



1) Statewide Data Dashboard Now Available

The Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC), in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and WiLS, has launched a statewide data dashboard pilot that is running from September 3 - December 31.

During the pilot period, all public library and system staff will have barrier-free access to a statewide data dashboard of public library data as reported in the Annual Report to DPI. The dashboard includes select data elements from [Wisconsin's public library service data](#) spanning 2015-2023 and includes the ability for individual libraries to visualize their own library's data as well as benchmark against other libraries and peer cohort averages. The [dashboard is available](#) on the WPLC website.

Why is this tool important?

- You get candy or an Amazon gift card
- Your feedback influences the future of a statewide dashboard
- The information can be used as a promotional and budget-planning tool

WVLS recognizes that time to explore this dashboard could be limited for its member libraries. From now until December, we are going to break down exploring sections of the dashboard in bite-sized pieces. Begin your data journey today by viewing the tutorial on [How to Navigate the Dashboard](#) and testing your new skills in the [pilot Data Dashboard](#).

Watch for "Data Dashboard Dissections" each month in Monday Mentions. The culmination of these dissections will be a questionnaire in December where, upon completion, libraries can receive a \$25 Amazon gift card. Stay tuned!

2) 'Tech Days' is This Week

Tech Days Wisconsin 2024 is this week. 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](#) - 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) Deadlines for Conference Scholarships

WVLS is pleased to announce two scholarship opportunities for its member libraries to attend upcoming conferences. Members who meet the requirements are eligible to apply for both.

- **Back in Circulation 2024 Conference Scholarship:** October 7-8, Pyle Center, UW-Madison
This scholarship provides \$1,075 to cover some/all of the costs.
Application deadline: 5 p.m. on Monday, September 16
- **2024 WLA Conference Scholarship:** November 5-8, KI Center, Green Bay
This scholarship provides \$1,200 to cover some/all of the costs.
Application deadline: 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 19

More information and applications for both scholarships can be found on the [WVLS Scholarships and Grants website](#).

4) Webinar on Engaging & Affirming Neurodivergent Youth in Community Spaces

The Youth Services Section (YSS) of the Wisconsin Library Association will host a webinar on Discover how Islands of Brilliance (IOB), a Milwaukee-based non-profit, uses art and creative technologies to empower autistic and neurodivergent individuals. Learn about The Fellowship program, IOB's latest initiative focused on transition-age participants in six mid and small-size cities across the state.

During the webinar, staff members will share valuable insights about supporting neurodivergent youth and young adults within community spaces. Mark your calendar for Thursday, November 14 at 3 pm and [register now](#) to be part of this event.

5) Reminders

- **WVLS will be placing the Fall 2024 order for item barcodes this month.** The next order will not be done until Spring 2025. The cost of barcodes varies depending on the size of the order. Approximate cost is \$20.00 - \$25.00 per thousand. Libraries in need of additional barcodes should [fill out this form](#) by Friday, September 20.
- **Fall 2024 V-Cat Training Sessions**
The [Fall 2024 V-Cat Training Sessions](#) are now fully scheduled. More information is available on the [V-Cat Training page](#).