1) Listening Session in September

The next WVLS Listening Session is scheduled to take place at the Frances L. Simek Memorial Library in Medford on Monday, September 23, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is an in-person event only, and it is open to WVLS member library directors or their proxies. The session will provide an opportunity for informal conversations between participants and to ask questions of WVLS staff. Lunch will be provided, and prior registration is required.

Please register by Monday, September 12. If you have any questions, please contact Kristie Hauer at khauer@wvls.org.

2) Registration Open for Tech Days

Tech Days Wisconsin 2024 is coming up September 17 – 18. This free, two-day series of webinars offers libraries the opportunity to hear from tech experts.

- From Basics to Breakthroughs: AI Strategies for Library Leaders - Tuesday, September 17, 10 -11:30 a.m.
- Navigating Artificial Intelligence Through a Public Librarian's Lens - Tuesday, September 17, 1 - 2:30 p.m.
- Virtual Reality for Career Readiness - Wednesday, September 18, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- Trends in Emerging Tech with Laura Solomon - Wednesday, September 18, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Register for each individual event and learn more about presenters at TechDaysWisc.org. Each session counts toward 1.5 technology contact hours for public library certification.

3) V-Cat Training Survey

Libraries are encouraged to complete a survey to identify V-Cat training topics of interest by Friday, August 23. Survey results will assist with planning for an in-person training on Thursday, October 17 and online training on Thursday, November 21, as well as Spring 2025 training sessions.

4) The Role of Public Libraries and Free Programs

Library programs, provided freely to all, ensure that everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, can connect to valuable resources. Doing so makes the library's services more accessible and inclusive. Wisconsin firmly upholds the importance of providing unrestricted access to knowledge and ideas for its residents. According to Wisconsin Statute 43.52(2), every public library must be freely accessible for use by the inhabitants of the municipality where it is established and maintained. The law mandates that library programs be accessible to all. While libraries have the authority to charge user fees for non-"core" library services, they are prohibited from imposing any charges that obstruct access to information, including programs. Read more.

5) August Web Trainings

Several web training sessions are happening this month, including Marketing Online Resources, Website 201 and Managing Menus. The sessions last 60 minutes and are recorded. [Read more information and register.](#)

6) Upcoming Webinars

- [5 Tips for Collaboration in a Hybrid World](#) - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 14
- [Preparing for a Difficult Workplace Conversation](#) - 12 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15
- [Identifying and Filling Data Gaps to Tell Your Full Story](#) - 10 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 19

7) Funding for Digital Literacy Initiatives

The Public Library Association (PLA), in partnership with AT&T, is thrilled to re-open the [PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive](#). These competitive funding opportunities provide resources for public library staff to teach basic digital literacy skills using PLA's [DigitalLearn](#) courses and [training materials](#). This year, PLA is awarding $10,000 to large libraries and $5,000 to small libraries across the country. Even without applying, DigitalLearn is free every day and provides tutorials and workshop materials for libraries to teach basic digital skills. Applications are open now and close Friday, October 18.

8) Reminders

The following V-Cat Training dates are scheduled for Fall 2024. Links to register and attend will be sent out in the near future.

- V-Cat Sierra Cataloging Training – Attaching Items, Thursday, September 12; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- V-Cat Sierra Cataloging Training – MARC Alerts, Thursday, September 26; 10 am - 12 p.m.
- V-Cat Sierra Z39.50 Cataloging Training – (In Person), Thursday, October 17; 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- TBD Training – (In Person), Thursday, October 17; 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Aspen Patron Experience & Collection Showcase Training – Tuesday, October 29; 10 am - 12 p.m.
- TBD Training – (Online), Thursday, November 21; 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.