

Wisconsin has purchased statewide registration making both live attendance and on-demand access free to all library directors/staff, Trustees/board members, Friends, and Foundations. Are you already registered in your statewide access course?. [Click this link](#) if you need to register for your statewide access. Contact united@ala.org for assistance with registration.