Exhibit 20

2024 WAPL Conference WVLS Scholarship Reports
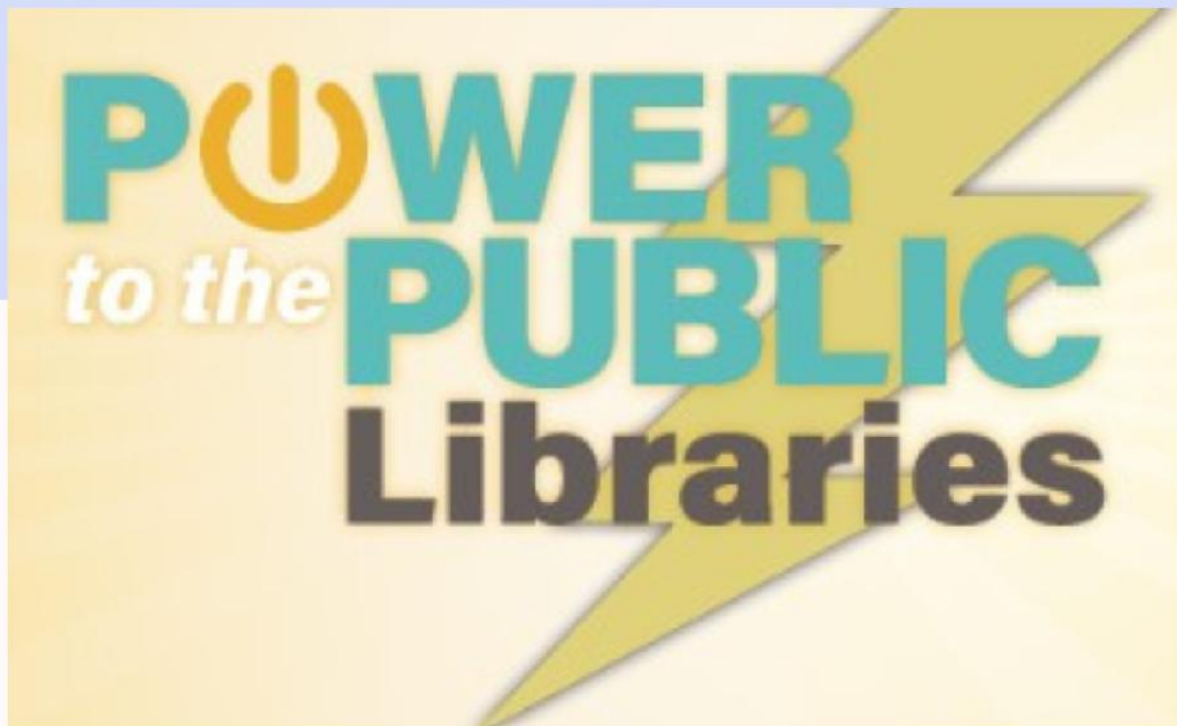
May 1-3, 2024

Stevens Point, WI

1. **Please highlight three sessions from the conference.**
   What were the session topics? Who presented them? What made these presentations effective and meaningful to you?

I attended a session on displaying art in the library, led by Angie Brooks and Eric Norton. The presenters shared strategies for involving the public in ongoing art exhibits, displays, and contests. They shared a range of options and ideas for different budgets, which I appreciated. Art is important to the city of Wausau, where our MCPL headquarters is located, so this session helped me start imagining how to bring that aspect into the library.

I attended a session titled "Crisis Communication: How to Say Hard Things" led by Brandi Cummings from Kenosha Public Library. The presenter shared her own experience managing communication and PR for Kenosha Public Library throughout the turmoil the city has experienced over the last several years. I found Brandi's "3 C's of Crisis Communication" helpful: Clarify (what is the question or the problem?), Connect (people are more than what we know of them), and Conflict (prepare self and staff with talking points as we sit in the conflict).

I attended a session titled "Meaningful Meetings" led by Rachel Arndt. Rachel broke down several meeting types and encouraged us to brainstorm how we could utilize these meetings in our own work. I found Rachel's advice for leading effective 1:1 meetings helpful. She shared the importance of having structure to the meeting so that staff know exactly what to expect. The template for 1:1 meetings she proposed was also helpful: Successes since last meeting, Concerns, Priorities, What Support is Needed, and Goals.

2. **Please highlight a conference experience, other than attending a conference session. Did you talk to someone you didn't know at a session? Sit next to someone at a luncheon and have a meaningful conversation? Visit with an exhibitor? How did this experience affect your overall outlook of the conference?**

My partner and I (we both work in libraries and both attended this conference) were thrilled to network with some folks who attended my partner's WAPL presentation last year and had since implemented their programming ideas. It was great to meet new people working in Wisconsin public libraries and to see how much of a difference these WAPL sessions can make for improving programming, library services, and more.

3. **As a result of attending this conference, what two things do you plan on implementing at your library in the next six months**?

Rachel Arndt's session on Meaningful Meetings has already helped me in my work. I've begun to implement her suggestions for more effective 1:1 meetings and will continue to refine my approach.

I also plan to begin exploring options for bringing public-generated art into our Wausau location. This will likely not be implemented in 2024 due to significant ongoing constriction work in the library, but I look forward to exploring options.

4. **What kind of support is needed for you to implement these two things? Support from your staff? Your Board of Trustees?**

I will need the support of my staff and director to implement a public-generated art exhibit in the library.

WVLS Post-Conference Report

By: Amber Brill

Greenwood Area Library

1. **Please highlight three sessions from the conference. What were the session topics? Who presented them? What made these presentations effective and meaningful to you?**
The first session I would like to highlight is "*Power to Public Media: Using PBS Resources in Your Library*" which was presented by Kirsten Caldwell & Samantha Schoville. They discussed how PBS has a large selection of online learning tools to use for programming. They showed us what PBS websites to use and how to search for them, which I found a little daunting because there is a lot of resources on their pages. They showed us how to navigate through to find what we may be looking for and even gave us examples on programs that they did specifically.
The second session would be "*Beyond the Community Conversation*" which was presented by Desiree Bongers, Kelly Davis, Melissa McLimans, and Katelyn Sabelko. In this session we were presented with multiple ways that we can reach out to the community to get their input on library needs. They had some great ideas that won't cost a lot of money for the library to implement. I really liked the idea they had of inviting the public to come in during a 3-hour time frame and having them write their answers/suggestions on sticky notes at 3 tables that have different questions. It's great for patrons or citizens that don't necessarily want their name attached to the answers/suggestions. On the other hand, they had some great ideas for hosting 1 on 1 interviews with patrons. I think patrons who agreed to these interviews would feel like they are being heard and their opinions were really valued.
The last session I'm going to highlight is "*10 Secrets to Doing More with Less in Your Library*" that was presented by David Vinjamuri & Joe Huberty. Although a lot of what they discussed didn't really pertain to our small library as I was hoping it would, I did get some really good ideas for displaying and shelving items in our library. Other than displaying the books in a different way to make them more appealing to our patrons, we were also presented with ways to boost circulation of items that are not checked out often. One way is to simply not have them at the back of the building, if patrons

2. **Please highlight a conference experience, other than attending a conference session. Did you talk to someone you didn't know at a session? Sit next to someone at a luncheon and have a meaningful conversation? Visit with an exhibitor? How did this experience affect your overall outlook on the conference?**
Being completely honest, I tend to get anxious around large groups of people I don't know so I wasn't sure how this whole event was going to go for me-being a first timer and all. I am very cognizant of that fact but still try to better myself and was pleasantly surprised when I went to the Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening and sat with some very friendly and chatty folks. Getting to know them over dinner helped break the ice and made the rest of the event smooth sailing. I spoke specifically with another director and through our

conversation learned that she used to work for Shopko, as did I for quite some time. So that lead to some fun reminiscing.

3. **As a result of attending this conference, what two things do you plan on implementing at your library in the next six months?**
    After our scheduled renovation is complete, I plan on changing our displays to make the books more accessible to our patrons. That unfortunately means I will need to weed more items, but that will be just in time for our yearly book sale so that will work out perfectly.
    I also plan to start doing more interactive spelling/learning games in our Kids Zone. I currently do matching games and origami type activities but would like to expand that more to literacy fun. I got that idea from the PBS session and think it will go over well with our littlest patrons.

4. **What kind of support is needed for you to implement these two things? Support from your staff? Your Board of Trustees?**
    To implement the two previously stated plans I will need my staff support for sure. We will work together on the weeding items first. Then we will organize the shelving and display them in the new way.

    Overall, I had a great time at WAPL. I brought home some great ideas for our Library and got to meet many likeminded folks. Thank you very much to WVLS for this opportunity to attend WAPL 2024!

1. **Please highlight three sessions from the conference.**
   What were the session topics? Who presented them? What made these presentations effective and meaningful to you?
   1. <u>Help! My phone did something!</u> Presented by Keith Gerlach, of Lake Geneva Public Library. The presentation helped me to understand the benefits and limits that a library has to offer in technological support, based on its size and even location. I know that we could offer all the perks that the bigger libraries to when dealing with technological questions, but often what little we know is enough for our small community.
   2. <u>Popping Pop culture Programs.</u> Presented by Jessica Hodges, of Kenosha Public Library. This was a good class for learning to tap into programs and games that are already popular with the youth, and learning to tailor them with either small or bigger budgets depending on what you have access to. Another important thing I learned from this class was that even if you pump a lot of details and funds into a program, this is no guarantee that it will be a success.
   3. <u>Games, Learning, and Libraries.</u> Presented by Chris Baker, of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. This class had a special meaning to me since I manage a Comic & Game Store before becoming a library director. I've always known that game held a strong following, but to hear and witness the impact it has had across the generations was something I hadn't really considered before this presentation.

2. **Please highlight a conference experience, other than attending a conference session. Did you talk to someone you didn't know at a session? Sit next to someone at a luncheon and have a meaningful conversation? Visit with an exhibitor? How did this experience affect your overall outlook of the conference?**
   I talked with a variety of librarians coming from different backgrounds and was surprised to see how many struggles and issues we all had in common when it came to creating programs to interest new patrons. Some of these larger libraries will offer a whole set of computer courses to various age groups and still barely have anyone show up. I always kind of assumed that the libraries with the significantly larger budgets always had an easier time catering to their patron's needs, but it would seem all libraries share the basic problem of holding the public's interest for new things and projects.

3. **As a result of attending this conference, what two things do you plan on implementing at your library in the next six months?**
   I've become aware of different technology grants and programs I would like to apply for, and see if we could add some new innovations to our library. The other thing I would like to do is bring back a golden oldie like "Story Time" for the Summer and see if we could interest new kids into the library that way.
4. **What kind of support is needed for you to implement these two things? Support from your staff? Your Board of Trustees?**

For the technological ones, a lot of that just comes down to properly researching the grants and knowing how to best write a presentation. As for the Story Time, that would just come down to aid from the other staff, which shouldn't be a problem since we already work great together for other similar activities.