

## Wisconsin among nation's leaders in library use

"Wisconsin residents love their libraries," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster in announcing statewide library usage data. In 2005, the state's 3.2 million registered library users made more than 33 million library visits to check out books, videos, music, and other materials; attend special programming; or use the library's reference materials and resources, including the Internet. Public library circulation surpassed 57.9 million items, an increase of nearly 2 percent over 2004 circulation. Interlibrary loans, the key indicator of resource sharing among libraries, grew to 5.5 million items, a 13 percent increase over 2004. Data from the National Center for Education Statistics (2004) places Wisconsin first in interlibrary loans per capita, eighth in circulation per capita, and 11th in public library visits per capita.

"Our public libraries are a valuable part of each community," Burmaster said. "Library staff work throughout our libraries and library systems to share resources and provide the wide range of services that citizens need. However, our libraries cannot continue to provide more and more services with little to no growth in library staffing levels."

Wisconsin's 388 independent public libraries and 17 federated public library systems are staffed by 6,284 paid library personnel and thousands of library volunteers. Despite growth in library use, 2005 library staffing remained at 2004 levels. The state superintendent's 2007-09 biennial budget request seeks increased funding to support various library services and service contracts.

"Wisconsin's public library and library system staff members are to be commended for providing all Wisconsin residents with high levels of library service," Burmaster said. She noted that library services go beyond books and printed materials. They include such services as BadgerLink, which provides access to more than 700 newspapers and 11,000 magazines; educational and informational programs for children and adults; and other resources that ensure Wisconsin residents have equal access to informational materials required to do coursework, meet curriculum needs, or pursue personal and business interests regardless of where they live or their special needs or circumstances.

A recent report on "Public Libraries and the Internet 2006" showed that 10 years ago, just 25 percent of public libraries provide Internet access. Today, 99 percent of all U.S. public libraries do so. In Wisconsin, all public libraries have Internet connections, and almost all of them provide high speed Internet access. Much of that growth was the result of a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant that distributed 743 personal computers and servers to 235 Wisconsin public libraries and branches in 2003. The grant will continue to provide technology training through the first half of 2007.

Librarians interviewed for the report, "Public Libraries and the Internet 2006," placed high importance on computers in libraries. They overwhelmingly said that the most important impact of having library computers wired to the Internet was providing this service to citizens who would otherwise not have Internet access.

"Digital connections, which citizens access through our public libraries, have seen increasing demand over the years," Burmaster said. "Wisconsin's statewide informational databases, such as those provided through BadgerLink, make our libraries accessible to all state residents via their home,

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## Library systems share \$15.5 million in state aid

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced that Wisconsin's 17 federated public library systems will receive \$15.5 million in state aid during 2007 to support cooperative local, regional, and state efforts to share library resources and improve public library service statewide.

The Department of Public Instruction recently sent the first of two aid payments for public library system operations, which will total \$15,521,200 for 2007. Library systems assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to library services and help the state's 388 independent public libraries provide higher levels of service while avoiding unnecessary service duplication.

"By ensuring that all residents have access to the wide range of resources contained in libraries throughout the state, public library systems serve as a key building block in the foundation of our democratic society," Burmaster said.

Aid for 2007 represents a 4 percent increase over the 2006 state aid allocation. State aid is the primary state program supporting public library service statewide. The department's 2007-09 state budget includes a request to provide library system aid at the statutory index of 13 percent. Library systems currently receive aid at an 8 percent index. Recent library statistics for 2005 reported increases in several areas of library usage, including a 13 percent one-year increase in interlibrary loans, a service coordinated through library systems.

"Library systems help our public libraries offer high-quality services to meet Wisconsin citizens' library needs," Burmaster said. "However, public libraries have been providing increased services for a number of years with little to no growth in staffing levels, a

condition that we cannot expect to continue indefinitely."

Each system's regional board develops plans for using state aid to meet system needs. Across the state, library system services include

- ensuring that system residents have complete access to all public libraries within the system area. State residents made 33.1 million visits to public libraries and checked out nearly 57.9 million items last year.
- coordinating the loan of library materials among participating libraries to meet user needs. Annually, 5.5 million items are sent from one public library to another library in response to users' requests and are delivered by system-supported delivery networks.
- providing training and continuing education for local library staff to help them provide the best possible service to their communities.
- coordinating cooperative library technology projects. More than 85 percent of the state's public libraries now participate in shared computer systems, and all libraries provide public access to computers with Internet connections.

"Public libraries and library systems provide free access to knowledge, information, and the diversity of ideas that is essential to our democratic society. They serve as a primary information source for small businesses, job seekers, and personal investors. They are a valuable part of each community and make a tremendous contribution to quality of life and economic development in Wisconsin," Burmaster said.

The list of aid payments to the state's 17 public libraries and the news

release are available electronically at [http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2006\\_159.pdf](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2006_159.pdf).

Arrowhead Library System \$453,449  
*Rock County*

Eastern Shores Library System \$598,125  
*Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties*

Indianhead Federated Library System \$1,163,193  
*Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, St. Croix counties*

Kenosha County Library System \$412,169

Lakeshores Library System \$659,298  
*Racine and Walworth counties*

Manitowoc-Calumet County Federated Library System \$322,676  
*Calumet and Manitowoc counties*

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## Channel

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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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|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System<br><i>Dodge, Jefferson, Washington counties</i>                                     | \$779,953   |
| Milwaukee County Federated Library System  | \$2,767,604 |
| Nicolet Federated Library System<br><i>Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Shawano counties</i> | \$1,105,606 |
| Northern Waters Library Service<br><i>Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer, Vilas, Washburn counties</i>      | \$547,012   |
| Outagamie-Waupaca Library System<br><i>Outagamie, and Waupaca counties</i>   | \$628,075   |
| South Central Library System<br><i>Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk, Wood counties</i>                          | \$2,126,996 |
| Southwest Wisconsin Library System<br><i>Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland counties</i>                           | \$375,638   |
| Waukesha County Federated Library System   | \$991,080   |
| Winding Rivers Library System<br><i>Buffalo, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, Vernon counties</i>          | \$793,683   |
| Winnefox Federated Library System<br><i>Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, Winnebago counties</i>               | \$915,866   |
| Wisconsin Valley Library Service<br><i>Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Taylor counties</i> ✪           | \$880,777   |

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 ccbinfo@education.wisc.edu ..... www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/  
 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 ..... 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  
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**Lita Haddal**, Director ..... (800) 362-7353 or (608) 224-5388

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 firstname.lastname@dpi.state.wi.us

## Attorney General issues opinion on library surveillance tapes

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

On November 27, 2006, the Wisconsin Attorney General's office issued an opinion on the application of Wisconsin Statutes s. 43.30 (Wisconsin's public library records confidentiality law) to library video surveillance recordings. This opinion was in response to a request

for an opinion from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction based on issues raised by the Sun Prairie Public Library. The opinion is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/pdf/agsurveillance.pdf>.

Basically, s. 43.30 provides that public library records indicating the identity of

any individual library user may not be disclosed except by court order, or to persons acting within the scope of their duties in the administration of the library, to persons authorized by the individual to inspect the records, to custodial parents of children under the age of 16, or to other libraries for purposes of interlibrary loan.

The AG opinion concludes that all library video surveillance recordings fall within the protections of s. 43.30, including recordings that may identify an individual in the library but do not identify the particular library materials or resources used by that individual. Also protected are recordings that only show individuals entering or exiting the building, since these recordings may identify individuals who are using the resources of the library in some fashion.

The AG opinion also concludes that only with a court order may library staff disclose library video recordings or other library records to law enforcement officials (or others) for such purposes as seeking assistance with the recovery of stolen library property or the prosecution of persons who vandalize library property. The only exception to the court order requirement is if someone's life or safety is at risk, such as a child abduction at the library. In such a case, library staff could provide police with video recordings without a court order.

The AG opinion notes that s. 43.30 does not preclude library staff from reporting to police observations of criminal activity in the library. So, if library staff observe a patron steal library materials or assault another patron, staff may certainly report the crime to the police and identify the perpetrator. If staff observe possible criminal activity on videotape after the fact, staff may disclose detailed information regarding the crime to police without disclosing the patron's identity. Officers may then obtain a court order to secure release of the records. ☺

### ***Trustee Corner***

#### ***What officers are we required to have on our library board?***

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

At a minimum, your library board must have a president. Wis. Stats. s. 43.54(2) requires that: "within 60 days after the beginning of terms, the members of the library board shall organize by election, from among their number, of a president and such other officers as they deem necessary."

The only other library board officer specified by statute is a treasurer or "financial secretary," whose office is required if the library's donation or endowment funds are invested other than with the treasurer of the municipality or county in which the library is situated, or with a "public depository," as provided in s. 43.58(7)(b). The treasurer or financial secretary must submit a report at least annually to the library board, "showing in detail the amount, investment, income and disbursements from the trust funds in his or her charge." The report must also be appended to the library's official annual report submitted each year to the municipality and to the Division of Libraries, Technology and Community Learning. [s. 43.58(7)(d)]

The bylaws adopted by the board to govern its activities may establish other

officers such as a vice-president, secretary or treasurer. The bylaws should spell out the officers' powers and duties, and how they are elected. Sample text for library board bylaws is available here: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pld/bylaws.html>.

Many library boards also appoint other officers, such as a vice president, who presides over meetings in the absence of the board president, and a secretary, whose duties may include posting notice and recording minutes of official meetings. Some libraries may designate a particular library employee to carry out the duties of secretary. Other library boards may designate a secretary/treasurer who serves as recorder for meetings and is authorized to sign the official vouchers for approved library expenditures.

More information on library board bylaws is available in TE 3 of *Trustee Essentials: A Handbook for Wisconsin Public Library Trustees* <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pld/te3.html>. Information about the Public Library Annual Report is available here: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pld/annrpt.html>. If you have questions or require further information, please contact John DeBacher, (608)266-7270 ([john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us)). ☺

*Ten Rural Library Sustainability workshops provide tools and ideas*

## Workshops for library directors point toward 'Greener Pastures'

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

If your public library provides computers for public use, your director will want to attend one of the Rural Library Sustainability workshops being held early in 2007. Entitled *Greener Pastures: Sustaining Rural Libraries in Wisconsin*, these full-day workshops will provide tools, information and resources to help rural libraries support and maintain public access computing. They will also provide an opportunity for library directors to connect with one another, sharing best practices, tips, and success strategies on topics ranging from fundraising to community outreach.



### Where minds meet.

The Rural Library Sustainability workshops are funded by a grant to the Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration with WebJunction. Mileage, meals and all workshop supplies are covered by the grant. In addition, funds are available to reimburse overnight accommodations for librarians who must travel over 100 miles to attend. Libraries may apply for reimbursement of wages for substitute staff required in order for

the director of a small library to attend. There is no cost to your library other than your time!

The workshop curriculum recognizes that the landscape in rural and small libraries is changing and diverse. What may be an insurmountable challenge for one library may inspire a major accomplishment at another. The workshop encourages librarians to work with their peers to identify their strengths and challenges to maintaining services, particularly in the area of public access computing. Participants will be trained in techniques to develop realistic action plans to identify tasks and processes to maintain services, develop resources, and improve ties to the community. The workshop is intended to serve as a starting point for assessing a rural/small library's focus on issues of sustainability, and a guide for assisting that library in making progress in any of those commonly identified areas that are important to the library.

The "Greener Pastures" Workshops 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 workshop is designed for library directors who will develop and take home action plans to address at least three of seven identified conditions of sustainability. 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 action plans to be carried out. Participants are eligible for six contact hours of continuing education for certification. And, three participants will be eligible to win an expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. for the annual ALA conference in June, 2007. We hope you will make attending one of these workshops a high priority. Our target is to have 266 libraries (80% of the 333 rural Wisconsin libraries) represented at the workshops. Workshops are scheduled for the following locations and dates: Madison, February 22; Waterford, February 27; DePere, March 7; Rice Lake, March 13; Fond du Lac, April 3; Fennimore, April 12; Hurley, April 18; Wausau, April 19; Sparta, April 26; and Eau Claire, May 2 (as a WAPL pre-conference). Invitations will be sent to library directors six to eight weeks before the workshop in their region, but if a workshop at another site is preferable, requests will be accommodated when possible.

For information on WebJunction's resources for Rural and Small Libraries, check:  
<http://www.webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=498>. For more information on Wisconsin's *Greener Pastures* workshops, check <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/rural.html>.

John DeBacher, ([john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us)) will conduct the workshops. Bob Bocher ([robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us)) is the project coordinator for the Rural Libraries Sustainability Grant. ☼

## Shared integrated library system cost study results announced

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

The following is an update to the article on the preliminary findings of the shared system cost study that appeared in the January-February 2006 issue of Channel. The study has now been completed and is available at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pld/sharedils.html>. Networked Information Management Consultancy conducted the study.

### Background

As reported previously, the division used \$45,000 in LSTA funds to sponsor a study on the costs of shared integrated library systems (ILS) in the state's public libraries. The information collected as a result of the study will help the division in planning for the future development of shared ILS. The purpose of the ILS cost study was to seek answers to several key questions including:

- What are the actual costs of operating the shared ILS?
- Who pays for what costs?
- What are the different funding models used to support shared ILS?

Participation in shared integrated library systems by Wisconsin public libraries has steadily increased since the public libraries in the Milwaukee County implemented the first shared system in the late 1970s. As of January 2006, 83% (322 libraries) of the state's public libraries were in shared ILS. There are now shared ILS in all of the library systems in the states, with the exception of the Arrowhead system in Rock County. (Arrowhead anticipates implementing a shared ILS for all its member libraries in 2007.) Over the past decade the division has awarded \$3.25 million in LSTA funds for public libraries to join shared ILS.

### Surveying Systems and ILS Member Libraries

The findings of the study were derived from a survey sent out to the library system staff who manage their system's ILS. In addition, another survey was sent to 101 libraries which are members of shared integrated systems and three focus groups were also held at the fall 2005 WLA conference. Several of the key questions asked in the surveys and discussed in the focus groups included:

- Current usage and capacity of the shared ILS
- Information related to membership in the shared ILS
- Future scenarios for shared ILS in the state
- Funding the operation and maintenance of the shared ILS
- Charges for participation in the shared ILS and sources of revenue

Reconciling answers to the surveys proved to be a challenge. For example, on the issue of budgets, not all systems have uniform accounting and budgeting practices for categorizing and tracking costs of the shared ILS. Another common issue that emerged concerned how to identify specific costs associated with operating the shared ILS vs. other costs that might be affected by the existence of the shared ILS. Examples of these "other" costs included reimbursement for net lenders of materials and delivery charges. These challenges notwithstanding, the completed surveys resulted in a wealth of data.

### Key Findings

Below are some of the more important, overall findings that emerged from the study. In some instances there are references to specific tables or sections in the actual report where more specific information can be found.

- Not all shared ILS have either a separate budget or detailed line items for recording costs for operating the

shared ILS. It is also likely that there is a wide range of practices within the member libraries for identifying and recording accurate cost data related to their participation in a shared ILS.

- The two major funding sources to pay for costs of the shared ILS are (1) membership fees, and (2) system aid from the state. In three shared ILS, library system aid accounts for more than 50% of funds used for annual operating costs. Five shared ILS reported that more than 90% of the annual operating costs are funded by fees charged to member libraries. (Table 34.)
- The resources for the study limited the collection of data to a single year period. And while any snapshot may be skewed because of one-time anomalies, the total cost in 2004 reported statewide for shared ILS was \$6,167,698. (Table 22.)
- Membership of the shared ILS consists predominantly of public libraries. Of the 17 shared ILS responding, 41% indicated that membership was restricted to public libraries. While 59% of respondents indicated that they allow membership to other types of libraries, very few have members other than public libraries. (Table 6.) [To address issues of K-12 school participation in shared ILS, the division has proposed the allocation of LSTA funds in 2007 to conduct a study to determine the advantages and disadvantages of school districts (1) joining an existing public library shared ILS, or (2) developing new shared integrated library systems.]
- A majority of shared ILS operators (59%) supported reducing the number of shared ILS, but only 41% supported the idea that the state library division should give

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priority to implementing of a single, statewide shared ILS. (Table 27.)

- Data from the survey show that 87% of shared ILS member libraries have a very high or a high level of satisfaction with their shared ILS. And 61% of respondents assessed their satisfaction with technical support as very high or high.
- The majority (11 of 17) shared ILS have a single category of membership. Several shared ILS offer different membership categories with different services and functionality. For example, some have an “Internet access” only type of membership.
- The most frequently mentioned recommendation by focus group participants was that the state needed to better support library systems with additional funding. (Table 15.)

The following were noted by survey respondents as issues, although not necessarily disadvantages, of participation in a shared integrated library system.

- There is a need for more staff at the central ILS level to provide technical support. Recruitment of knowledgeable staff in this area is difficult.
- A decision by library staff and the board to join a shared ILS should be viewed as a permanent decision. As one survey respondent noted, once a library is committed to a shared ILS there is no “turning back.”
- There is some loss of control or flexibility in local library decision making. Membership in a shared ILS requires some degree of compromise.
- Significant net lenders of materials are not always compensated for this imbalance.
- There is a need for more training of member library staff on the services and features of the shared ILS. Being able to stay up-to-date with

technology developments and new services and features is a challenge.

The survey findings resulted in several common advantages of shared integrated library systems. Some of those include the following. (Section 9.)

- *Access:* Patrons at member libraries have access to a much broader selection of resources than if they only had access to items in their local library. Smaller libraries especially benefited from access to the larger collection.
- *Management:* The centralized management of system technology and support provides an economy of scale. Some members believed there had been “staff efficiencies” as a result of the shared ILS allowing staff to assume other responsibilities. Some also noted the shared ILS offered the opportunity for better communication among member libraries.
- *Costs:* The cost for providing access to materials statewide was reduced

for libraries. Member libraries noted that the costs were shared across participating libraries, and that automation costs were, at least to some extent, “controlled.”

- *Technology:* The shared ILS offers members much greater functionality and sophistication than the members might otherwise have with stand-alone systems. Member libraries also receive better technical support as a result of the shared ILS than if they did not participate. Overall ILS planning and upgrades are done by people more knowledgeable than staff in the local library.

The above are just some of the many findings in the study. The executive summary includes 34 tables of data and much more information than is reported in this article. Also, over 100 additional tables and charts are available in the appendices. If you have any questions on the study, please contact Bob Bocher (robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us, 608-266-2127).✪

### Kevin Henkes at WLA Conference



Rick Grobschmidt, Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning, meets author Kevin Henkes in the Autograph Garden at the 2006 Wisconsin Library Association annual conference. Henkes, from Wisconsin, is the 2005 Caldecott Award winner and the recipient of many other prestigious awards for his books. He was the speaker at the conference’s Youth Services Section luncheon.

## State Superintendent approves LSTA grant awards for 2007

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

State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster has approved Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program grants totaling \$3.1 million for 2007. The grants are contingent upon the availability of FY 2007 LSTA funds from Washington. (Congress and the president have not completed action on the FY 2007 federal appropriations bill that includes funding for LSTA so the LSTA funds cannot be released until that action takes place when the new Congress convenes in January 2007.). The Wisconsin LSTA Advisory Committee met in Madison Nov. 29-30 to review the grant applications and make recommendations to the state superintendent on grant awards. Grant award letters were sent out in December.

Highlights of the LSTA Program for 2007:

- *Virtual Reference* – \$70,100 will be made available for statewide virtual reference services that will provide Wisconsin residents with 24/7 online reference service through a global consortium, Ask?Away.
- *Economic Impact of Public Libraries Study* – \$92,317 will be used for a study to determine the economic

impact of taxpayer investment in Wisconsin's public libraries. The Division will collaborate with the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation on the study as well as with public libraries in the state that have indicated an interest in detailed data collection for their cities.

- *Shared System Study for Schools* – \$15,000 of LSTA funds will be used to conduct this study. Using libraries and/or CESAs interested in pursuing shared system participation, Division staff will determine the advantages and disadvantages and costs of school media centers joining an existing shared integrated library system or developing a new one based on a CESA or other regional group
- *Delivery* – \$75,000 will be used to help support the statewide delivery service backbone (\$60,000) and delivery services in the Northern Waters Library Service area (\$15,000).
- *System Technology* – Public library systems will receive \$370,000 on a noncompetitive formula basis for a variety of technology projects. The funds can be used for shared system development, datalines/WANs, electronic materials, and other technology projects.
- *Shared Systems* – \$276,425 will help public libraries and public library systems expand or merge existing shared automated systems. By the end of 2007 it is expected that approximately 88-90 percent of the state's public libraries will participate in shared integrated library systems.
- *Digitization* – \$40,597 will enable nine public libraries to digitize resources that are unique or of special local interest. The digitized materials will be placed on the Web through the UW-Madison Libraries State of Wisconsin collection.
- *Literacy* – \$252,613 will be used for eleven Adult, Family, and Early Literacy projects. The funds will help public libraries and public library systems plan and implement programs that promote adult, family, and early literacy.
- *Disabilities* – \$102,648 will be used for six project that will help promote and demonstrate the role of public libraries in meeting the information needs of those with sensory or mobility disabilities.

For more information about the LSTA program, contact Peg Branson at (608) 266-2413 (peg.branson@dpi.state.wi.us).✪

### Stay Informed! Receive weekly updates of library news through Channel Weekly

Channel Weekly is the online newsletter of the Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning. Its purpose is to provide the Wisconsin library community with timely and brief information and announcements from the Division and other sources on topics of interest and significance to all libraries in the state. The newsletter is sent automatically to subscribers via the Channel Weekly email list. Subscription information is available here: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/channel/chwksbsc.html>. Email addresses will not be distributed or used for any other purpose.

For those who use News Aggregators (RSS feed readers), a link is available on this page: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/channel/chweekly.html> as well as an index of recent issues.



## Project Safe Childhood targets crimes against children

By Donna Steffan, Technology Consultant  
Instructional Media and Technology Team

Early in 2006, United States Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood (PSC) ([www.projectsafecommunity.gov](http://www.projectsafecommunity.gov)) as a national response to and as an offensive against the rapid growth of Internet enabled sexual exploitation crimes committed against children. “We are in the midst of an epidemic of sexual abuse and exploitation of our children,” said Gonzales in February 2006. “Project Safe Childhood will help law enforcement and community leaders prevent, investigate, and prosecute sexual predators and pornographers who target our children and grandchildren.”

During 2006, this campaign grew in breadth and depth with several organizations and offices joining the Attorney General in combating crimes against children and in dedication to Project Safe Childhood and its success. PSC partners expanded to include:

- Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces,
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children,
- United States Department of Justice,
  - o Criminal Division
  - o Federal Bureau of Investigation
  - o Office of the Deputy Attorney General
  - o Office of Justice Programs/ Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
  - o United States Marshals Service
- United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
- United States Postal Inspection Service,
- United States Secret Service,
- various state Attorney General offices,
- several sheriff offices, and
- municipal police departments.

On December 4-6, 2006, several hundred local, state, and federal law enforcement officers, as well as educators and community leaders from across the nation, joined PSC in commitment to a common purpose – building connected statewide Project Safe Childhood programs aimed at protecting children from unspeakable abuse and exploitation crimes committed with the aid of the Internet.

On December 4, Attorney General Gonzales commended state and local law enforcement and all courts for the tremendous collaborative gains made in identification, investigation, and prosecution of numerous sexual predators and criminals. He challenged all to do more to “get predators off the streets” through integrated federal, state, and local efforts to investigate and prosecute child exploitation cases by organizing collaborative law enforcement activities, seeking stronger state laws, and seeking tougher penalties. He also challenged officials to

- “establish major case coordination,
- “increase federal involvement in child pornography and enticement cases,
- “train all federal, state and local law enforcement in effective and efficient identification and investigative techniques, and
- “build community awareness through collaborative federal, state, and local educational programs that are designed to raise awareness about the threat of online sexual predators, and to provide the tools and information educators, community members, parents, and youngsters need in order to identify and report suspicious activity on the Internet.”

“The success of Project Safe Childhood depends on every partner

doing its part,” Gonzales shared. “We must raise our voices together, break the appalling silence. We must speak and speak again - Speak more loudly. Together we have the power to great safe childhoods.”

Throughout the conference, partner leaders shared their organizations’ successes and challenges, and local experts showed best practices for achieving the shared mission. During periods of reflection and projection, Erik C. Peterson, US Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, led Wisconsin’s team in engaging dialog and initial planning for implementing Project Safe Childhood across Wisconsin communities. In January 2007 this task force will finalize a Wisconsin plan that addresses each of the five PSC keys for keeping all children safe as they use the Internet for learning and social communication. Schools and libraries – school, public, special, and academic – will be called upon to assume leadership roles for achieving the fifth key – a collaborative community educational program.

The conference closed with Ernie Allen, President and CEO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, echoing Attorney General Gonzales’ words, “There is a vast and frightening network of criminals and would-be criminals who seek to hurt our children. But we have a network, too. And it, too, is vast. It stretches from coast to coast, from city to city, and includes every parent, every school, every police station, every courthouse, every victim’s advocate, and every volunteer. Our network, when used to its greatest potential, can defeat these predators who crush the very souls of their victims.”☺

## Mary Struckmeyer says goodbye after 32 years

By **Mary Struckmeyer**, Supervisor,  
Reference and Interlibrary Loan  
Reference and Loan Library

Endings are difficult for me.

As I look back over my life and my career, I realize that beginnings have been difficult for me also. In summer of 1974, I took a wrong turn on the drive from Appleton to Madison for my job interview at the Reference and Loan Library. I arrived late and harried and entered an old A&P building on Darbo Drive to get directions to the library, which was nowhere in site, as far as I could tell. Thus began my 32-year adventure at the “Best Little Warehouse” in Wisconsin.

It took me a while to get used to working in a former grocery store, with book stacks by the windows and desks in the back of the building. During my first year there, I was stumped by a reference request for information on canning rabbit. My coworkers at RLL had told me that we sometimes got requests for odd information and so I looked through

cookbooks without luck. This was back in the days when a computer filled up an entire room and requests came in through the mail on 4X4 inch pieces of paper or via a teletype that spit out yards of paper which were then “chopped” into individual requests. I finally sent that request back unfilled. A few days later the request came back in the mail with a clarification. One letter made a huge difference: the request should have said tanning rabbit, not canning rabbit. So it was with a request for information on Dame Hames which turned out to be dome homes! What I learned from those requests is never to take a request at face value!

As time went on, I learned to sound things out and trust my instincts. Among other mysteries that I solved were requests for information on “barbie toes sheep” (Barbados sheep); “the art of fringe (French) cooking;” and bronco (bronchial) pneumonia.”

Then there was the evolution of interlibrary loan, from mail to teletype to

bulletin board to WISCAT ILL and email. There was a time when a circular lazy Susan file filled with red and blue folders was one of our staff’s most important tools. Those folders held the key to the numbers on all incoming and outgoing ILL requests. We also went through a lot of erasers because numbers for referred requests had to be removed.

Although the Reference and Loan Library is still largely a “behind the scenes” operation, it is the people that I have connected with that I will miss the most. I will miss those of you that called to ask questions, who made me look good and feel good when I knew the answers; and the people that made me look good because you helped me find the answers. Through live chat virtual reference I have connected with patrons who have delighted me with comments like “librarians rock” and “I never would have found this on my own.” I would like to send a special thanks to those of you that have supported the Reference

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## Martha Farley joins Reference and Loan staff

Martha Farley has joined the Reference and Loan staff as head of the reference and interlibrary loan unit. Martha has experience in all aspects of the job, including collection maintenance and training. She worked most recently as the associate director and librarian at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. She has also worked at LaGrange Park Public Library, Forest Park Public Library and Stickney Forest-View Library in Illinois. Some special librarians in Wisconsin may recognize her as a former Lexis/Nexis account representative.

“After working with Martha for three weeks,” said Mary Struckmeyer, “I am confident that library staff in Wisconsin will find her outgoing, customer-oriented, and highly professional. I believe that she will embrace the Reference & Loan Library’s strong commitment to equity of service, while bringing her own perspective to the job.”☼



**Martha Farley**

## Struckmeyer receives 2006 Muriel Fuller Award

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

The Muriel Fuller Award was presented to Mary E. Struckmeyer on November 2, 2006, at the awards banquet held during the Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference in Lake Delton. The Wisconsin Library Association's Muriel Fuller Award is given to a library professional or paraprofessional in recognition of outstanding accomplishments that have significantly improved and benefited library services. Muriel Fuller was known by Mary and by many other Wisconsin librarians as an inspirational member of the University of Wisconsin—Madison Library School (now School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS)) faculty, and it has added meaning that this presentation was made in the centennial year of the school.

Mary received the award in recognition of her many accomplishments as a leader in improving and providing reference and interlibrary loan services to Wisconsin libraries and the citizens they serve. Prior to her retirement on December 8, 2006, Mary was the supervisor of the Reference and Interlibrary Loan unit of the Reference and

Loan Library (RLL) in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries, Technology and Community Learning for seventeen years, and before that, a reference librarian and interlibrary loan librarian at RLL for fifteen years.

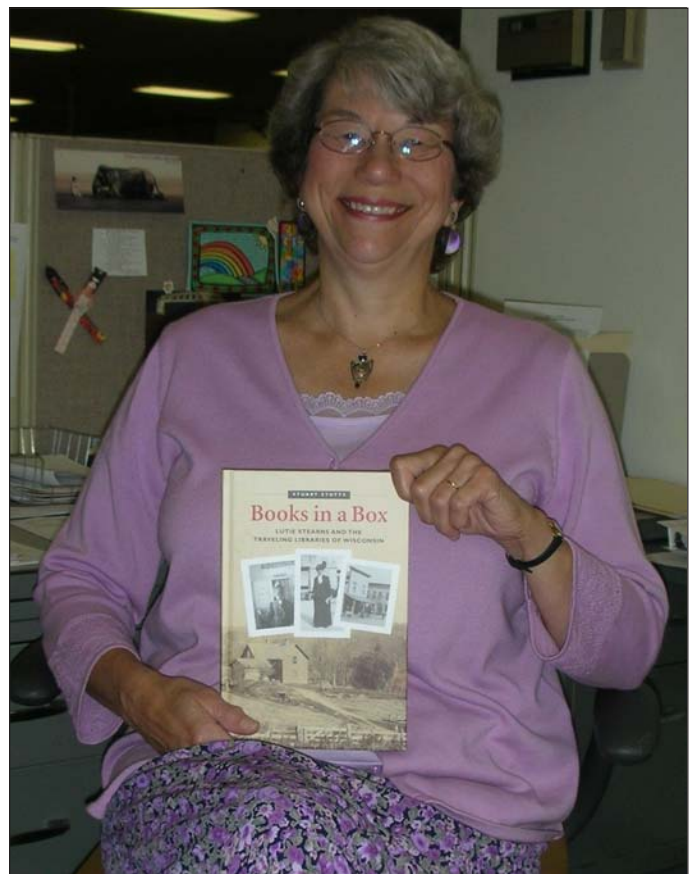
Mary was nominated for the award by colleagues at the Reference and Loan Library and the nomination was supported by ten strong and thoughtful letters of endorsement from librarians across the state representing all types of libraries. Fellow RLL staff members see Mary as personifying the ideals of Lutie Stearns who, early in the last century and before, was a driving force in the development of traveling libraries in the state and of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, the predecessor of the Reference and Loan Library. Like Lutie's, Mary's passion during her career was to provide equal access to patrons of all types and sizes of libraries in Wisconsin's rural and urban areas. Like both Muriel Fuller and Lutie Stearns, Mary Struckmeyer has been a mentor and inspiration to others in the profession, most recently as a leader in the development of Wisconsin's virtual reference consortium. ☼

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and Loan library through the ups and downs over many years.

Two things that I firmly believe “We’re all in this together” and “What goes around comes around.” When Lutie Stearns founded the traveling library program, she knew that she needed a wide constituency to succeed and that they needed to remain a-political. I am saddened to see that we have lost some of her vision and her dedication to equitable service in all parts of the state. My parting wish for library service in Wisconsin is that her vision can be restored.

In the back of the book *Books in a Box* by Stuart Stotts is this mysterious message from Lutie written on a postcard: “Yours unto death and after” Lutie Stearns, August 1915. I can only hope that Lutie's spirit is watching over Wisconsin libraries of all types and that whether you call yourself a librarian, a cybrarian or a media specialist, that you will continue to be inspired by her passion, her persistence and her courage—as I have been—to work *together* to provide all the citizens of Wisconsin with the resources and information that they need. ☼



Mary Struckmeyer

## WISCAT implementation progress continues

By **Sally Drew**, Director  
Reference and Loan Library

The Auto-Graphics union catalog, virtual catalog, and interlibrary loan system was implemented as planned on November 27. Libraries discontinued use of Fretwell-Downing's VDX on December 13 and statistics were downloaded at the end of December. Between November 27 and January 5 approximately 22,000 requests have been created and are progressing through the system. Libraries are utilizing new and more powerful ways to identify holdings, are able to search the union and virtual catalogs simultaneously, and are using an improved method to create book club requests. Request filtering by availability diverts requests from stopping at a library when a library's circulation system shows materials are non-circulating or unavailable. Request filtering by material type diverts requests when a library indicates that it will not lend that type of material.

In December, staff added the Minnesota academic and public library catalogs to the WISCAT Virtual Catalog Gateway. These catalogs are also automatically searched to determine if the title is owned and if it is available. After having been sent first to Wisconsin libraries, requests are now automatically sent to MINITEX without having to be searched and referred manually by Reference and Loan Library staff. Reference and Loan Library staff has refined the availability filtering for the UW-Madison

catalog and staff no longer needs to manually search it for availability before requests are sent to WiLS for requests with UW-Madison holdings.

Public library system staff has been given access to links to their participant library logins and can more easily mediate and assist system libraries with any issues.

The WISCAT web site is being updated with new information on a regular basis and updates are also being sent out over the WISCAT listserv. Additional training sessions are being provided using web training and the schedule is being updated regularly. Check the training schedule at <http://www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/training.html>. The online order form can be found at [http://www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/pdf/WISCAT\\_OrderForm.pdf](http://www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/pdf/WISCAT_OrderForm.pdf) for libraries that have not yet ordered WISCAT. To get the latest information about WISCAT implementation, join the WISCAT listservs by going to <http://www.wiscat.lib.wi.us/listserv.html>.

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### Libraries — from page 1

school, and work computers. It is vital that those without computers have access to these resources through their local library. From books to web access to online resources, the library's role in lifelong learning is an essential part helping all citizens participate in our democratic society." ♻️

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