



1) 'Wild Wisconsin' This Week

The [12th Annual Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference](#) takes place this Wednesday and Thursday.

Fourteen sessions will be available in four different tracks, including Management, Marketing, Internal Communications (new), and Programming (new).

There is no cost to attend! Thanks to donations from Wisconsin public library systems, along with the Department of Public Instruction, registration for this conference is free. All fourteen conference sessions will be captioned and recorded for people unable to attend the live events. Each webinar is worth 1 contact hour for public library certification.

2) NICE Team Report January 2024 Project Update

The NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team met on Tuesday, January 16 to hear updates from the Funding Formula and Budget workgroup, the Delivery workgroup, and the Collaborative Decision-making workgroup.

The Delivery workgroup has made its [recommendation](#). Feedback on the Delivery recommendation can be submitted [here](#). The Funding Formula workgroup will meet again the second week of February and the Decision-making workgroup will meet on January 23. The NICE Team recommended the ILS Vendor Selection workgroup meet again, based on new information provided by a vendor.

Questions are welcome! V-Cat and NWLN (Northern Waters Library Network) member library staff are welcome to share their questions and concerns via an [online form](#). Answers will be shared on the NICE Libraries [FAQ page](#). More details will be shared on the [NICE Libraries website](#) when the reports are complete. Full meeting minutes are posted [here](#).

3) V-Cat Council Meets Next Week

The V-Cat Council will meet for the first time in 2024 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Thursday, February 1. An agenda and meeting documents will be available on the [V-Cat Council meetings page](#) ahead of the meeting.

4) Smokey Bear Reading Challenge Update

The DPI Library Services Team has experienced a delay in receiving the Smokey Bear reading challenge materials from the USDA Forest Service. Once WVLS receives the materials, they will be forwarded to member libraries. Currently, a [digital toolkit](#) is available as well as a digital challenge in Beanstack. Contact Kristie Hauer for questions or concerns at khauer@wvls.org.

5) Upcoming Webinars

- [Best Teen Reads of 2023](#) - 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23
- [Efficient Management of Your Technology Devices](#) - 12 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23
- [Modeling a Healthy Work-Life Balance](#) - 3 p.m. on Monday, January 29

6) Reminders

Library staff (school, public, & other) interested in the “Games + Libraries + Learning” space are invited to join the ongoing-development Wisconsin Games + Learning + Libraries Cohort. The Cohort, organized by the DPI, will be digitally housed in the WISELearn Resources Group to engage in discussion and form an affinity space and easy-to-access network surrounding Games + Learning + Libraries in Wisconsin.

[Read more.](#)