



1) V-Cat Council This Thursday

The V-Cat Council meets on Thursday, February 6 at 9:30 a.m. Meeting documents are linked on the [V-Cat Agendas and Materials page](#). Additional documents will be shared as soon as they are available.

This meeting will be held at the WVLS office, with remote attendance as an option. Following the meeting, in-person attendees are welcome to gather for lunch. No business or official actions will be taken during this time.

Council members should contact Katie Zimmermann (ils.admin@wvls.org) by Wednesday, February 5 to confirm attendance online or in person, and if you plan to join the group for lunch.

Proxy assignment notifications must be made prior to the start of the meeting. Submit to both Katie Zimmermann (ils.admin@wvls.org) and Janay Ziebell (director@neillsville.lib.wi.us) by the end of day Wednesday, February 5 to ensure proxy assignments are documented.

2) Upcoming Webinars

The following webinar opportunities are sponsored by public library systems in Wisconsin.

- Materials Concern Preparedness: Leaning into the Challenge
Wednesday, February 19; 10 - 11 a.m. [Register](#)

Every Wisconsin public library should be prepared to respond to a materials concern or challenge. How can you be sure you're ready? This one-hour webinar will review why policies and procedures for selection and reconsideration are essential, key components of a strong policy, what staff and board members should know, and where Wisconsin libraries can turn for information and assistance at the time a material concern or challenge arises.

Presenters: Megan Schliesman and Tessa Michaelson Schmidt of the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, UW-Madison; and Teresa Schmidt, Public Library Administration Consultant, Library Services, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

- IFLS Webinar Series
 - A Community for All: Disability Inclusion in Library Services with Shelley Harris
Wednesday, February 19; 1 - 2:30 p.m. [Register](#)

"When children cannot find themselves reflected in the books they read, or when the images they see are distorted, negative, or laughable, they learn a powerful lesson about how they are devalued in the society of which they are a part." (Rudine Sims Bishop) This

is also true for community settings! To best serve patrons with disabilities, we need to understand their community, culture, and needs. Together, we will build a foundation of disability knowledge, explore disability experiences, learn how to provide safe and inclusive spaces, and more. Although the examples are youth focused, they can be adapted for any age.

- A Community for All: Building Lifelong Community Connections Through Programming with Shelley Harris
Wednesday, March 12, 1 - 2:30 p.m. [Register](#)
Seventy-seven percent of people with multiple disabilities don't engage in community activities. How can we reach this beautiful, vibrant community, gain their trust, and create programming and services that include and welcome them? We will discuss ways to make all of your programming more inclusive of people with disabilities, share examples of ways to build upon the work you already do, and more.

Both webinars will be recorded, captioned, and available on the IFLS website and IFLS Staff Academy. Each will provide 1.5 contact hours for public library directors certification.

3) Registration Open for “Lead the Way”

Registration is now open for Lead The Way: Libraries At The Heart Of Community Engagement 2025 Conference, held April 21-25. This is a hybrid conference. This year, attendees have the choice to participate in Madison at the Pyle Center or online! J Delve into strategies for building and maintaining relationships, programming for your community, and understanding what it means to be a community partner. The cost to attend is \$200-325. [Register today.](#)

4) Next Ryan Dowd Webinar

Dementia: How to Work with People with Dementia and Alzheimer's
Thursday, February 13; 1 p.m.

Topics covered:

- Symptoms of dementia and how it impacts the brain
- Communication “Do’s” and “Don’ts” when talking to someone with dementia
- Tools staff can use and how to “redirect”

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