

Director's Report

WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 18, 2023

CORRESPONDENCE

WVLS Board Appointments

Four WVLS trustees have terms set to expire at the end of the year: **Tom Bobrofsky** (Clark County), **Kay Palmer** (Marathon County), **Pat Pechura** (Oneida County) and **Eileen Grunseth** (Taylor County). Notifications were sent to the clerks in those counties in October, and we anticipate hearing back from them following their December 2023 and January 2024 county board meetings when appointments to the WVLS Board are approved. A replacement to fill the unexpired term for Tyson Cain (Marathon County) who resigned in 2021 remains unfilled.

Pat Pechura (Oneida County) and **Eileen Grunseth** (Taylor County) have announced their plans to resign from the WVLS Board, so those counties will be making new appointments.

Colleagues Share Their Appreciation

WVLS Director's Retreat. *"I just want to say **thank you** again for the opportunity to provide facilitation services for the WVLS Directors' Retreat. You are a total pro at providing meaningful professional development and running a well-organized day of content. It was a bonus for me to get to work with Michelle and Angela, too. ... I look forward to de-briefing in the near future. If I can help provide services to WVLS again, please let me know. You and the WVLS crew are excellent collaborators."* – **Rachel Arndt**; Rachel Arndt Consulting LLC

"WVLS and the Director Retreat Team, thank you for putting together a great day! It was ALL good and I took away a great number of ideas and advice. The in-person networking is so important, and I thank you for providing that opportunity!" – **Laurie Ollhoff**; Director, T.B. Scott Library, Merrill

WLA Conference. *"Hi Jamie, ... And thank you, as well, for the spectacular WLA conference experience. Every detail, from the incredibly thoughtful welcome bags, the energizers in the exhibit halls, the morning speakers, meals, programs, and venue, was just fantastic! How you do it all, I don't know, but I hope you had a rejuvenating week and are continuing to celebrate you and your team's success."* – **Angela Schneider**, Public Library Development Consultant, Winnefox Library System

PEOPLE / LIBRARIES / SYSTEMS IN THE NEWS

LEAN WI Systems on Track to Hire a Shared Position

LEAN WI partner systems – IFLS Library System, Northern Waters Library Service and WVLS – are planning to collectively hire and share a full-time Technology Support Consultant. This unique position

will provide support to over 100 libraries across the northern half of the state in such service areas as website development and support, digitization processes, and projects involving data visualization and analysis. The position was posted in late September, applications were received in October, and interviews will be held in November.

MCPL Board Receives Lee Buess Intellectual Freedom Award



(Left to right) Gary Gisselman, MCPL Trustee; Reid Rayome, MCPL Trustee; Kari Sweeney, MCPL Board President; and Trista Owczarzak, WCTE Second Vice President and WCTE Awards Chair

The Wisconsin Council of Teachers of English (WCTE) has recognized the Marathon County Public Library (MCPL) with the Lee Buess Intellectual Freedom Award for demonstrating a commitment to intellectual freedom and free speech.

MCPL Board members received the award at a WCTE luncheon on October 13 in Wausau. “The selection committee was impressed by the ways in which you have advocated for expression free from censorship within your libraries,” said WTCE.

The Lee Buess Intellectual Freedom Award was created in 2016 by the National Council of Teachers of English to recognize individuals, groups or institutions for advancing the cause of intellectual freedom. It was begun in honor of Lee Buess, a long-time educator at UW-Stevens Point. Each state may name one award winner annually.

The MCPL Board of Trustees joins previous winners recognized by WCTE, including the Cooperative Children's Book Center (Madison), Sauk Prairie High School and Mount Horeb High School.

(edited from [Wausau Pilot and Review](#); October 18, 2023)

Transitions

In October, **David Krantz** informed his system colleagues of his plan to resign as Director of the Southwest Wisconsin Library System (Plattville). He accepted a position as ILS/Interlibrary Loan Consultant at the Winding Rivers Library System (LaCrosse).

South Central Library System (Madison) Director **Martha Van Pelt** has announced that she plans to retire sometime in February or March 2024. In her announcement, Marty became the SCLS Director in September 2010 and has worked as a professional librarian for 40 years. WVLS wishes Marty all the best in her retirement.

In mid-August **Greg Mickells** announced his plan to retire as Director of the Madison Public Library effective February 2, 2024. During his 11-year tenure, Mickells' work took him to three continents representing Madison Public Library in China, The Gambia, and Denmark, and to the White House in 2016 where Madison Public Library was recognized with a National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The Bubbler at Madison Public Library was recognized with a Wisconsin Innovation Award, and the Library was selected as a Top Innovator by Urban Libraries Council in the Race and Social Equity category. Eight staff members have been recognized as Library Movers & Shakers by *Library Journal*. Madison Public Library serves as the resource library for the South Central Library System. A job description and application for the position are available on the [Madison Jobs website](#).

WVLS COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Replacement for Gale Courses

Research and trial for possible products to replace Gale Courses has been on-going. In October, member library staff had access to a trial of Udemy for Business. Rachel and Kristie received feedback from member library staff on the trial through email as well as a virtual meeting. A demo and trial of LinkedIn learning is scheduled for December. Additional trials are being sought for other learning platforms.

Makerspace Collection

Previously, Wisconsin Valley Library Service, IFLS Library System, and Northern Waters Library Service teamed up to provide makerspace kits, equipment, story time kits, and memory kits for member libraries to book using the Lend Items booking program. Recently, items available in the WVLS makerspace underwent assessment and evaluation. Some items were removed due to relevance, low

usage, or condition. Ideas to add to the collection are currently being sought from member library staff. Member library staff request makerspace kits and equipment online and the items are transported by courier.

GRANT and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

NEW! 2024 WVLS Marketing Support Grant

In 2024, WVLS will offer a Marketing Support Grant, a pilot project and opportunity for WVLS libraries to evaluate their library's marketing efforts and to work toward a library marketing plan or marketing campaign.

Libraries will receive \$250-500 in funds to support their marketing plan or campaign. Grant recipients will: assess current library marketing, create, and execute library marketing goals, and discover new target audiences as part of their plan or campaign.

The grant application is available on the [WVLS webpage](#). The deadline to apply is Tuesday, December 12.

2023/2024 LSTA Professional Learning Grant

WVLS to Award PLA Conference Scholarships. WVLS is awarding scholarships to area library staff to attend the national 2024 Public Library Conference, held in Columbus, Ohio, from April 3-5, 2024. Valued at \$2,400, this scholarship may be used to cover some/all expenses for:

- Early Bird/Advanced Conference Registration
- One Author Lunch
- Roundtrip Economy Class Air Transportation
- 4 nights of conference lodging (including transportation from airport)
- Airport parking and mileage to/from airport

The scholarship application deadline is Friday, December 1. For more information and an application form, [visit the WVLS Scholarships and Grants webpage](#).

2023/2024 LSTA Improved Discovery Solutions Grants

LSTA [Joint Cooperative Cataloging Grant](#). The primary goal of this project is to build upon the foundational work completed during the 2022/2023 grant project. As a participant in this project, **Rachel Metzler** attended the first meeting of the Statewide Bibliographic Standards group. This group's goal is to set up standards for the entire state to follow regarding Bibliographic records.

LSTA [Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Grant](#). The primary goal of this project is to build upon the foundational work completed during the [2022/2023 Grant Project](#) and to facilitate next steps toward a

merged ILS. Information about the Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) project is shared in today's meeting packet as **Exhibit 15** and on the [NICE Website](#).

2021-2023 Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

LEAN WI partners were awarded an aggregate of **\$309,832.45** across three applications for continuity of existing mobile hotspot data services through 2023 and for additional devices and funding of services through 2023. Two services expansion awards for additional devices and service plans remain unutilized due to lack of expressed need for additional devices across the partnership. Those awards cannot be used to further extend services on existing hotspots which are already covered by a third "continuity" award for the 12 months of calendar year 2023. Approximately \$94,000 in ECF support will have been consumed by the end of December 2023 from the original and extension awards.

2023-2024 LSTA Sparsity Aid Grant

(Additional Notes on) Continuity of Mobile Hotspots Services Through 2024. LEAN WI Partners are finalizing services renewal negotiations with mobile hotspots services vendor and a corresponding minimum level of continuity support utilizing 2023-2024 LSTA funding. We anticipate being able to support continuity of services for two devices per location within existing utilization. There may be some room to support new utilization during 2024 by libraries not currently lending mobile hotspots, but any such expansion would be limited and first-come-first-serve. Libraries utilizing the minimum level continuity of service will have the option to expand service levels or device capacity during 2024 at their own expense.

Microsoft Licensing Renewals and Expansions. The bulk of the joint pool of LSTA (approximately \$70,000) for the 2023-2024 season is currently designated to Microsoft licensing renewals and additional services in 2024 in the 2024 LEANWI budget. The 2024 LEANWI budget (maintained under the WVLS full system budget) is the first to directly incorporate the entirety of an LSTA season's combined allocations, which is expected to streamline budget management and projects funding reconciliation and increase overall transparency of funding sources and expenditures within the scope of LEANWI operations.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Save the Date for Library Legislative Day 2024! (Exhibit 14a)

The Wisconsin Library Association's [2024 Library Legislative Day](#) will be headquartered at the Best Western Premier Park Hotel on Capitol Square in Madison on February 6. This is the same hotel where the WVLS delegation stayed last year. Given that last year's attendance seriously stretched the Madison Public Library meeting space capacity, it has been decided to move the morning briefing to the Park Hotel. It is anticipated that the registration cost per person will be raised due to the change in venue. Registration is expected to open on December 4 and close on January 12. Stay tuned for more information regarding speakers, room rates, reservations and registration as details are finalized. Bus

transportation from Wausau to Madison, as well as WVLS scholarships will be available for library staff and trustees to attend LLD 2024.

V-CAT and ILS ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

Key Projects

Fine Free Lending Expansion. WVLS made changes to provide fine free lending at the Minocqua and Antigo libraries. With these changes, Minocqua and Antigo joined the following libraries that have system-generated fine free lending:

- Antigo – all locations/items/patrons
- Crandon - juvenile items only
- Dorchester - all items/patrons
- Loyal - all items/patrons
- Laona – all items for juvenile patrons, teachers, staff
- Medford – juvenile items/all patrons
- Merrill – most items (fines for some equipment)/all patron
- Minocqua – all items/patrons
- Rhinelander – most items (fines for some equipment/kits)/all patrons
- Stetsonville – juvenile books not high demand
- Wabeno – all items/patrons

Other libraries that have system-generated fine free lending: Gilman – most items for teacher patrons for most items; MCPL – most items for homebound patrons; and Owen – most items for staff.

Council and Committee Meeting Highlights

V-Cat Council. During its meeting on November 2, the V-Cat Council passed the following: Financial Reports for August and September; Library Card Application and Patron Record Guidelines; an updated V-Cat Volume Field Recommendation to include language that more clearly describe what materials are included/excluded in records; and an Updated Multi-Item Sets Recommendation to include language that more clearly describes what materials are included/excluded in records.

There was a brief discussion on the ILS Evaluation and Review Committee's final report and recommendation that was shared with the Council in September. The Council did not act on the recommendation.

The Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) Report was discussed. Council members were updated on the formation of targeted workgroups and decision-making processes for this project. (The NICE Report is shared as **Exhibit 15** in the meeting packet.)

V-Cat Bibliographic and Interface Committee. During its October 3 meeting, the committee continued its investigation of SkyRiver as an alternative to OCLC, the product currently used by V-Cat. The committee will also consider possible adjustments to the current OCLC contract that expires in June

2024. During its meeting in December, the committee will prepare a recommendation to take to the V-Cat Council in February 2024.

The **V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee**. During its October 13 meeting, the committee reviewed and updated a standardized library card application and draft Patron Record Guidelines. Following the review and editing process, the committee voted to present the documents for approval at the November V-Cat Council meeting.

The committee received 21 responses to a survey sent to V-Cat Council members about practices for extended checkout periods and limits for materials. The committee will discuss the information gathered from the survey at its December meeting.

MARKETING PROJECTS

Website Services Projects

Erica Brewster continues twice-monthly “office hour” website trainings in addition to the two monthly “Website 201: [Just] Beyond the Basics” for those who have done the first-time training but aren’t yet ready to tackle the more advanced topics presented in the regular office hours. Times will be adjusted in December based on survey feedback for best staff availability.

Additional training and reference materials are regularly added to <https://training.librarieswin.org/>.

A new **Website Accessibility Learning Group** has been established with eight website managers to begin the long process of understanding adaptive website design. The goal of this group is to eventually create guidelines and best practices for both initial website design and for routine updates that are fully accessible to screen readers and other assistive devices for those with low/no vision and other needs who use our library websites. This group will meet monthly as a learning group until a specific project or resource is identified or can be developed.

Interviews for the shared technology support consultant position will occur in November; the role of this position will be to provide additional website support and development to Libraries Win members (libraries across WVLS, IFLS Library System and Northern Waters Library Service).

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. Following are headlines from recently published newsletters:

- [September 2023](#) - “WLA Conference Scholarships Available,” “Public Library First Amendment Audits,” “Minocqua Holds Swiftie Night at the Library,” “MCPL Makes a Splash,” “Withee Receives AED,” “Schedule Tally Week in October.”

- [October 2023](#) - “Upcoming Professional Development,” “Tomahawk Hosts Special Visitors,” “Metzler Shares Training and Resources,” “Central Wisconsin Book Festival Celebrates 7th Year,” “Aspen Discovery Update,” “Antigo Continues Focus on Arts,” “Colby Donates Kits to Patients.”
- [November 2023](#) - “Scholarships Available for PLA Conference,” “Registration Open for WVLS Youth Services Workshop,” “12 Things to Know About: Eileen Grunseth,” “Guest Feature: Eau Claire Hosts “Card Crawl,” “MCPL Holds Two Sentence Horror Story Contest,” “Save the Date for Wild Wisconsin,” “Updates to Libby.”

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

TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS OVERVIEW

LEAN WI Core Infrastructure

Engineering Lead, **Kris Schwartz**, has been affecting updates and network switching hardware migrations for the datacenter in preparation for the deprecation of two aging core switches. These particular switches predated the establishment of the LEAN WI partnership and in fact were due for lifecycle replacement over six years ago. Their longevity isn’t necessarily remarkable as that class of switch is generally expected to outlive normal support lifecycles by two to three times, but it is noteworthy that they are the last active components making up the original blended IFLS and WVLS WANs.

The TEACH division of the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) has a new contract for statewide networking. The current network and services, labeled “BadgerNet Service,” is being replaced by a new network, labeled “TEACH Network Service.” AT&T will continue to be the Managed Service Provider (MSP) for the state networking fabric and is currently in the process of migrating service connections for schools and libraries across the state. A handful of IFLS and NWLS libraries have been migrated, though AT&T has run into issues with the migration of the IFLS head-end and thus far all WVLS services. We are still waiting to learn more about the migration scheduling for all WVLS and several IFLS and NWLS sites, anticipating a highly compressed flurry of scheduling activity during December and January. The end of the current “BadgerNet” contract is January 31, 2024.

LEAN WI Service Explorations

LEAN WI partners have begun a relationship with a new Microsoft Licensing vendor and are working with its team of licensing experts to better understand program renewal and new procurement options. Current licensing maintenance is active through June 2024. The partnership is still piloting Snipe-IT, an asset management software which will help all three partners update asset tracking methods and practices in a unified manner. WVLS is working with LEANWI partners to review technology asset inventory methods to better track and work with libraries for regular replacement of computers and end-user equipment. The partnership is maintaining active participation across several channels of data utilization and data “dashboard” conversations, working groups, and committees as we continue to enhance our own current data history service, statistics dashboards, and automated reports tooling.

WVLS Internal Projects, Library Projects, and Core Services Support

Tech inventory site visits to the final three libraries (Three Lakes, Withee, and Dorchester) will be completed by November 13. The Laona, Wabeno, and Crandon libraries will need follow-up visits to assess information not gathered during the first visit. Five-year computer replacement plans were submitted to 17 of 23 libraries with TB Scott Library (Merrill) and MCPL not included. Computer replacement plans for the remaining six libraries will be completed by the end of November.

Shared network drives were created for 20 libraries that didn't previously have them; training on use has been provided for five libraries and the rollout to the remaining 15 libraries is ongoing. These drives allow staff to save items onto a network server – essentially LEANWI-owned “cloud” storage – to be accessed from any staff computer using the proper login credentials. This may be used to efficiently share access to documents that are used/edited by multiple staff and to serve as a protected backup service at no charge to libraries.

Ongoing projects include:

- review internet/service outage response plan and documentation (including reviewing new communications tools options);
- Pharos timing software server update/migration (Antigo, Abbotsford, Rib Lake, Westboro);
- DeepFreeze console migration;
- Princh managed printing and hotspot circulation documentation; and
- SharePoint and general Microsoft products administration training.

PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT SERVICES

Public Library Services

Collaboration. Kristie Hauer recently met with Hannah Good Zima, Outreach Coordinator at Nicolet Federated Library System, and Kristin Laufenberg, Consulting and Outreach Librarian at Outagamie Waupaca Library System, to overlay main duties to examine if any opportunities for collaboration exist. The three will meet again in December to continue this exploration.

Library Visits. Over the last three months, Kristie completed visits with all WVLS member libraries. The goal of these visits was to get acquainted with library staff, see their library spaces, collect feedback, and gather ideas for future projects and initiatives. The information collected will help plan future youth services workshops, youth services information exchange meetups, and support member library staff in such areas as adult services, youth services, workforce development, and inclusive services. In addition to library visits, feedback was also obtained through an online survey and virtual one-on-one meetings.

Library Programming. Assistance was provided to the Clark County libraries on developing a library passport program. The idea of the program is for patrons to visit multiple, or all, libraries in a specific area to experience the various locations, services, and collections. Generally, passport programs include an incentive for completing the program or an entry into a prize drawing. While the program is in

development, there's no timeline for implementing currently. There has also been discussion and interest in offering a passport program system-wide to include all member libraries.

YSIEs. YSIEs (Youth Services Information Exchange), informal gatherings of youth services staff to network with others, tour youth spaces, and gain knowledge and ideas from one another, are being scheduled for 2024. Member library staff prefer a mixture of in-person and virtual meetups. In-person meet-ups will be held at the Granton and Minocqua libraries. Virtually meet-ups are also being scheduled, some of which may be held with youth services staff from IFLS Library System member libraries.

WVLS Website. The Adult Services, Children's Services, and Teen Services pages on the WVLS website have been significantly updated. Outdated information and links were removed, and relevant information was added. The pages were also formatted in a consistent manner making them easier to navigate.

Data Analysis and Reporting

Erica Brewster participated in the kickoff session of the inaugural WILS Data Classroom cohort. The Data Classroom is designed for library and system staff to develop skills in identifying and utilizing library-specific data sources, develop data collection and management methods, and creating data visualizations. Access to WILS's newly developed Data Dashboard is included with the course, so Erica will have the opportunity to test the data for WVLS libraries included in the dashboard as part of the overall coursework and final project.

There are six members of the inaugural group; Erica is the only system representative and the other five are library directors. The five content sessions will cover identifying the library data ecosystem, data collection and identifying new data sources, assessment and evaluation, data analysis, and data visualization with storytelling. Each member needs to identify a research topic and complete a project to present at the closing session.

Erica is also participating in the statewide data dashboard review committee. The goal of this group is to identify options for providing individual libraries, systems, and stakeholders equitable access to useful and timely data and data resources. The kickoff meeting was held in October and the group will meet monthly into early 2024.

Inclusive Services

Inclusive Services Updates were published in October and November and distributed to member libraries in WVLS and Northern Waters Library Service. The [October Update](#) shared resources on IMLS grants to make small and rural libraries accessible as well as an IMLS grant for teen mental health. It also covered the importance of [pronouncing names correctly for children](#), the current controversy over a self-identified Native writer, and showcasing EDI offerings at the WLA Fall Conference. The [November Update](#) showcased several recent professional journal articles that featured topics on equity, diversity,

and inclusion. Resources included were the new [ALA Library Advocacy Action Plan Workbook](#), and the new [PEN America report](#) about book banning and library services in prisons.

State Meetings

WISCAT. A meet and greet and feedback session between **Rachel Metzler** and WISCAT Technical Coordinator **Joy Pohlman** was held on October 9. Joy learned how Interlibrary Loan works at WVLS and Rachel shared suggestions for improvements.

Workforce Development. **Kristie Hauer** attended a planning meeting with South Central Library System Workforce Development Consultant Mark Jochem, and Kris Porter and Lori Nieman from the Department of Workforce Development. Three meet-n-greet sessions are being planned for Spring 2024 and will be held at job centers in Wisconsin Rapids, Marathon County, and Rhinelander. Member library staff who attend will receive a tour of the job center, hear from workforce development partners in the area, view updates to the job center website, and leave with a binder full of resources and contact information specific to the member library's service area.

WPLC. WPLC Board members, System Directors, and committee chairs attended a WPLC Visioning Session on October 16 at Portage County Public Library in Stevens Point. During this meeting, new goals and priorities were discussed including the creation of a strategic plan, mission statement, and vision for WPLC. The group also discussed the possibility of statewide delivery coming over the umbrella of WPLC and sustainable funding for the digital library.

The WPLC Board met on October 23. In addition to approving the new officers, the board approved the creation of a strategic plan, mission, and vision workgroup. The board also approved the 2024 [Digital Library Steering Committee seat apportionment](#) and the [2024 project management agreement](#).

CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW Digital Bytes

[Shared Google Sheets](#). In this *Digital Byte*, **Kristie Hauer** walks through the shared Google sheets, a tool to assist member libraries with library programming and selecting performers. Topics reported on in the Shared Google Sheets are "Best Practices," "Summary of Recommended Performers," "Storywalks," and "Adult Services Programming."

[Visual Tips for Presentations](#). In this *Digital Byte*, **Jamie Matczak** talks about tips for creating presentations, including keeping visuals simple, font guidelines, colors and more.

[2022 WVLS Statistics Booklet](#). In this *Digital Byte*, **Erica Brewster** gives an overview of the booklet and talks about how this information can be used for your library.

[Wisconsin Talking Book & Braille Library](#). In this *Digital Byte*, **Kristie Hauer** reviews the services and resources provided by the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library and how public libraries can be a connecting point for patrons that experience temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations.

WVLS Workshop for Youth Services Staff Coming Soon!

The 2023 WVLS Youth Services Workshop will be held on **November 30** at the TB Scott Free Library in Merrill. Offered annually, this workshop brings together area colleagues who serve youth for a day of networking, brainstorming, and training.

This year's workshop will feature presentations on teen programs, summer library program planning for 2024, ACES (adverse childhood experiences), and the Summer Math Program offered by the Wisconsin Mathematics Council. Featured presenters include **Nancy Baacke**, advocate and community educator at HAVEN, Inc and **Cathy Pescinski**, teen librarian at Shawano County Library.

Participants receive continuing education contact hours for attending the workshop. Registration and meal information is available [here](#).

MCPL Staff In-Service Day

Jamie Matczak is working with **Rachel Arndt** from Rachel Arndt Consulting to host a Marathon County Public Library staff in-service on Friday, **December 1** at the Wausau Branch. The event will feature topics on emotional well-being, collaboration, project management and small group work. All MCPL locations will be closed to the public that day.

NEW! WVLS to Offer Public Library Annual Report Support

To prepare public library directors and staff for the 2023 annual report process, WVLS is providing a "Mapping Your Way through the Annual Report" briefing on Thursday, **December 14**.

Section-by-Section Review of the Annual Report, the 9:00 am-noon morning session, will offer in-person as well as remote attendance. This session will detail what information needs to be collected for annual reports, what data WVLS provides libraries to accurately complete annual report questions, and best practices for accurately collecting data and reporting annual report information.

Team Workshop your Annual Report, the 1:00-3:00 pm afternoon session, will be available to those who attend in-person. Begin organizing annual report information. Member libraries will be able to work with the WVLS Annual Report Team and with other public library colleagues to address general annual report questions and concerns and offer guidance on issue-specific matters.

More information, as well as a registration link, is available [here](#).

12th Annual Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference

WVLS is working with colleagues from the South Central Library System and IFLS Library System on final details for the 12th annual Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference scheduled for **January 24-25, 2024**. The conference will feature 14 sessions and have tracks for Marketing, Management, Internal Communications and Programming. [Registration will open](#) in early December.

INFO TO GO

- On October 23, the City of Merrill named a street sign after former T.B. Scott Library Director **Natalie H. Scribner**. Director of the T.B. Scott Free Library from 1922 until the time of her death in 1948, Scribner quadrupled the library's collection from 25,000 items to 100,000 items and advocated for cost-effective policies, increased technology, and increased access for rural areas. A brief article is shared here: [Merrill honors librarian of 25 years with a street sign](#); News 12; October 18, 2023.
- [Gen Z and Millennials: How They Use Public Libraries and Identify Through Media Use](#). Released by Kathi Inman Berens, Ph.D. and Rachel Noorda, Ph.D. of Portland State University, this report discusses the attitudes and behaviors Gen Z and millennials have regarding libraries.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- November 6 – WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Data Dashboard Workgroup meeting
- November 7 – Joint WPLC Technology Steering and Operations Committee meeting
- November 9 – WPLC Digital Library Steering Committee meeting
- November 10 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- November 14 – Taylor County Broadband Committee meeting
- November 14 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Directors
- November 14 – Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (Northwest) meeting
- November 14 – DNR Parks Pass Q&A
- **November 15 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website 202: [Just] Beyond the Basics Training**
- November 15 – DPI-hosted Library Services Data Workgroup meeting
- November 16 – NICE Funding Formula and Budget Workgroup meeting
- November 17 – WiLS webinar: 36-hour workweek
- November 18 - **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- **November 21 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Accessibility Training**
- November 21 – DPI-hosted meeting of Inclusive Services Consultants
- November 21 – 2023/2024 LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Project meeting
- November 23 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- November 24 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- November 27 – WPLC Technology Backup Steering Committee meeting

- November 28 – Library Workforce Connection (LWC) meeting
- **November 30 – WVLS Annual Youth Services Workshop; T.B. Scott Library, Merrill**
- **December 1 – MCPL Staff In-Service.** All locations closed.
- December 4 – WPLC Digital Archives Backup Steering Committee
- **December 5 – WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting**
- December 5 - WPLC Data Dashboard Workgroup meeting
- December 7 – Cooperative Summer Library Program (CSLP) Symposium
- **December 8 – WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting**
- **December 11 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour**
- December 13 – DPI-hosted meeting of Continuing Education Consultants
- **December 14 – WVLS Annual Report Workshop; virtual/in-person; WVLS office**
- December 14 – Department of Employee Trust Funds meeting
- December 15 – **WVLS Holiday Gathering.** WVLS office closes at 11:00 a.m.
- December 19 - 2023/2024 LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Project meeting
- **December 19 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Accessibility Training**
- **December 21 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website 202: [Just] Beyond the Basics Training**
- **December 21 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour**
- December 25 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- December 26 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**

2024

- January 1 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- **January 8 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hour**
- January 12 - COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- January 12 – WPLC Data Dashboard Workgroup meeting
- January 16 - 2023/2024 LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Project meeting
- **January 16 - WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Accessibility Training**
- January 17 – DPI-hosted Library Services Data Workgroup meeting
- **January 24 – 25 – 12th Annual Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference**
- **February 1 – WVLS V-Cat Council meeting**
- **February 6 – WLA's Library Legislative Day; Madison**
- February 18 - **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**

Thank you for reading!

Marla