

Monthly Update to Member Libraries ~ September 2023

Over the next couple of months, I will be collecting information about WVLS member libraries; their services, resources, and programs; upcoming initiatives; and possible ways I can best offer support. As part of this effort, there are three activities that will help. First, I am planning visits to each library to view their spaces and to meet with staff. Second, a (short!) online [survey](#) has been developed to help me gather information about each library and to identify upcoming priorities. If you haven't completed the survey, this is a gentle reminder to do so. Third, I invite all public library services staff to [sign-up](#) for a 1:on:1 virtual meeting so that I can get to know you and your library better.

Each month, you can expect an email update from me- which I hope will streamline your inbox a bit rather than frequent emails (in general, they will be shorter than this one!). Please feel free to reach out to me~ I look forward to working with each of you more closely.

Youth Services

[August 2023 Starred Reviews](#) (also attached as a PDF)

YSIE Facebook Group: If you'd like to join, let me know and I'll email you an invite. Otherwise find Youth Services Information Exchange on FB and ask to join!

Shared Programming Spreadsheets. WVLS maintains a [Youth Program Booking Spreadsheet](#) and [StoryWalk Exchange](#) spreadsheet. Any member library staff can add to these documents or review them for ideas. The Youth Program Booking sheet lists performers that have been hired at our libraries in recent years along with details- cost estimate, description of the program, website for the performer. The StoryWalk Exchange sheet lists storywalks that member libraries have created in the past that are available for other libraries to borrow.

[Solar Eclipse Programming.](#) Solar eclipses will occur on October 14, 2023, and April 8, 2024. WVLS has received solar-viewing glasses for our member libraries. DPI is in the process of creating 4 program kits that will be available statewide

to support solar science (reservation form available soon). Two multi-generational kits will include a telescope, two sunoculars, and program resources. Two younger audience kits will include a sunspotter, mini sunoculars, and program resources. Would you find it more helpful to have solar program kits available to reserve from WVLS than the statewide kits from DPI? Would your library be interested in receiving the solar-viewing glasses? Please let me know by September 19!

Wisconsin Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL). This organization serves patrons of all ages (including youth!), who have vision impairment, a reading disability, or a physical disability. The library offers audiobooks, Braille books, audio-described DVDs, and digitized materials. To be part of this program, individuals must submit an application that is certified by a medical health professional, school personnel, or librarian. The individual will then receive the necessary equipment to keep at home and use when materials from the library arrive. Equipment and materials are sent through the postal service and there is no cost to the individual to receive or return items.

9/28/23 @ 3pm: Would you like the opportunity to network with school and public library folks from around Wisconsin? Yes! Then **Connecting Wisconsin Libraries** is for you! This group, facilitated by leaders from WEMTA (Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association), WLA, YSS (Youth Services Section of WLA) and the DPI, strives to improve communication and collaboration between school and public libraries through sharing information, experiences, and best practices in virtual gatherings throughout the year.

Contact Alison Loewen for more information at alison.loewen@meadpl.org

[Click here](#) to join the meeting

Meeting ID: 229 018 198 925

Passcode: qmCBH6

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 872-703-5321,,516406286# United States, Chicago

Phone Conference ID: 516 406 286#

Inclusive Services

Has your library reviewed [DPI's Inclusive Services Assessment and Guide](#)? The guide provides an inclusive services statement as well as checklists in several areas such as who is responsible, what the library has to offer, where interactions take place, and how the library engages with the community. The assessment does not need to be completed all at one time. Completing the assessment can help library staff pinpoint and implement relevant activities to provide a more inclusive space. The assessment will also show all the inclusive activities your library is already doing! Examples of simpler activities to complete include:

- Has the library board read and discussed DPI's Inclusive Services Statement?
- Are all library staff able to explain library policies to the public?
- Does the collection development policy have a statement about inclusion?
- Does the library include an inclusivity statement on promotional materials?

Adult Services

Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (*See note under Youth Services*)

Solar Eclipse Programming (*See note under Youth Services*)

Shared Programming Spreadsheet. WVLS maintains an [Adult Services Program Booking](#) spreadsheet. Any member library staff can add to this document or review it for ideas. This sheet lists performers and programs that have occurred at WVLS libraries in recent years along with details- cost estimate, description of the program, website for the performer. There is another tab in the sheet to share working ideas for upcoming adult programs.

[Affordable Connectivity Program](#). This FCC program continues to be available to residents and provides a discount on high-speed internet access. By qualifying for the program, residents can receive a service discount up to \$30/month (\$75/month on tribal lands). Ways to qualify include household income; if you or your child or dependent participate in certain government assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, WIC; or if you or anyone in your household already receives a Lifeline benefit. A short online application is needed to get started.

After qualifying, residents can contact their current provider or find a provider through the [Internet Discount Finder](#). DPI will be releasing promotional materials to libraries soon.

Workforce Development

10/19/23 @ 10am-3pm DPI will be hosting **Position Your Library to Provide Workforce Assistance to Your Community** at the [Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library](#) in Hayward, WI, on Thursday, October 19th. The FREE workshop will likely be taking place from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm that day, with a mid-day lunch included. The workshop will be focused on building local/regional connections and ongoing partnerships in Northern Wisconsin. The workshop will be capped at 40 total attendees (including presenters). Register [here](#).

[Affordable Connectivity Program](#). *(See note under Adult Services)*

Upcoming!

11/30/23: WVLS Youth Services Workshop. TB Scott Free Library in Merrill.

12/7/23: CSLP Summer Symposium. FREE and virtual. More info to come!

12/8/23: Performers Showcase. More info to come!