

## WVLS Service Updates – LAC August 2023

### Scholarships and Grant Projects

#### WLA 2023 Conference

WVLS will be awarding scholarships for member libraries and trustees to attend the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) Annual Conference in Middleton from October 24-27. Watch for more information in Monday Mentions later this month.

### Continuing Education and Training

#### Continuing Education

Wisconsin Trustee Training Week

August 21-25. [One webinar each day at 12 p.m.](#) Trustees from local library, county and public library system boards, as well as library staff, are welcome to attend.

- Monday, August 21: How to Use Marketing to Position Your Library in Challenging Times
- Tuesday, August 22: Wisconsin Library Law
- Wednesday, August 23: Nurturing Your Library Culture
- Thursday, August 24: LGBTQ-Inclusive Trusteeship
- Friday, August 25: Elected Officials are People, Too

Tech Days 2023 Online

[Webinar series](#) scheduled for September 12-13; four ninety-minute sessions will take place over two days.

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

Wisconsin Library Buildings and Spaces Project

[This new resource](#) is geared toward Wisconsin public library directors, staff and trustees on library building and renovation projects. On-demand webinars and resources from professionals across the state are available, as well as a list of recently completed projects from Wisconsin libraries. Topics include renovation, space reconfiguration, new building projects, and more.

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.

### **Training**

WVLS continues to produce Digital Bytes once a month. All current and future Digital Bytes can be [viewed on the WVLS webpage](#). Digital Bytes covering the annual WVLS Statistical Booklet and other technology tools are in progress. 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 is planning a series of webinars and workshops to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts in libraries and communities called Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race. Now in its third year, Sherry Machones will serve as the project lead. A call for volunteers to assist on the initiative will occur this month. New webinars, workshops, and opportunities will be available in 2024.

### **WVLS Databases**

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. WVLS will be exploring alternative educational digital resources.

### **ILS/V-Cat Projects**

#### **V-Cat Committee Updates**

- Bibliographic and Interface Committee: Considering catalog utility vendor options, Aspen audience filters, and other cataloging matters.
- Cooperative Circulation Committee: Discussing damaged and missing pieces workflows, standard library card application and patron record guidelines, and limited/extended loan periods for particular patron groups.
- V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee: A team from Koha attended the July 13 meeting to address questions and concerns from V-Cat member libraries. The committee will present a product recommendation at the September V-Cat Council meeting.

#### **Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) Project**

The NICE Team has completed a comprehensive joint ILS consortium exploration project to determine the value and feasibility of an ILS merger between WVLS and NWLS respective ILS consortia.

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](#). Presentations of the findings will be shared at upcoming WVLS and NWLS board and consortium meetings.

Upcoming Fall 2023 V-Cat training dates:

- Wednesday, September 20 at 10 a.m. – V-Cat Sierra Cataloging Training – Attaching Items
- Wednesday, September 27 at 10 a.m. – V-Cat Sierra Cataloging Training – MARC Alerts
- Thursday, October 5 at 9:30 a.m. – V-Cat In-Person Training Day – Z39.50 Catalog Training and TBD
- Wednesday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m. – V-Cat Sierra / Aspen Training TBD

## **Websites, Data and Technology**

LEAN WI Website Service

In June and July, more than 70 attendees participated in 17 training online training sessions, including seven trainings specifically for first-time web managers. Nine of those sessions were recorded and posted on the [Libraries Win Website Services YouTube playlist](#).

A new [training resource page](#) is under construction as a central repository for website training resources and documentation.

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. WVLS Data and Technology Services Consultant Erica Brewster is a member of this workgroup and will work toward developing and implementing a data analysis, training, and communication strategy for WVLS and member libraries.

## **Technology Support**

Technology asset inventories are being completed for each WVLS public library through onsite visits. Visits with 11 libraries were conducted in June and July and the remainder are being scheduled for August and early fall. WVLS staff are working with libraries to create a strategic plan for technology replacement and introducing the new online procurement process. The

immediate goal is to remove all remaining Windows 7/8 computers from service and update as many computers as possible to Windows 10.

Technology services surveys are being completed before and during library site visits. Current service offerings include Princh print management, Pharos public computer timing software, Kajeet hot spots, Splashtop remote access for library directors and key staff, and Deep Freeze configuration updates.

#### Digitization and Digital Content Archiving Support

Through the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC), WVLS and its LEANWI partners are working with the South Central Library System (SCLS) and other stakeholders to build out a service model and plan for Recollection Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Library Systems to preserve digital content securely in long term “cold” storage in a cost-economical manner. This service could be considered as one pillar (of at least three) in a content preservation strategy. WVLS and its LEANWI partners are simultaneously reviewing current resources, including personnel, and looking to develop a more permanent digitization and digital content management consultancy.