



## State Superintendent Burmaster announces budget initiatives for next biennium

By **Mike Cross**, Director  
Public Library Development Team

On September 21, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster presented a budget request for the next biennium that includes the following library-related items:

- Public library system funding at the 13% index level of \$25,160,600 for 2007-08 and \$25,915,400 for 2008-09. This compares to 2006-07 funding of \$15,521,200.
- BadgerLink funding of \$2,519,600 for 2007-08 and \$2,568,900 for 2008-09. This compares to 2006-07 funding of \$2,030,500. The requested funding would allow for the addition to BadgerLink of one or more encyclopedias and/or materials to assist pupils in completing classroom assignments.
- Library service contract funding for the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (WRLBPH), the Milwaukee Public Library, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS), and the Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) totaling \$1,134,200 for 2007-08 and \$1,097,200 for 2008-09. This compares to 2006-07 funding of \$876,900. The

requested funding would improve contracted service levels and allow the WRLBPH to upgrade their technology to allow for the delivery of digital talking books.

- Library delivery service funding of \$382,000 for 2007-08 and \$401,000 for 2008-09. This funding would cover statewide backbone delivery costs currently incurred by public library systems and LSTA funds.
- NFB-Newsline funding to support newspapers accessible by telephone for blind and physically handicapped people, \$106,000 for 2007-08 and \$108,000 for 2008-09. This includes funds for the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for provision of technical support and registration of users.

A summary and copy of the full DPI biennial budget request are available on the DPI’s web site at <http://dpi.wisconsin.gov/pb/index.html>.

The budget request will now be reviewed by the Governor, who will submit a proposed budget to the legislature early in 2007. ☼

## Applications received for 2007 LSTA projects

By **Peg Branson**, LSTA and Continuing Education Consultant  
Public Library Development Team

Sixty applications for Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) projects to take place in 2007 were submitted by public libraries, public library systems, and the Department of Corrections. The applications requested funds for a variety of projects. Outside reviewers (librarians from around the state) will evaluate the applications submitted in the competitive grant categories. The projects, grant category rankings, and overall LSTA program for 2007 will be reviewed by the LSTA Advisory Committee at its meeting on November 29-30. State Superintendent

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## IMTT holds annual regional meetings around state

By Kate Bugher,  
School Library Media Consultant  
Instructional Media and Technology Team

Guided by the theme “21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and PK-12 Education: Moving From Literacy to Fluency,” Keynote speakers Tom Still, President, Wisconsin Technology Council; David J. Ward, President, Northstar Economics, and Rick Grobschmidt, Assistant State Superintendent for the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning, engaged over 450 Wisconsin educators highlighting the economic indicators that impact educational policy and practice to kick-off the Instructional Media and Technology Team’s series of regional meetings October 5, 6, 12 & 13.

The speakers specifically noted the need for Wisconsin to produce workers competent in a 21<sup>st</sup> century skill set to assist the state in continuing its economic shift from a manufacturing focus to knowledge worker focus.

The day-long meetings in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin Dells, Rice Lake and Neenah

provided participating school district administrators, teachers, and technology, curriculum and library media specialists with information on state and federal grants and issues, updates on current research centering on technology and student achievement recently completed in Wisconsin and a host of other topics related to school libraries and educational technology.

In addition to DPI staff presenting on various topics, a representative from the Illinois Math and Science Academy described their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Information Fluency Project, and technology projects funded by Title IID were showcased by several school districts. Participants were updated on new programs by staff from the Wisconsin ECB and from TeachingBooks.net.

IMTT staff provided further information on 21<sup>st</sup> century information and communication technology skills, the findings of recently completed school library and educational technology impact studies, the grade 8 technology literacy requirement, and other pertinent information from federal and state government programs. Copies of the program materials are available from the IMTT website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/imt>.



**David J. Ward, left, President, Northstar Economics; Tom Still, top right, President, Wisconsin Technology Council, and Rick Grobschmidt, above right, Assistant State Superintendent for the DLTCL, were the keynote speakers at this year’s Instructional Media and Technology regional meetings.**

### Channel

A Newsletter of the Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning

September-October 2006  
Volume 42, Number 1

Channel (ISSN 0146-1095) is published every-other month by the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Its primary purpose is to provide information on the services of the DLTCL and matters of interest to libraries and school library media centers in Wisconsin. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds partially support Channel publication. LSTA is administered at the federal level by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Send comments about bylined articles to the authors. Direct other content inquiries to editor Roslyn Wise at (608) 266-6439 ([roslyn.wise@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:roslyn.wise@dpi.state.wi.us)). To make mailing list changes, contact Peg Branson at (608) 266-2413 ([peg.branson@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:peg.branson@dpi.state.wi.us)).

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## LSTA — from page 1

Elizabeth Burmaster will announce the grant awards by the end of December.

The preliminary dollars budgeted for each grant category, the dollars requested in the applications, and the number of applications received, are listed below. Some of the grant categories are noncompetitive; others are competitive.

Library System Technology Projects: \$370,000 budgeted and requested; 17 applications

Shared Automated Systems Projects: \$275,000 budgeted; \$291,425 requested; 7 applications

Digitization Projects: \$35,000 budgeted; \$40,597 requested; 9 applications

Delivery Projects: \$75,000 budgeted and requested; 2 applications

Literacy Projects: \$230,000 budgeted; \$362,929 requested; 18 applications

Disabilities Projects: \$125,000 budgeted; \$102,648 requested; 6 applications

State Institution Coordination: \$15,000 budgeted and requested; 1 application

The total budgeted for these categories was \$1,125,000; the total requested was \$1,257,599.

For more information, contact Peg Branson, LSTA program coordinator, at (608) 266-2413 or [peg.branson@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:peg.branson@dpi.state.wi.us) ✉

## Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction,  
125 South Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841;  
(800) 441-4563, fax (608) 267-1052  
[www.dpi.wi.gov/dltcl](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/dltcl)

**Richard Grobschmidt**  
Division Administrator ..... (608) 266-2205

**Public Library Development Team**  
**Michael Cross**, Director ..... 267-9225  
**Robert Bocher**, Consultant  
Technology ..... 266-2127  
**Peg Branson**, Consultant  
LSTA and Continuing Education ..... 266-2413  
**John DeBacher**, Consultant  
Public Library Administration ..... 266-7270  
**Barbara Huntington**, Consultant  
Public Library Youth and Special Services ..... 267-5077  
**Alan Zimmerman**, Consultant  
Public Library System Administration & Finance ..... 266-3939

**Instructional Media and Technology Team**  
**Stephen Sanders**, Director ..... 266-3856  
**Kate Bugher**, School Library Consultant  
Instructional Media and Technology ..... 267-9287  
**Barry Golden**, Education Consultant  
Evaluating States Education Technology Programs ..... 267-2373  
**Stuart Ciske**, Technology Consultant  
Instructional Technology Planning & Integration ..... 267-9289  
**Donna Steffan**, Technology Consultant  
Information & Technology Literacy Standards & Integration ..... 267-1282

**DPI Library & Statistical Information Center**  
**Kay Ihlenfeldt**, Team Leader ..... 266-3108

**Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing Team**  
2109 S. Stoughton Rd., Madison, WI 53716; fax 224-6178  
**Sally J. Drew**, Director ..... 224-6161  
**Circulation Desk** ..... 224-6169  
**Mary Clark**, Team Leader  
Resource Sharing Technology ..... 224-6179  
**Loretta Harmatuck**  
Government Services ..... 224-6165  
**Mary Struckmeyer**, Team Leader  
Reference and Interloan ..... 224-6168  
**Willeen Tretheway**  
Audiovisual and Technical Services ..... 224-6171  
**Terry Wilcox**  
Interlibrary Loan Services ..... 224-6163  
**Vickie Long**  
WISCAT User Support ..... 224-5394

**Wisconsin Child Care Information Center**  
**Lita Haddal**, Director ..... (800) 362-7353 or (608) 224-5388

To send e-mail, use the following format (all lowercase letters):  
firstname.lastname@dpi.state.wi.us

## Statewide Resource Contacts

### Cooperative Children's Book Center

4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706  
[ccbinfo@education.wisc.edu](mailto:ccbinfo@education.wisc.edu) ..... [www.education.wisc.edu/ccbcb/](http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbcb/)  
Kathleen Horning, Director ..... (608) 263-3720

### Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan

814 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233-2385  
Brian Hannemann, Interlibrary Loan Librarian ..... (414) 286-3082

### WILS/Interlibrary Loan

728 State Street, Rooms 464 and B106B, Madison, WI 53706-1494  
[schneid@wils.wisc.edu](mailto:schneid@wils.wisc.edu) ..... <http://www.wils.wisc.edu/>  
Kathy Schneider, Director ..... (608) 263-2773

### Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

813 West Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233-1436  
<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dltcl/rll/lbphinfo.html>  
Marsha Valance, Regional Librarian ..... (800) 242-8822



## AV Wisconsin 2006

By **Willeen Tretheway**, Audio Services Librarian  
Reference and Loan Library

People and peoples and places in Wisconsin deserve celebration, and some recent DVD and video productions do just that and are described here. Through profiles of individuals, groups of people, and communities, we learn of the influence of the history, diversity, and cultural values that shaped and continue to shape Wisconsin, and we learn of their contributions to the growth and reputation of our state—the effects of some of those contributions extending well beyond its borders. Other programs offer views of societal concerns, natural beauty, and the vibrancy of interests and human activity found in the state. All of these programs are additions to the growing body of audiovisual materials that document Wisconsin's rich past and present.

These programs are available for loan from the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library. A brief, non-evaluative description is given for each title, and the library's call number is included as an identifier for the convenience of borrowers. The address of the producer or distributor is provided for those wishing to inquire about purchase. WISCAT, Wisconsin's statewide union catalog of library holdings (<http://www.wiscat.net>) may be consulted for additional information on each title and for other materials on the topic.

Materials may be borrowed from the Reference and Loan Library free of charge except for return shipping when it applies. They may be requested through regular interlibrary loan channels. Optionally, libraries and library media centers of all types, schools, organizations, and agencies may call or send requests for DVDs and videos directly to Reference and Loan. Individual borrowers should request materials on interlibrary loan through their library. For further information on materials or how to request them, contact the Reference and Loan Library: 2109 S. Stoughton Rd., Madison, WI 53716-2899; phone, (888)542-5543, option 3 (in state) or (608)224-6169; fax, (608)224-6178; email, [rlill@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:rlill@dpi.state.wi.us).

*A Remarkable Man* (DVD: 2005; 82 minutes) is a documentary about Ed Thompson, former boxer and professional poker player, and brother of former Wisconsin governor Tommy Thompson. It tells of his determination to not compromise his principles when his Tomah, Wisconsin, supper club was raided for illegal gambling activities, and of his outrage that led him into politics. The program describes his term as mayor of Tomah from 1999 to 2001, follows his

unsuccessful run for governor on the Libertarian ticket in 2002, and shows some of his philanthropic activities in the community. (DVD V-147) (EnoYaw, Ltd., Productions, 7545 N. Port Washington Rd., Glendale, WI 53217; 414-352-1944; <http://remarkableman.com>) (Note: This program is licensed for home use only and does not have public performance rights; all copyright restrictions apply)

*St. Croix River: A River of Dreams* (DVD: 2005; 120 minutes) presents scenic views and a history of the St. Croix River that starts at lake St. Croix in Solon Springs, Wisconsin, and near Danbury becomes a border river with Minnesota, and then flows south to meet the Mississippi River near Prescott, Wisconsin. The program tells of the Native Americans, fur trade, and logging in this area of Minnesota and Wisconsin. It describes the state and national forests, parks, and wildlife refuges that are along the river, the river's tributaries, the species of freshwater mussels found in the river, and life along the its shores today. It shows attractions of the historic river towns, scenery, activities, and events found along this corridor that has become the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. (DVD V-141) (Joe Narusiewicz/North Winds & Blues Audio Visual Studio, P.O. Box 32, South St. Paul, MN 55075; 651-245-8997; available from Minnesota Historical Society online store: <http://shop.mnhs.org>)

*Wis-Kino Madison 150* (DVD: 2006; 70 minutes) is a collection of fifteen short films by local amateur filmmakers of various ages in celebration of Madison, Wisconsin's sesquicentennial in 2006. The films, ranging from thirty seconds to nine minutes in length, were selected through a juried competition and include historical and biographical documentaries and entertainment pieces about Madison and Dane County. Contents: "Can You Say Sesquicentennial?" (Cherokee Middle School AV Club); "Sense of Place: 102 East Gorham St." (Cynthia Cauthern, Jill Hopke, Amanda Werhane); "Wisconsin Tourism Video" (Aaron Yonda); "Hoofers, Since 1931" (John Feith); "How Bucky Badger Came to Be" (Cherokee Claymation Club); "Matt Sloan" (Matt Sloan, Aaron Yonda); "Madison Prose" (Pascale Marcotte); "Akira Toki: the American Japanese" (Madison Metropolitan School District: Lindy Anderson, Shelby Floyd); "My Town" (Maiya Hotchkiss, Larry Gundlach); "The Human Duck" (Jericho Jeudy); "Pay Dirt: How to Run a Car on Vegetable Oil" (Tona Williams); "The Making of the Wisconsin Quarter" (Cherokee Claymation Club); "Cut" (Wendy Schneider); "Status Quo" (Justin Sprecher); "Play Record" (Craig Knitt). (DVD V-148) (Wis-Kino, PO Box 904,

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Madison, WI 53703; wis-kino@wis-kino.com; <http://www.wis-kino.com>)

*The World's Best Prom* (DVD: 2006; 80 minutes) is a documentary by OVO and Matson Films on “an American rite of passage—taken to the extreme.” It is about Racine, Wisconsin’s citywide tradition of an after-prom prom party, an extraordinary event started in 1953 by the local Rotary Club after a fatal alcohol-related car accident. The filmmakers look at the cultural meaning of prom for American teenagers as they follow several high school students in the days leading up to the 2000 celebration, and shows the parade of prom-goers from seven city high schools as they converge at the central party, complete with outrageous forms of transportation, red carpet entrances, and television coverage for the community. The DVD contains special features including prom reminiscences from celebrities, comments from the filmmakers, prom photos, and historical footage of the 1953 Racine prom and of Racine in 1951. (DVD V-156) (Available from distributors or from Matson Films at <http://www.worldsbestprom.com>) (Note: *This program is licensed for home use only and does not have public performance rights; all copyright restrictions apply*)

Two new programs in the *Native American Educational Series* from Discover Mediaworks are now available in both DVD and VHS formats. They illustrate that the six bands of Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin share similarities but that each has its own characteristics. *The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibway* (2006; 35 minutes) examines the Bad River Reservation of today and the efforts of the people to unite ancestral teachings and sacred customs with progressive attitudes in order to make things better for their descendants. (DVD V-143; VHS V-7557). *The Mole Lake Sokaogon Band of Lake Superior Ojibway* (2006; 34 minutes) tells some of the history of the Sokaogon Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, once referred to as the “lost band” and noted in government reports as starving and destitute. The program describes the determination and spirit of the people and of their ultimate victory after a long battle against a large mining conglomerate to protect their resources and way of life. (DVD V-144; VHS V-7558)

These programs are numbers 17 and 18 in the series. The earlier programs were described in “Audiovisual Wisconsin” columns in previous issues of *Channel* and are summarized in the “Audiovisual Wisconsin” column appearing in the September/October, 2005, issue of *Channel* (<http://dpi.wi.gov/channel/pdf/chn4101.pdf>)

(Discover Mediaworks, 5236 Hwy 70 West, Eagle River, WI 54521; phone 715-477-1500; [www.discovermediaworks.com](http://www.discovermediaworks.com); [www.act31resources.com](http://www.act31resources.com))

The following two programs were produced in 2005 by NEWIST/CESA 7:

*Earth Day and Beyond: Gaylord Nelson's Good Fight* (DVD: 60 minutes; closed-captioned; with guide) is a documentary about former Wisconsin governor and U.S. senator, Gaylord Nelson, and his life and outstanding achievements, particularly in the area of environmental protection and as founder of Earth Day. The program presents personal background of this man from Clear Lake, Wisconsin, describes his government service, and tells of his work to preserve the environment in Wisconsin and in the nation. (DVD V-137) (See also *Gaylord Nelson Memorial Service*, below).

*You Don't Want to Live in My House* (DVD: 30 minutes; closed-captioned; with guide) is a program in which inmates and officials at the Green Bay Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison in Wisconsin, tell about and show the reality of being confined to prison. They describe what life is like behind walls, the cramped living space, the rules, routine and daily monotony, the lack of freedom, personal control and privacy, the stifling of individual potential, and the loneliness. Inmates tell how they ended up in prison and give the advice to stay out of trouble and avoid experiencing prison life. The documentary was videotaped primarily by the prison inmates and was their effort to deter juveniles from crime. (DVD V-110) (NEWIST/CESA 7, 2420 Nicolet Drive, IS 1040, Green Bay, WI 54311; 800-633-7445; [www.uwgb.edu/newist](http://www.uwgb.edu/newist))

The following programs were produced by Wisconsin Public Television. (Wisconsin Public Television, Program Marketing, 821 University Ave., Madison, WI 53706; (608)263-4575; <http://www.wpt.org>)

*Birds of Wisconsin: An In Wisconsin Special* (DVD: 2006; 60 minutes; with optional English subtitles) shows birds in all parts of Wisconsin, explaining that Wisconsin’s lakes and the Mississippi flyway attract nearly 400 species of birds that live or visit the state. Among those featured in the program are eagles, common terns, great grey owls, tundra swans, and whooping cranes. The program also looks at the quinquennial survey done of waterbirds along Lake Superior, at the work of bird-watcher and wildlife rehabilitator, Marge Gibson, and at some birding sites including Crex Meadows

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Wildlife Area in Burnett County and the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. (DVD V-145)

*Janesville (Wisconsin Hometown Stories)* (DVD: 2006; 60 minutes; with optional English subtitles) is the first in a projected series of programs about the history of individual Wisconsin cities and towns produced as a partnership of the Wisconsin Historical Society and Wisconsin Public Television. In this program, archival images and current footage are used to tell the history of Janesville, located on the Rock River in Rock County. It looks at the evolution of the city from its early days to the present, telling its story of social and political reform, business development, and its people, and of its part in the state's growth. (DVD V-146)

*Gaylord Nelson Memorial Service* (DVD: 2005; 105 minutes) presents the live coverage of the memorial service for former Wisconsin governor, former U.S. senator, environmentalist, and founder of Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson (June 4, 1916–July 3, 2005), held at the Wisconsin state capitol on July 13, 2005. A retrospective of Nelson's life and work, including an interview with his friend and colleague, Bill Bechtel, and hosted by Frederica Freyberg, precedes the service. Speakers at the service include William H. Meadows, Thomas Petri, David Obey, Walter Mondale, Jim Doyle, and Tia Nelson, and music is provided by the Clear Lake Public Schools Brass Quintet. (DVD V-114) (See also *Earth Day and Beyond: Gaylord Nelson's Good Fight*, above)

*Senator William Proxmire Memorial Service* (DVD: 2006; ca. 110 minutes) is a recording of the live coverage of the memorial service for William Proxmire, former U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, held at the Wisconsin state capitol on February 10, 2006. Proxmire (November 11, 1915–December 15, 2005) was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1957 and served until 1989, and was known for his Golden Fleece Award. Speeches at the service were by Wisconsin's U.S. Representatives David Obey and Ron Kind, U.S. Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold, former governor Patrick Lucey, Governor Jim Doyle, and family friends. Remarks were followed by a filmed presentation entitled "Senator William Proxmire, One of a Kind: A Tribute," that features highlights from his campaigns and his service to the state and the nation. (DVD V-154)

*Wisconsin WWII Stories, Part Five: Legacy* (DVD and VHS: 2005; 90 minutes; DVD has optional subtitles; VHS is closed-captioned) is the fifth in a series capturing stories of Wisconsin World War II veterans and of citizens who

remained on the home front. In this program, veterans remember the war years, the Wisconsin people who were lost, coming home from the war and the adjustment to civilian life, the changes in society, and how they worked to build a future. Highlighted are University of Wisconsin 1942 football team members who went to war, the flying ace from Pepin, Richard Ira Bong, the time of victory and the surrender of Japan, and the effects of the GI Bill. Archival film footage showing end-of-war events and early post-war conditions is interspersed with the contemporary footage of comments from veterans. An honor roll of the names of the 8432 Wisconsin men and women who did not return from the war follows the program. (DVD V-116; VHS V-7545) Related learning resources are found on the Internet at <http://www.wisconsinstories.org>.

Four new VHS videocassette programs in Wisconsin Public Television's *The Wisconsin Gardener* series bring the number of available segments to 52. In this series, master gardener Shelley F. Ryan and guest experts visit gardens and give advice about plant varieties and gardening in Wisconsin's land and climate conditions. The programs include how-to information on crafts and cookery related to plants, gardens, and crops. Each program is 30 minutes long and is closed-captioned. "The Wisconsin Gardener" Web site offers resources and transcripts of programs: <http://www.wpt.org/garden>. Descriptions of the other programs in the series may be found on WISCAT (<http://www.wiscat.net>) or in the Reference and Loan Library's catalog, SALCAT (<http://salcat.dpi.state.wi.us>).

*Plant Communities* (2005) describes edible corn smut known as the Mexican delicacy huitlacoche and other plant infections that have beneficial properties, explains efforts to keep the Emerald ash borer out of Wisconsin, and tells about plant communities. (VHS V-7544)

*Sticks & Twigs* (2006) looks at pruning shrubs and tree grafting, and demonstrates making tabletop fountains and making faerie furniture using pruned twigs and sticks. (VHS V-7553)

*Pot It* (2006) explains how to do container gardening and shows various types of container plantings, and demonstrates how to fashion containers from Styrofoam. (VHS V-7554)

*Secret Gardens & Living Fences* (2006) includes a visit to a backyard garden, information on varieties of clematis, and advice on how to plant a tree and how to make a living willow fence. (VHS V-7559) ✨

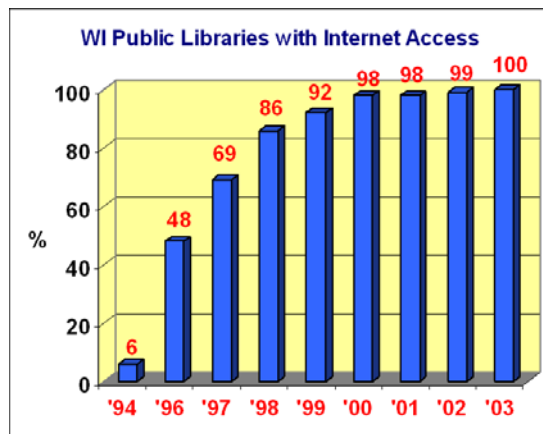


## DLTCL reports on Internet access and filtering in state's public libraries

By **Bob Bocher**, Library Technology Consultant  
Public Library Development Team

### Background

Since 1991 the state's Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) has



been surveying the status of technology in Wisconsin's public libraries. The survey done in 1994 was the first to ask about Internet access. At that time just 6% of the state's public libraries reported any type of Internet access. That figure increased substantially in the next few years, so that 98% of the libraries reported having Internet access by 2000. Some of this increase resulted from the library division's allocation of federal LSTA funds to assist libraries in paying for Internet access. Another factor was the availability of inexpensive telecommunication data lines provided through the state's TEACH program. As can be seen in the chart above, 2003 marked the first year that all public libraries in the state had Internet access. Furthermore, almost all public libraries have direct, broadband Internet access. Most direct access is via datalines subsidized by the TEACH program

and using wide area networks (WANs) managed by the state's regional library systems. (All 17 library systems have WANs for Internet access.) Several libraries have broadband access through their local cable provider or DSL access through their local phone company.

### Internet Filtering in Wisconsin Public Libraries

Public library Internet access has brought with it many issues not always present in a more traditional, print-based service environment. A public library's broad mission is to serve the information needs of any and all patrons, with the fewest restrictions possible. However, the Internet poses challenges to this mission that are a subject

of continuing debate in the library community. From one perspective, the Internet and the Web have made it easier to serve the information needs of patrons. For example, the division's BadgerLink program ([www.badgerlink.net](http://www.badgerlink.net)) provides free access for Wisconsin residents to over 11,000 magazines and 700 newspapers. But access to vast amounts of information via the Web has challenged the library community to provide such access with the least restrictions. This issue most clearly comes into focus when library staff realize that some patrons may be accessing sexually explicit Websites. To address Internet use in the library, including access to "adult" content, public libraries have developed Internet Acceptable Use Policies (AUP), and some have chosen to take the additional step of installing Internet filters.

The issue of filtering became a "front burner" issue for many public librarians with the passage by Congress in December 2000 of CIPA—the Children's Internet Protection Act. CIPA mandated the use of filters on all Internet workstations (staff and patron) to protect against obscene images. The law applied if a public library used federal LSTA or E-rate funds to pay for Internet access or purchase PC workstations. CIPA was subject to a law suit initiated by ALA, the ACLU, and others claiming the Act broadly infringed upon First Amendment rights. Although found unconstitutional at the lower court level, the law was upheld by the Supreme Court in June 2003. Per the Court's action, libraries had to comply with CIPA's filtering provision by July 1, 2004, or forfeit certain uses of LSTA and E-rate funds.

Libraries that had been filtering before CIPA's mandate are generally the ones that have elected to continue filtering after its mandate. Libraries that did not filter before CIPA had to decide whether to filter or decline E-rate funding. There is some evidence that a number of libraries have decided to forgo E-rate funding rather than be required to filter. For example, nationwide there was a 25% reduction in the amount of Internet discounts requested for E-rate from 2003 to 2004. Some of this decrease was certainly the result of libraries dropping out of the E-rate program because of CIPA. Many libraries do not want to implement filters because of First Amendment issues and the realization that filters are imperfect and will block access to legitimate Websites. First Amendment issues notwithstanding, for some libraries the

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# Auto-Graphics wins contract for WISCAT services

By Sally Drew, Director  
Reference and Loan Library

The Department of Public Instruction has signed a contract with Auto-Graphics, Inc. to provide new revamped WISCAT services. Auto-Graphics will provide a single vendor version of a hybrid union/virtual catalog and an interlibrary loan management system. This new system will replace the existing WISCAT union catalog, ZPORTAL virtual catalog, and VDX interlibrary loan management system the state has used since 2002.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) process for this next generation resource sharing system was completed in September 2006. Four vendors responded to the RFP: Auto-Graphics, OCLC/Fretwell

Downing, SirsiDynix, and WebFeat. Auto-Graphics was selected as having the product that best fits the defined needs. Although the RFP also requested proposals for federated searching and cataloging, the evaluation committee recommended that these additional functions not be purchased in 2007. Division staff will evaluate the feasibility of using federated searching to incorporate searching and authentication of BadgerLink resources during 2007, and, if funding is available and it is technically feasible, consideration will be given to incorporating this function in 2008.

Division staff met with and briefed the following groups about the new contract: LSTA Advisory Committee, Council on

Library and Network Development, Library Information Technology Advisory Committee, public library system directors, and public library system interlibrary loan staff. During these discussions, staff and committee members discussed the future name of the resource sharing program and it was decided that there was not any need to change the name of the program. With a single vendor offering all services, the program will be called WISCAT and the name WISCATILL will be dropped.

Division staff has begun working on the transition process and has developed proposed schedules and activities. Auto-Graphics will upgrade the union catalog

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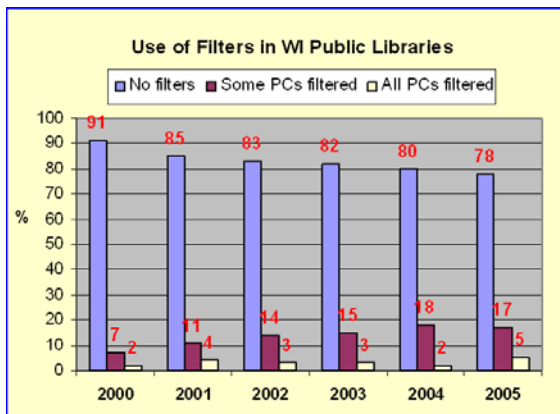
cost of procuring and administering Internet filters would exceed the funds the library received from the E-rate or LSTA programs. Added to this is the cost of public service staff time needed to turn off the filter upon request by a patron. This filter

is important to note that regardless of CIPA or a decision by the library not to implement filters, no one in a public library has a Constitutional right to view obscene images or read obscene text.

represents nineteen of the state's 388 public libraries.

### Conclusion

Every public library in Wisconsin now offers its patron's access to the Internet, and 99% have direct, broadband access. Most public libraries in the state have elected not to filter Internet content. The decision not to filter is most often related to the cost of filtering and/or concerns that filters are imperfect and can block access to useful content that is not obscene. Addressing what types of information or services patrons can access via the Internet is often addressed via the library's Internet Acceptable Use Policy. If you have any questions on Internet use in the state's public libraries please contact Bob Bocher, Library Technology Consultant, (robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us, 608-266-2127).✪



disabling provision is expressly allowed by CIPA and was strongly reinforced in the Supreme Court's decision. Thus, for many libraries, the decision whether to filter is not just a First Amendment issue; it is a straightforward budget decision. It

In Wisconsin the question of Internet filters was first asked in the 2001 technology survey. The graph at the right shows the status of filtering since that time. As can be seen, there has been a slow but steady increase in the number of libraries filtering at least some of their workstations. Libraries filtering selectively will almost always filter workstations in the children's area. The number of libraries filtering all workstations has remained consistently low, although there was a marked increase from 2% in 2004 to 5% in 2005. The 2005 figure of 5%



## Gates Foundation funds Rural Library Sustainability Project

By John DeBacher, Public Library Administration Consultant  
Public Library Development Team

According to a study conducted at the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs (Heuertz et al, 2003), rural and small libraries — defined as libraries with legal service areas of 25,000 or less — account for four-fifths of public libraries in the U.S. In addition to

the usual challenges experienced by all libraries, these small and rural libraries are often faced with challenges of geographic isolation and more limited access to staff training opportunities, tech support, and services such as Internet connections. These challenges are compounded by the fact that the majority of rural and small libraries have experienced increased

patronage as a result of installing public access computers. At the same time, local funds to maintain and replace public access computers and software generally have not increased. In fact, many of these libraries rely on one-time gifts or donations to cover their public access computing costs. The costs of bringing in an outside technician can

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software to the latest version which will also include the virtual catalog and interlibrary loan management system. Staff is working on configuration of the Z39.50 catalogs and transfer of data from VDX to define the interlibrary loan routing paths, create the library location information, and carry out other configuration functions.

Division and vendor staff members have scheduled training sessions in October and November for library staff to learn how to use the new automated system.

The new resource sharing system will allow library staff members and patrons to enjoy a number of exciting new features. To see a more detailed list of features available with the new system, go to: [http://www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/pdf/New\\_features.pdf](http://www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/pdf/New_features.pdf).

Unlike the current system, the new product will use a single integrated user interface for the hybrid union/virtual catalog as well as for the interlibrary loan management system. Search results can be deduplicated and resorted so that records from multiple catalogs are displayed together. In addition, the seamless search interface between the union and virtual catalogs is expected to reduce the need to batch upload records to the union catalog for those local catalogs that are Z39.50 compliant.

The new product is extremely customizable. It allows customization and “branding” down to the regional or local library level. Each library or region can easily create its own customized splash page for the catalog if they wish.

While the look and feel of the WISCAT search environment (including creation of interlibrary loan requests), will remain much the same as the current product with which most users are familiar, the look and feel of the new interlibrary loan management system will change quite a bit for the better. Interlibrary loan screens and terminology are much simpler in the new system.

The product can be configured so that it will require library users to borrow from their own library or region prior to requesting materials from other libraries outside their region and will display an alert to the patron if a requested item is locally owned.

A long-sought-after feature in the new system, allows it to check the shelf status of a potential lender's Z39.50 catalog, prior to sending a request to that lender, and then skip the location if the item is checked out or otherwise not available; it can also check the policy statement of a potential lender prior to sending a request, and can skip the location if their policy indicates that the library does not

lend the type of media requested (e.g., does not lend DVDs).

The product facilitates many of the ILL clearinghouse functions that have traditionally been handled by some Wisconsin public library systems. In addition, it allows the continuation of email alerts to low volume responding libraries, email notifications to a library's patron, and automatically sending requests via email protocol to libraries that do not use the system directly. Division staff views these as important features towards the effort to be as inclusive of as many small libraries as possible in the resource sharing system.

Division staff has also had to reevaluate the fee structure for WISCAT. The preliminary budget for WISCAT for 2007, approved in the spring of 2006, was reduced by \$28,200 and union contracts settlements increased staff costs. Vendor contract costs remained at about the same level for 2007.

Therefore, it was necessary to make up these shortfalls by increasing fees. The new cost of WISCAT will be \$200 beginning January 2007. Order forms have been sent to libraries and a copy can also be downloaded from the WISCAT website. Libraries should return the order form as soon as possible even though payment does not need to be made prior to January 2007. ☺

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be prohibitive, and the library's isolation and limited staff levels make it difficult to participate in regional training and meetings where "best practices" to support public access computer are shared.

In answer to the special challenges faced by rural and small libraries in sustaining their public access computing, the Rural Library Sustainability Project is intended to support small and rural libraries and librarians in implementing community-specific action plans for addressing these challenges. The project, funded through a grant by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is a collaborative effort between WebJunction, state library agencies throughout the country, and rural and small library staff. Participating states initially send a trainer to WebJunction's "Train the Trainer" Institute: Sustaining Public Access in Rural Libraries. The curriculum for this Institute focuses on issues and challenges that rural library staffs typically identify as obstacles in sustaining public access computing. The trainers who attend the institute then go out and replicate similar workshops in their state.

The goals of the project are to:

- Increase the number of small and rural libraries developing and implementing action plans for sustaining and expanding public access computing in their communities.
- Facilitate a forum of selected workshop participants (at least 3 from each state) to meet at the ALA annual conference and discuss the results of their workshops, share examples of best practices, and continue to

develop action plans for sustainability.

- Create an online community through WebJunction as a means of combating the isolation often experienced by librarians in rural and small libraries. This community will allow continued sharing and collaboration between workshop participants as well as communication with other rural librarians.

In order to accomplish these goals, Wisconsin's trainer and Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) consultant John DeBacher will conduct a number of regional workshops for local libraries focused on seven conditions of sustainability, as identified by WebJunction research:

1. Library Connections: discovering ways to stay connected to others.
2. Technology Connections: in-house and outside technical support.
3. Upgrade and Maintenance: hardware and software inventory, maintenance, and upgrade.
4. Staff and Patron Training: staff training and training resources, patron training.
5. Funding: grants, gifts/donations, fundraisers, other sources.
6. Outreach: needs assessment, promotion, community partners.
7. Advocacy: assembling data on impact, identifying/working with community leaders.

The workshops will be tailored to the specific needs of the participating libraries; thus those conditions which participants identify as most important or challenging to them will be the focus of the workshops.

Workshops, beginning this winter and continuing through May 2007, will be offered to directors of libraries throughout Wisconsin, with priority to directors of libraries serving rural areas or with service populations under 25,000. The workshops are geared to library directors who will develop and take home action plans to address at least three of the seven conditions of sustainability listed above. However, if the library director is unable to participate, another staff member or a library trustee may be designated by the library director to participate and develop an action plan to be carried out. Participants are eligible for six continuing education hours. Grant funds are available for travel, meals, lodging, and substitute wages. And, three participants will be eligible to win an expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. for the annual ALA conference in June, 2007.

Tentative workshop locations are scheduled for: Waterford, February 27; De Pere, March 7; Rice Lake, March 13; Fond du Lac, April 3; Fennimore, April 12; Hurley, April 18; Wausau, April 19; Sparta, April 26; Eau Claire, May 2; and Madison, tbd. Please watch for more information on locations and dates. Information will be posted as it becomes available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/rural.html>. For additional information contact John DeBacher (608/266-7270; [john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us)) or Bob Bocher (608/266-2127; [robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us)) of the Division staff. ☼

## ALA conference attendees help with Katrina cleanup efforts

By **Bob Bocher**, Library Technology Consultant  
Public Library Development Team

This year's annual ALA conference was in New Orleans during the last week in June. It was the largest conference to be held in the city since hurricane Katrina. Much of the area near the conference center and the adjacent French Quarter had not been flooded, or had just minimal flooding. However, many shops, especially in the popular Riverwalk Marketplace area, remain closed, primarily because they cannot find enough employees. (The hotel I was in had over 40 of its staff staying in the hotel itself because they had no other housing.)

As part of the ALA's efforts to help in cleanup efforts, the association sponsored two days (Friday, June 23 and Tuesday, June 27) for conference attendees to volunteer to help in the more flood-stricken areas of the city. A total of about 900 volunteered to help on one of the two days and I signed up for the Tuesday cleanup.

While the downtown area showed few signs of Katrina's impact, it was only a matter of minutes after the bus left the conference center early Tuesday morning till the impact of the storm became very evident. For many blocks abandoned cars still littered the streets. (We were told there were still 30,000 abandoned cars in the city and authorities were having problems locating the owners, because many no longer lived in the city.) There were piles of junk everywhere—often 10-15 feet high, covering vacant lots or just piled in someone's front yard. The junk included household appliances, furniture, clothing, and sometimes whole sections of walls and roofs. We saw very few signs of habitation, except for a few scattered FEMA trailers. Almost all houses had "NG" and "NE" spray painted on their fronts. This indicated "no gas" and "no electricity." Some had a sign posted indicating that a body had been recovered from the property. The single story houses in the area had been flooded up to their roofs, as evident by the gray horizontal water stain 8-10 feet above ground. And being a subtropical climate, the area had now become overgrown with unkempt vegetation, sprawling languidly in the enervating heat.

I was part of a crew of 30 librarians who worked with Habitat for Humanity in constructing new housing in the Upper Ninth Ward, an area northeast of the French Quarter. Most of the houses in this area are still intact and the area was not as devastated as the Lower Ninth Ward, just a few blocks away. The Habitat houses are being constructed on previously vacant land. They are part of the "Musicians' Village," conceived by musicians Harry Connick, Jr., and Branford Marsalis. Besides housing for area musicians, the Musicians' Village will include the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, which will highlight the music culture of New Orleans. This project has been the

subject of several news stories since the hurricane (see <http://www.habitat.org/newsroom/2005archive/insitedoc011244.aspx>).

The Habitat houses being constructed are single-story structures of about 1,200 square feet, and raised four feet off the ground. Our crew did a variety of tasks including installing insulation (I didn't volunteer for that job), constructing front porches, and painting. Bob Hafeman from the Manitowoc Calumet Library System was also part of our crew. There were many other groups of volunteers on site, and a sign on a fence indicated that a student group from Madison's Edgewood College had been there in early June. About 70 homes will eventually be built in the Village. Several homes had recently been completed, and an additional 12-15 were in some stage of construction.

During our lunch break I walked for several blocks but saw only two people and no other signs of life. It was strange and rather eerie. One of the more bizarre scenes was a string of abandoned cars at a corner gas station. The line of cars extended out into the street. We were told that when some of the residents who had not evacuated heard the levy had been breached, they quickly got into their cars to leave. Some needed gas and therefore stopped at the local gas station. That's where they were when the rising waters stalled their cars, and most of the cars are still there ten months later frozen in time—like the inhabitants of Pompeii after the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79AD.

Later in the afternoon we cleaned up our worksite and took the bus back to the convention center. The bustle of the convention center and downtown areas provided a stark contrast to the desolation we had witnessed just a mile or two away. ☺



**Bob Bocher stands in front of houses under construction in New Orleans' Upper Ninth Ward.**



## **Trustee Corner**

***The library board wants to meet in closed session to discuss the library director's performance. The director says that he and his attorney should be included in the meeting. Do we have to allow them to be present in the closed session?***

**By John DeBacher**, Public Library Administration Consultant  
Public Library Development Team

No. While library boards may choose to include library staff, consultants, or others in legally conducted closed sessions, there are no provisions in the open meetings law that would *compel* the board to including either the director or the attorney. However, if the library board is meeting in closed session under s. 19.85(1)(b) to consider the dismissal, demotion, or discipline of a library employee and to take final action on the matter, or to investigate charges against the employee, then the library board is required to give actual notice of the hearing or meeting to the employee. The notice must also "contain a statement that the person has the right to demand that the evidentiary hearing or meeting be held in open session."

Consequently, while the employee has the right to demand that the board meet in open session to consider the charges or to take action on a dismissal, demotion, or discipline, the employee does not have the right to be included in a closed session.

Under s. 19.85(1)(c) of the open meetings law, the library board may meet in closed session to consider "employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the [library board] has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility." In such situations as hiring decisions, performance evaluations, wages or salary considerations for specific employees, the board is obligated neither to include the employee, nor provide specific notice to the individual. Keep in mind, however, that the open meetings law does not permit the board to meet in closed session to discuss employment matters in general, such as across-the-board wage changes, general reductions in the workforce, personnel policy manual changes, or qualifications for candidates for positions of employment.

The State Programs, Administration and Revenue unit (SPAR) of the Department of Justice's Division of Legal Services has a link to the Wisconsin Public Records Law Compliance Outline at <http://www.doj.state.wi.us/dls/spar.asp> as well as contact information for the unit if you should have questions about the public records or open meetings laws that are not addressed by their online resources. If you have questions regarding Wisconsin's Open Meetings or Public Records law, contact SPAR or your municipal attorney. ♻️

## **Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning**

Wisconsin Department of  
Public Instruction  
125 South Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707-7841

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