



1) Delivery Tracking Begins This Week

All WVLS libraries (including branches) should track incoming and outgoing bins and bags for one week from October 26 - November 21. For example, a library that receives delivery on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday is considered “one week.” Libraries can choose which week they want to track. This data, from all public libraries in Wisconsin, will be used to study trends and delivery efficiencies among systems.

[Please enter the data on the Tally spreadsheet.](#) Note there are separate columns for “drop off” and “pick up,” as well as bins and bags. Read the notes on the “Instruction” tab before starting.

This data should be completed by Monday, November 24. Contact Jamie at jmatczak@wvls.org if you have any questions.

2) V-Cat Training and Upcoming Meeting

- Aspen Patron Experience & Collection Showcase Training
Tuesday, October 29 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. | [Link to attend](#)
Learn tips and tricks to help your patrons use Aspen. This will be a full tour of Aspen from the patron’s perspective along with additional information about how to showcase your library’s collections with browse categories and collection spotlights. Library staff new to Aspen or interested in a refresher training are encouraged to attend.
- V-Cat Council will meet Thursday, November 14 from 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. An agenda and meeting documents will be available on the [V-Cat Council meetings page](#) before the meeting. (Because of the WLA Conference next week, this meeting will occur the second Thursday of the month).

3) Public Library Staff Survey

The [2024 Public Library Staff Survey](#) fielded by the Public Library Association is now open. Questions on this year’s annual survey explore staff roles and representation, hiring and retention practices, and goals and activities aimed at creating a welcoming environment for staff and community members in libraries nationwide. Similar questions were asked on the [2021 Staff Survey](#).

All public libraries are invited to participate in PLA’s annual surveys. Log into your library’s free [Benchmark](#) account to complete the survey. One person should submit the survey on behalf of their library. Libraries that complete this year’s survey will be entered into a drawing to win group registration for a [live](#) or [on-demand](#) fee-based PLA webinar in 2025 (up to a \$237 value).

The survey closes Saturday, December 14. All inquiries and assistance required to access your library’s Benchmark account should be directed to the project team at plabenchmark@ala.org. Survey results will be released next summer via a summary report, conference presentations, and an online webinar.

4) 'Power Up' Scholarships Available

[Power Up: A Leadership Conference](#) for Youth Services Managers and Staff, brings together youth services librarians and staff from public libraries, schools, after-school programs, museums, and other community partners. Sponsored by The Information School at UW-Madison, this conference takes place virtually only on February 14-15, 2025.

WVLS is offering scholarships to cover registration for its member public libraries who have worked in youth services for at least two years. Scholarship recipients are required to attend the [full conference](#), with sessions from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on each day.

[The application must be completed](#) by 6 p.m. on Monday, November 4.

5) Opportunity to Apply: DPI STEAM Fellows

The Department of Public Instruction is looking to hire 15 STEAM fellows who will engage in professional development, collaborate with regional and statewide partners, and implement STEAM-related initiatives in their schools and communities. Fellows will participate in collaborative learning experiences, curate educational resources, develop a plan to locally engage underrepresented students in STEAM education, and share their learning with others. The fellowship, which includes a \$2,000 stipend, aims to foster innovation, equity, and excellence in STEAM education across Wisconsin.

Applications are due on Friday, November 8. [Learn more and apply](#). Contact Amanda Albrecht, Digital Learning Consultant at DPI, at amanda.albrecht@dpi.wi.gov, with questions.

6) Building Equity Based Summers Cohort Opportunity

Wisconsin is joining the national initiative [Building Equity Based Summers \(BEBS\)](#), funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Library Services Team is seeking six public libraries to join the 2025 BEBS Cohort, each represented by two staff members from various departments such as Youth Services, Adult Services, Programming, Outreach, or Administration. Participants will collaborate with co-facilitators Jeni Schomber and Kelly Wochinske to reimagine summer programs through an equity-focused perspective.

Applications open on Monday, November 11, and the selection process is expected to be competitive. More details will be available soon.

7) Next Ryan Dowd Training

Schizophrenia: An Interview with Esmé Weijun Wang
Thursday, November 14; 1 p.m.

Join Ryan Dowd for this interview and hear the candid and personal experiences of a New York Times best-selling author who struggles with Schizophrenia.

Contact Jamie at WVLS (jmatczak@wvls.org) for the registration link. The recording of the live training will be available for four weeks.

8) Reminder

Data Dashboard Dissection # 2:

The new, statewide data dashboard pilot of public library data as reported in the Annual Report to DPI continues to run through December 31. The [dashboard is available](#) on the WPLC website.

WVLS recognizes that time to explore this dashboard could be limited for its member libraries. From now until December, WVLS staff will break down exploring sections in bite-sized pieces for library directors and staff called “Data Dashboard Dissections.” WVLS member librarians who complete each task by the deadline indicated are eligible for a prize. Librarians who complete all four tasks by the deadlines will be eligible to receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

[Check out the second “Data Dashboard Dissection”](#) focusing on library budgets and staffing. This task, including submitting responses via a Google form, should be completed by Tuesday, October 29.