1) WVLS Hiring Public Library Services Consultant

WVLS is seeking an innovative, knowledgeable, and experienced team-oriented individual to provide professional and courteous consultant services, onsite and remotely, to 25 public libraries in its 7-county central Wisconsin service area. Candidates must have a master's degree in a library and information studies program that has been accredited by the American Library Association, and 5 years of professional experience in a public library setting.

Applications received by Friday, November 22, will receive first consideration. See the WVLS website for a complete job description and application information.

2) Delivery Tracking

All WVLS libraries (including branches) should track incoming and outcoming bins and bags for one week from October 26 - November 22. 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 25. Contact Jamie at jmatczak@wvls.org if you have any questions.

3) Data Dashboard Dissection #3

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 staff are breaking down exploring sections 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 third "Data Dashboard Dissection" focusing on library size and circulation. This task, including submitting responses via a Google form, should be completed by Tuesday, November 19.

Congratulations to Greenwood, Loyal, T.B. Scott (Merrill), and Minocqua for completing Data Dashboard Dissection # 2 !

4) What's New and What's Due

- The WVLS November Newsletter is now available. Features include: Marketing Support Grant Pilot Project Concludes, Tomahawk Catalogs Record Board Game, Minocqua Holds StoryTime at Local Museum, and more. WVLS libraries interested in featuring something in the December newsletter should contact Jamie Matczak by Wednesday, November 27 at jmatczak@wvls.org,

- 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 this week, this meeting will occur the second Thursday of the month.

- ALA invites applicants to apply as part of the third round of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities. The initiative will offer $3.5 million in grants to small and rural libraries to increase the accessibility of facilities, services and programs to better serve people with disabilities. Submit your proposal by Wednesday, December 11.

- 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) 2024 Virtual Performers Showcase

The 2024 Virtual Performers Showcase, presented by the WLA Youth Services Section, will connect performers with members of the Wisconsin library community through live virtual demonstrations and marketing materials offered by magicians, puppeteers, storytellers, musicians, and anyone who presents library programs for children, youth, teen, and family audiences. The online event will be held on Tuesday, December 3.

A digital directory of performers will be made available to attendees for future reference. A recording of the showcase will be available to registered attendees for 60 days after the event. Registration is $20 for WLA members, $40 for non-members. Visit the event webpage to learn more.

6) CSLP Virtual Summer Symposium

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) is hosting its Summer Symposium on December 5, 2024. This free virtual event will feature a series of engaging sessions aimed at enhancing summer reading programs. Highlights include a keynote by Mychal Threets on the inclusive power of libraries, a marketing workshop by Cari Hillman and Katie Rothley, and a creative programming session with Kate Brunner and Amanda Raiche.

The symposium will also address sustainability in summer reading programs, led by Keturah Cappadonia and Haleigh Mikolajczyk. Registration will open on Tuesday, November 5.

7) Reminder: 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.