

# Director's Report

## WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

August 19, 2023

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Libraries Share Their Appreciation of the WVLS SLP Grant

*"Dear Wisconsin Valley Library Service, I can't thank you enough for your generous grant donation. With this grant money we hosted Randy Peterson, an award-winning children's musician. His performance was a hit with a total attendance of 181 people. Our Summer Reading Program was a huge success, with almost 500 kids participating. It is with the support and generosity of our community members that we are able to provide books for children to keep in their hope and bring so many wonderful programs to the children in our community. Thanks again!" -- Andrea Bennett, Head of Youth Services/Assistant Director, T.B. Scott Library (Merrill)*

*"...I just talked with the nursing home activity director (it is across the street from the library) and they brought several residents over for the outdoor program to join our regular library patrons. She said they really loved [the Tracy Chipman program] and how much [she] engaged each of them personally. We had about 32 participants for the evening program. Several people talked with her after the program to ask questions about storytelling or to comment on the program. It was a beautiful evening. Thank you WVLS for helping us bring this program to our community this summer." -- Krista Blomberg, Youth Services Coordinator/Assistant Director, Rib Lake Public Library*

## PEOPLE / LIBRARIES / SYSTEMS IN THE NEWS

### Otten Reappointed to COLAND

WVLS Trustee Michael Otten has been reappointed to the Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND). Created by the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1979, COLAND advises the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (DPI) to ensure that all state citizens have access to library and information services. The 19-member council, appointed by the governor, functions as a forum through which librarians and members of the public identify, study, and collect public testimony on issues affecting Wisconsin libraries and other information services. COLAND holds open meetings six times per year and conducts hearings on library policies and publications. (A link to COLAND's most recent report is shared in the "Info to Go" section later in this report.)

Mike's term will run through July 2026.

Congratulations, Mike!

## WVLS Hires Public Library Services Consultant

On August 7, WVLS welcomed Shawano County Library Director **Kristie Hauer** as the new Public Library Services Consultant for WVLS. She replaces **Anne Hamland**, who resigned from the position on April 28.

Kristie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. Working in libraries since 1999, Kristie worked as a school librarian for 5 years and as a Director of the Shawano County Library for the last 15 years. In 2018, she launched a project to join a city-county library and 5 municipal libraries to form a countywide consolidated library system. The 18-month process was a challenge, but in the end it improved and stabilized library services throughout Shawano County. Also, while at the Shawano County Library, Kristie prioritized innovative and accessible services available through the library by increasing the number and diversity of programs available, offering remote and mobile printing, lending hotspots, and developing a Library of Things collection.

Other work experiences include teaching a graduate level course on Rural Libraries as an adjunct professor at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA and serving as a Preschool Specialist Librarian at the Appleton Public Library. She also has done several presentations at state and national conferences. Examples include:

- *Lib-Con: You Don't Want this Meeting to be an Email* (session on creating and hosting staff development days) – 2023 WAPL Conference
- *Getting Your Board on Board: Policy Development with Your Library Board* (co-presented with Nicolet Federated Library System representatives) – 2022 WLA Conference
- Assisted with *Creating a Dynamite Dozen* (teen programs) presentation – A Shawano County Library staff member presented this session at the 2022 ARSL, WLA Conference, and Iowa Librarians Conferences
- *Don't Stand So Close to Me* (session on physically-distanced programming as a result of COVID) – 2021 WAPL Conference
- *Find Them Where They're At (Patrons, that is!)* (session on outreach programs) – 2019 WAPL and ARSL Conferences
- *Escape Rooms @ the Library* – 2018 ARSL Conference

Kristie holds an undergraduate degree in English and Humanistic Studies from UW-Dreen Bay, and a Master's of Library Science from UW-Milwaukee.

Feel free to reach out to Kristie at [khauer@wvls.org](mailto:khauer@wvls.org).

## Matczak Presents for Southwest Wisconsin Library System and UW-Madison's Information School

**Jamie Matczak** was the morning presenter during an in-service for the Dodgeville Public Library on Friday, August 11. Her presentation focused on customer service trends, body language, tips for “hot topic” conversations and best practices for colleagues working together. Jamie also presented a webinar as part of the UW-Madison's Information School ‘Advocacy Crash Course’ series on Thursday, August 17.

Her presentation covered best practices in face-to-face presentations, including preparing for an audience, creating interesting visuals, developing confidence, and maintaining rapport.

## WVLS Ends Subscription to Gale Courses

Due to low usage and high cost per use, WVLS has decided to cancel its subscription to Gale Courses. Courses will be available through October 31, but libraries should plan to remove Gale Courses information from their websites before October 1. Member libraries have been notified of this change in service and asked to contact Erica Brewster at [help@librarieswin.org](mailto:help@librarieswin.org) if assistance was needed to remove information from their websites.

With this change, WVLS is exploring alternative educational digital resources. WVLS ILS and Database Support Specialist **Rachel Metzler** recently met with our new Gale representative to discuss other products, like Udemy, for us to consider. Colleagues are invited to contact Rachel at [rmetzler@wvls.org](mailto:rmetzler@wvls.org) to suggest databases for WVLS to consider.

## Staff Changes at DPI

Former Head of Interlibrary Loan at UW Madison, Joy **Pohlman** joined DPI on June 5 as the new WISCAT Technical Coordinator. Also, **Arshad Iqbal** was hired as the new Grants Specialist and Federal Grants Coordinator. Interlibrary Loan Coordinator **Christine Barth** retired from her position on July 3. **Diane Casselberry** became the newest Interlibrary Loan Librarian on July 17.

WVLS looks forward to working with the Library Services Team's newest members!

## GRANT and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

### Professional Learning Funds 2023-24

WVLS will be receiving LSTA funding for 2023-24, specifically for continuing education and professional development for its member libraries. These funds should help offset costs of continuing education courses and statewide and national conferences. More information will be shared at future meetings.

### Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race

Thanks to a 2022-2023 LSTA grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a group of Wisconsin consultants held a series of webinars and facilitator-led workshops in May and June to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts in libraries and communities called *Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race*.

The two webinars offered were [How to Move Past Midwest Nice and Towards Safety and Belonging](#) on May 4, and [Build Skills & Take Action to Stand Up for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#) on May 7

In June, in-person workshops on "Becoming an Active Ally" were held at the Waunakee Public Library on June 15, and at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library in Eau Claire on June 16. The training began with a

general discussion of allyship practices within organizations and wider communities, before moving into a specific focus on allyship practices that are supportive of BIPOC and LGBTQIA2S+ people.

Thanks to continued LSTA funding in 2023-2024, a group of Wisconsin consultants will again plan a series of webinars and workshops to continue the Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race initiative. Now in its third year, **Sherry Machones**, WVLS Inclusive Services Consultant and Northern Waters Library System Director, will serve as the project's lead. A call for volunteers to assist with this initiative will occur this month. Watch for new webinars, workshops, and other opportunities to occur in 2024.

## 2022/2023 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 design survey and focus group processes that were completed in February.

WiLS analyzed data and information provided through survey and focus group processes to create a final report. Key takeaways from the report were:

- There are vast differences in how public library systems in Wisconsin approach and deploy cataloging practices. However, there are several similarities among the public library systems that provide a starting point for considering the next steps.
- It has been deemed beneficial when catalogers learn from one another by sharing and participating in large-scale cooperative cataloging.
- Consistency in the patron experience is a primary benefit of shared and standard cataloging practices.
- With shared practices and standards, deduplication of efforts will be achievable.
- The vast differences currently existing among systems – predominantly between those that employ centralized versus decentralized or cooperative cataloging – are some of the biggest barriers to address when planning for collaborative efforts across the state.
- Additional barriers identified include limited staff time and capacity, varying levels of staff experience and skills, challenges to identifying and establishing effective communication channels, and the need to establish and maintain an easily accessible repository of standards and procedures.

The grant project concluded in June with several grant participants researching the set-up of authority vendors as a way to expend unencumbered LSTA grant funds.

More information about this grant project is available in this [video summary](#) and in the final report, [Statewide Cooperative Cataloging Research Project: Phase I Research and Information Gathering](#), and the report's [Executive Summary](#).

A grant application for Phase II of this work has been submitted to DPI.

**LSTA Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Project.** Grant funds were awarded for a comprehensive joint ILS consortium exploration project to determine the value and feasibility of an ILS merger between WVLS and NWLS respective consortia. With the announcement of the grant award, a project name was selected, NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration), and a NICE Team was formed. The NICE Team met several times throughout the grant project under the guidance of WiLS consultants hired to assist with the process.

The NICE Team concluded its grant project work in June. Based on the data and information gathered, the NICE Team determined that an ILS merger is feasible. The Team recommends:

- NWLS and WVLS pursue a joint ILS and move towards shared practices and policies.
- The refinement of a clear roadmap of the next steps and key decision points to be shared with all stakeholders.

A [final report](#) is now available on the [NICE Website](#), as well as [brief key takeaways and recommendations summary](#). The [ILS Merger Feasibility Report](#), a June 2023 video presentation of findings, will be shared with the WVLS Board as part of this report, and also at upcoming meetings of the NWLS Board of Trustees and Northern Waters Library Network, and the WVLS V-Cat Council.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### State Library Aid Receives an Increase in 2023-2025 Biennium

The Legislative Joint Finance Committee (JFC) voted approval of the state library aid package supported by the Wisconsin Library Association (as detailed in documents [LINKED HERE](#) at the WLA website) on June 13 as part of [Omnibus Public Education Motion 103](#). An excerpt from JFC Omnibus Motion 103 is shared with this report as **Exhibit 15a**. The package remained intact during full legislative review and was signed into law by **Governor Tony Evers** on July 5!!

WVLS and the other 14 regional systems will share an increase of \$2 million in the first year of the 2023-2025 biennium and an additional \$4 million in the second year to provide infrastructure supporting local libraries. The appropriation will raise base funding at the end of the two-year cycle to \$24,013,100, a \$9 million improvement in the past decade over the 2013-2014 biennium which was the mid-point in a 6-year funding freeze.

In addition to achieving requested funding for library systems, statewide library resource contracts, BadgerLink and Newsline for the Blind, it was also a joy to also see Recollection Wisconsin granted its own line item for \$450,000 over the next biennium after six years of library community advocacy on its behalf.

**Senator Mary Felzkowski** (SD-12) and **Representative Tony Kurtz** (AD-50) were our library champions on the Joint Finance Committee. Three WVLS area legislators were among those who wrote letters to

JFC members in support of WLA's state library aid package: **Representatives Cal Callahan** (AD-35), **Jim Edming** (AD-87) and **Rob Swearingen** (AD-34).

**Final footnote to the budget process:** See **Exhibit 15b** [ [Legislative Fiscal Bureau Paper 658 Public Library System Aids.pdf](#) ] for an analysis of public library system aids funding choices prepared for JFC consideration by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) as Paper #658 (yellow highlights added by WVLS). As anticipated by the WLA Library Development & Legislation Team, more generous increases recommended by both the Department of Public Instruction and the Governor's Executive Budget did not receive sufficient support around the JFC table. The aggregate \$6 million raise to base funding proposed by WLA was then selected over two other alternatives for lesser amounts. *Having the Wisconsin Library Association identified by name in a LFB paper and accompanied by talking points sourced from WLA budget papers, was an unprecedented occurrence.*

## V-CAT and ILS ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

### Key Projects

**Purge of Adult Patron Records.** WVLS plans to purge adult patron records that are expired and inactive over 5 years with no fines. DPI requires that patron records are purged at least once every three years for a public library to report the number of registered users in its annual report. While purging inactive patron records has historically been the responsibility of V-Cat member libraries, there are over 12,000 adult patron records in the V-Cat database that could be purged. Information about purging patron records was emailed to V-Cat member libraries, and WVLS will follow-up with each library as necessary.

**Change Made in OverDrive Setup.** A change was recently made in the OverDrive setup to use Clean Card Numbers. With this change, library staff will no longer need to merge patron barcodes in the OverDrive Marketplace when a patron receives a new barcode number.

**Unifying Naming Convention of Sierra Location Codes.** WVLS staff made changes to unify the naming convention of Sierra location codes to improve performance of Aspen searches using the Detailed Location filter. Adjustments were made to use the most common form of existing location codes.

**Cataloging.** **Rachel Metzler** held a Koha Cataloging Exploration meet up with catalogers in the system. During this meet up, the attendees looked at some possible workflows for cataloging in Koha. A load profile was updated in Sierra to automatically add an on-order item record in addition to the order record during MCPL acquisitions process. Cataloging training on attaching items was provided to **Katie Kirby** from the E.U. Demmer Memorial Library, Three Lakes.

### Council and Committee Meeting Highlights

**V-Cat Council.** During its meeting on June 1 the V-Cat Council approved the March-April 2023 and 2024 V-Cat Appropriations Plan including V-Cat membership shares. Following are additional highlights:

- WVLS is limiting usage of high demand item types to use for recently acquired items only. This change will help to make the annual report data more accurate. It will also streamline the process for batch high demand conversion, which we are in the process of testing to reduce the amount of work for libraries.
- A plan for purging patron records was shared, noting that additional information would be sent to member libraries by email.
- The change to OverDrive Clean Card Numbers was announced. This change means that library staff will no longer need to merge patron barcodes in OverDrive.
- A demonstration on how to use the Detailed Location filter was provided. The Detailed Location filter now includes the ability to search for locations, which is an improvement over showing the 100 most popular location codes. This feature can be helpful in finding items in smaller collections, and when creating a search or list to highlight a library's materials in the catalog or on library websites.
- The V-Cat Recommendation of 7-Days on Hold Shelf was reviewed. Libraries were asked to clear the hold shelf daily per the Timeline for Tasks Recommendation.

**V-Cat Bibliographic and Interface Committee.** Following its May meeting, a new procedure was put into place that assists with naming Playaway formats that have been put into Aspen. In August, the Committee learned how Aspen "Audience" filters work and was given a demo of Innovative's cataloging utility, SkyRiver. Committee members will soon enter a trial of this product.

**V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee.** During meetings in June and July, the Committee continued its review of information gathered during sight visits and to get answers to remaining questions. Committee members used the Koha live test environment to assess further information needed. Members of the Koha team attended the Committee's July 13 meeting to respond to questions from V-Cat members. Also, WVLS arranged a time to talk with a library consortium that migrated from a Sierra ILS to a Koha ILS to learn from their perspectives and experiences. The Committee will meet several times in August to prepare a report and a recommendation to present to the V-Cat Council in September.

## MARKETING PROJECTS

### Website Services Projects

**Erica Brewster** assumed full responsibility for managing the Libraries Win Website Service and providing day-to-day support for 87 library websites across IFLS Library System (52), Northern Waters Library Service (12) and WVLS (23). She is also managing seven websites on behalf of the three systems. In June and July, 17 online trainings were offered including seven trainings specifically for first-time website managers. Nine sessions were recorded and posted to the [YouTube playlist](#) for those unable to attend.

Seventy-two website managers from all three systems in the Libraries Win website project responded to a survey about skills and needs for website training support. Three quarters of respondents said they felt



average or above average in their enjoyment and ability to manage their website, but some expressed low confidence with some basic management skills. Those participating in Website 101 training or who have received step-by-step help now express high confidence and feel far less intimidated by the website management process.

*Thanks Erica! I am so excited that we figured this out. I was dreading this task, but it wasn't too bad. I have a lot less fear of the next update. Thanks again, I really appreciate your help.*

-- **Katy Larson**, Spooner Memorial Library

*Thank you! I love when you send me instructions. 😊 I now have a folder that I put these in! You ROCK!* -- **Katie Schneider**, Spring Valley Public Library

*It was fun to work on the website, once I had a clue what I was doing. Haha. Thanks for making me do it myself.* -- **Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt**, Colfax Public Library

Currently a new training website is under construction at <https://training.librarieswin.org/> as a central repository for website training resources and documentation.

New website development (mainly for NWLS partners, with potential for 17 additional websites in that system alone) is still on hold, but Brewster is beginning to collect information from interested libraries and has provided direction for how a library can begin preparing for when the service resumes (<https://training.librarieswin.org/website-101/new-website-pre-planning/>).

## 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:

- [June 2023](#) - "Wisconsin Trustee Training Week Set for August," "2023 WLA Conference Major Speakers Announced," "10 Things to Know About: Tom Bobrofsky," "MCPL-Rothschild Holds New Program," "Rhinelander Pivots Programs Since COVID-19," "NICE Team Update."
- [July 2023](#) - "Registration Open for Trustee Training Week," "Greenwood Awarded ALA Grant," "Colby Receives Kindness Statue," "WAAL/TSS Conference Happening in August," "WVLS Libraries Participate in State Parks Program," "Sepnafski Shares Budget Expertise," "NICE Team Update."
- [August 2023](#) - "New Staff Member to Join WVLS," "Get Ready for Library Card Sign-Up Month," "Rhinelander Serves as Food Wagon Location," "Guest Feature: Library Offers Menstrual Products," "Crandon Completes Green Space Project," "Minocqua Creates Community Banner," "Registration Open for Tech Days 2023."

Thank you to all area library staff for sharing news from their libraries!



## TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS OVERVIEW

### WVLS Internal Projects, Library Projects, and Core Services Support

**Site Visits.** Since beginning work in April, **Erica Brewster** has completed site visits to 11 libraries and 2 branches. Visits to the remaining libraries are being scheduled for August/early fall. Brewster is meeting with the library director or designated technology staff to review and update the technology asset inventory (currently focusing on computers, printers, peripherals, and various software/services; future visits will focus on updates to network infrastructure) and develop a strategy for updating outdated devices and to share documentation with the library. In addition, libraries responded to a survey of use/interest in use of technology services offered by WVLS/LEAN WI, including print management (Princh), public computer timing software (Pharos), Kajeet hot spots for public deployment. Results:

- Library staff can review the shared asset inventory to confirm accuracy and inform WVLS of changes to asset and asset use.
- Libraries are placing orders or making plans to place orders to replace outdated equipment.
- Computers receive a general health check, updated, and follow-up concerns are noted.
- Assessment of staff training needs and interests.

Comprehensive on-site technology consultation visits allow for a broad, proactive conversation about each library's unique and often changing needs for both public and staff computing in the larger context of public library service rather than just focusing on solving an acute problem. Once a baseline of service is established for each library, future conversations can be strategic while addressing immediate concerns.

**Additional Projects.** Other projects being worked on include:

- migrate Pharos (public computer timing program) for five libraries currently using the program to an updated server which involves manually recreating current settings on the new server then scheduling after-hours work to remove and reinstall the programs on all public PCs and redirecting to the new server;
- review Deep Freeze (public PC management software that prevents changes to computers) configuration and console status at all member libraries and prepping for migration of consoles not currently visible to a central console;
- deploy Patch-My-PC software update/maintenance program for force updating internet browsers and other select updates on public and staff PCs; and
- develop a working document for libraries and internal staff for reporting and responding to internet/service outages, including after hours support.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT SERVICES

### WPLC Board Meeting and 2024-2025 Budget Increases

Rachel Metzler attended the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) Board meeting on June 12. During this meeting, the board discussed the formula for digital library magazine subscription and decided on a formula using 75% magazine usage and 25% population for the 2024 budget. The allocation for the digital library magazine subscription in the 2024 WPLC budget is \$100,000 statewide. The WVLS portion of this will be \$3,921. This amount will be invoiced to member libraries in 2025. See NOTE below.

The Board also approved the [2024 budget](#) and a preliminary [2025 budget](#) (which is subject to change). The 2024 budget includes a statewide increase of \$93,194 over the 2023 budget. This increase is due to the continued 5% increase to the collection budget, an increase in project management costs, and an additional scholarship to attend Digipalooza, a national OverDrive Conference, which next occurs in 2025. For the 2025 budget, the statewide increase is approximately \$71,000 from the 2024 budget.

**NOTE:** WVLS uses a bill behind method for WPLC costs for our libraries. In 2024, libraries will be invoiced for their portion of the 2023 costs. They will see an increase in costs related to the addition of the digital library magazine subscription based on their patrons' usage of the magazine collection and population, ranging from \$9.08 to \$1,906.88 in addition to their member shares. Member shares are calculated based on usage of the OverDrive collection (not including magazines) and population. This budget is available to view on the [WVLS website](#).

In 2025, WVLS member libraries will see an increase in their member share because of the increase in the 2024 WPLC budget. The WVLS buying pool increases \$3,106 from 2023, while magazines are budgeted \$3,921 (this is a decrease from the 2023 budget for magazines at \$3,960).

Additionally, the Board is planning an in-person Visioning Session for WPLC Board members for Fall 2023. The Visioning Session may include the following potential topics: 501c3 discussion, technology collaborations, statewide delivery, and sustained funding for the Wisconsin Digital Library.

### Inclusive Services

Sherry Machones provided an Inclusive Services Update with WVLS and Northern Waters Library Service member libraries in June and July.

The [June Update](#) shared resources on the Prison Libraries Act of 2023, the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture Honor Native Land Virtual Acknowledgement Pack, information on trauma-informed approaches as a way to promote safety, empowerment, and healing to patrons, and news on increases of banning works by Native American authors.

The [July Update](#) was very lengthy as there was much to share that month. The update addressed sessions from the 2023 American Library Association Conference in Chicago; highlighted a newly

released Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) 2022 *Diversity Statistics* report that shares the number of books received by and about Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC); and shared the [Library Resilience Toolkit](#) from the City Library Collective, a [Mental Health Toolkit](#) from Mental Health America; and the Public Library Association’s [Public Library Services for Strong Communities Report](#).

## Data Analysis and Reporting

The Department of Public Instruction Library Services Team released the results and report of a statewide Data Landscape Survey in June. Understanding and using data is a new focus for the DPI and a statewide Library Data Services Workgroup has been established. **Erica Brewster**, WVLS’s newly minted Data and Technology Services Consultant, is a member of this workgroup and will be charged with developing and implementing a data analysis, training, and communication strategy for WVLS and member libraries while learning and coordinating efforts happening statewide.

Initial steps were to revise the *WVLS Statistics* booklet to include more graphs and definitions to help interpret WVLS member library annual report data. A *Digital Byte* explaining the *WVLS Statistics* booklet and ways in which to use the data will be available soon.

Initial goals for this role are training library directors, staff, and library boards on interpreting and using statistics from both the annual report and other quantitative and qualitative sources, improving library advocacy for funding and community support, and identifying tools and resources for gathering, collating, analyzing, and disseminating useful library statistics and stories.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

### Wisconsin Trustee Training Week

Registration is open for this year’s Wisconsin Trustee Training Week webinars. All webinars will begin at 12 p.m.

- Monday, August 21 – [How to Use Marketing to Position Your Library in Challenging Times](#) with Angela Hursh
- Tuesday, August 22 – [Wisconsin Library Law](#) with Kris Turner
- Wednesday, August 23 – [Nurturing Your Library Culture](#) with Jeannie Dilger
- Thursday, August 24 – [LGBTQ-Inclusive Trusteeship](#) with Ray Lockman
- Friday, August 25 – [Elected Officials are People, Too](#) with Lori Fisher

All webinars will be recorded and archived if trustees and library staff are unable to attend the live sessions. [See the website](#) for more information on the programs and to register.

### Tech Days 2023

Tech Days is an annual collaboration between all 15 public library systems and the WI Department of Public Instruction to provide webinars to the library community on technology-related topics. Tech Days 2023, this year's 2-day event, will be held on September 12 and 13 and offers the following webinars:

- Tuesday, September 12, 10 am: Artificial Intelligence and the Library: The Current Landscape
- Tuesday, September 12, 1 pm: Dealing with Digital Distractions: Ideas and Recommendations for Libraries
- Wednesday, September 13, 10 am: When A Service Desk Isn't Enough: One-on-One Tech Assistance
- Wednesday, September 13, 1 pm: Making the Most of BadgerLink

Visit the [2023 Tech Days website](#) to find descriptions of the webinar sessions, read about the presenters, and to register for the sessions. All webinars will be recorded and captioned. Each webinar is worth 1.5 technology hours toward Wisconsin public library director certification.

## WVLS Director's Retreat

Registration is now open for the WVLS Director's Retreat to be held on Friday, September 15, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wausau. This year's theme, "Coming Together," will focus on improving community connections, reviewing library trends, and developing meaningful relationships with employees. Guest speakers include **Michelle Dennis**, Head of Public Services at the Hedberg Public Library in Janesville, and **Dr. Constance Kassor**, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Lawrence University in Appleton. Registration for this workshop is by invitation only and several library directors from WVLS and surrounding systems have already let us know they plan to attend. We are excited for this event too!

## 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: Recent Digital Bytes include:

[Sources of Law](#): Wisconsin State Law Library's **Carol Hassler** from the Wisconsin State Law Library goes over the general structure of the U.S. Legal System, researching a law, and where to discover primary and secondary resources. This training is the fifth in a five-part "Legal Research" Digital Byte series.

[ILovePDF](#): **Erica Brewster** highlights a free online that merges, splits, compresses, converts, and rotates PDF files.

[Tips for Taking Better Photos](#): **Jamie Matczak** shares 13 tips for taking better photos on cell phones in this Digital Byte.

[Legal Programs in Libraries](#): **Carol Hassler** from the Wisconsin State Law Library talks about how public libraries in Wisconsin facilitate access to legal aid programs and law-related resources. This training is the fourth in a five-part "Legal Research" *Digital Byte* series.

## INFO TO GO

### COLAND Biennial Report on Wisconsin Libraries, 2021-2023

The Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND) recently submitted its [Biennial Report on the Value of Library Services, Statistical Report, Challenges, Opportunities, and Recommendations](#) and to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jill Underly and members of the WI Department of Public Instruction Team. The report recommends:

- Support affordable statewide broadband and digital equity.
- Support adequate staffing at libraries.
- Maintain or increase current staff retention rates for all libraries.
- Encourage youth to consider the field of library science.
- Protect intellectual freedom and the Freedom to Read.
- Reduce barriers to licensing/certification for librarians, especially those which disproportionately affect underrepresented groups.
- Continue to advocate for state aid to libraries at a level that will maintain or increase potential impact.
- Ensure library facilities and buildings are well maintained, provide sufficient space and are capable of meeting the needs of their customers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- August 1 - **WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting**
- August 2 – WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Technology Steering Committee meeting
- August 4 – SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrator’s Association of Wisconsin) meeting; Marathon County Public Library
- August 8 – **WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting**
- August 10 - **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- August 11 – **WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting**
- August 15 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Directors
- August 15 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Youth Services Consultants
- August 15 – Taylor County Library Board meeting
- August 16 – **WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting**
- August 16 - System Technology Staff Annual Gathering; Kilbourn Public Library, Wisconsin Dells
- August 16 - Library Services Data Workgroup meeting
- August 17 – **WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting**
- August 17 - **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- August 19 - **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- August 21-25 – **Wisconsin Trustee Training Week**

- August 22 - WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- August 23 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- September 4 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- September 7 – **WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- September 8 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- September 12 – 13 – **2023 Tech Days Webinars**
- September 15 – **WVLS Public Library Directors Retreat**; Hilton Inn, Wausau
- September 16 - **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- September 20 – **WVLS V-Cat Cataloging Training on Attaching Items**
- September 27 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- September 27 – **WVLS V-Cat Sierra Cataloging Training on Marc Alerts**
- October 5 – **WVLS V-Cat In-Person Training Day**
- October 10 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- October 10 - WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- October 11 – **WVLS V-Cat Sierra / Aspen Training**
- October 13 – **WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting**

Thank you for reading!

Marla