

Governor's proposed budget includes increases for library system aids, library service contracts, and BadgerLink

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

On February 13, Governor Doyle proposed a budget for the next biennium that includes the following library-related items:

— Public library system funding increases of approximately 4% for each year of the biennium (annual increases of \$616,800 for 2008 and \$645,500 for 2009) to maintain funding at the current 8.1% index level. Increased funding would be from the Universal Service Fund. Total proposed funding is \$16,138,000 for 2008 and \$16,783,500 for 2009. This compares to 2007 funding of \$15,521,200.

— BadgerLink funding of \$2,061,700 for 2008 and \$2,111,000 for 2009. This compares to 2007 funding of \$2,030,500. The proposed funding would allow for maintenance of the current BadgerLink resources.

— Library service contract funding for the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Milwaukee Public Library, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS), and the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) totaling \$1,134,200 for 2008 and \$1,097,200 for 2009. This compares to 2007 funding of \$876,900. The proposed funding would improve contracted service levels and allow the Wisconsin Regional Library to upgrade their technology to allow for the delivery of digital talking books.

— NFB-Newsline funding to support newspapers accessible by telephone for blind and physically handicapped people, annual increases of \$38,500 for 2008 and \$40,500 for 2009. This includes funds for the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for provision of technical support and registration of users.

— Language allowing the Department of Administration to use funds received under the federal E-rate program to help subsidize library and K-12 school bandwidth. Use of the E-rate funds is designed to address insufficient

bandwidth reported by some libraries and schools that are connected to the BadgerNet network.

In addition, the Governor's budget proposes that county reimbursements to libraries in adjacent counties be exempt from levy limits.

The Governor's budget will now be reviewed and acted upon by the legislature. Final legislative approval should occur before the start of the next biennium on July 1, 2007; however, there is sometimes a delay during which state operations continue at funding levels approved for the preceding budget. ✪

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FY 2007 and 2008 federal budgets for libraries announced

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

Fiscal Year 2007

Although the 2007 federal fiscal year started October 1, 2006, Congress did not complete action on the budget until February 14, 2007.

Most programs in the federal budget for 2007, including LSTA, were funded at FY 2006 amounts. As its share of the LSTA state grants program, Wisconsin's allotment in 2007 is expected to be very close to the \$3,044,000 it received for FY 2006 (there will be a slight adjustment to the amount because the distribution formula reflects population changes throughout the country).

Fiscal Year 2008

On February 5, 2007, President Bush released his \$2.9 trillion fiscal year 2008 budget request. The request for the LSTA, the Library Services and Technology Act, is \$226,182,000, an

increase of \$15,585,000 over FY 2006. Within that total is \$171,500,000 for the state grants program, the program that provides LSTA funds to Wisconsin and other states on a formula basis. The amount in the federal budget for the state grants program of LSTA in FY 2006 was \$163,746,000.

The release of the President's budget for FY 2008 is just the first step in the budget process. The budget must be considered and acted upon by the Senate and House and signed by the President before it is final. October 1, 2007 is the start of federal FY 2008.

Also included in the budget request within the LSTA program are funds for programs that are administered directly at the federal level by the Institute of Museum and Library services. The budget includes \$26.5 million for the Librarians for the 21st Century program, a program to

recruit and educate a new generation of librarians and expand programs for faculty and curriculum development to educate 21st century librarians; \$12.9 million for National Leadership Grants for libraries for projects of national impact that provide models that can be widely adapted or replicated by others, including projects on issues of national importance; and \$3.6 million for Improving Library Services to Native Americans.

For school libraries, the President requested level funding for the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program at \$19.4 million.

For information on the LSTA program in Wisconsin, contact Peg Branson, LSTA Program Coordinator, at 608/266-2413 or peg.branson@dpi.state.wi.us ✨

Attorney General issues opinion on library director employment contracts

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

In December 2006 the Office of Attorney General issued an opinion in response to questions about the authority of a public library board to enter into an employment contract with the public library director.

The opinion of the Attorney General was requested by the Sheboygan Common Council, the Mead Public Library (Sheboygan) Board, and others after questions were raised about the legality of an employment contract entered into between the Mead Public Library Board and the library director. That contract provided that the library director be employed for a term of years, provided that the library director may be terminated for cause, and provided that the director will receive a lump sum payout if terminated without cause. By ordinance, the City of Sheboygan provides that certain

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Channel

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

January-February 2007
Volume 42, Number 3

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 DLTL 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). To make mailing list changes, contact Peg Branson at (608) 266-2413 (peg.branson@dpi.state.wi.us).

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other department heads are appointed to five-year terms and may be discharged only for cause by a three-fourths vote of the city council.

The opinion of the Office of Attorney General concludes that “a municipal library board is authorized under Wisconsin law to enter into a contract with a library director that may include provisions specifying conditions of employment that may include provisions stating that the director will be employed for a certain number of years, that the director may be terminated for cause and/or that the library director will receive a lump sum payout if terminated without cause.”

The Office of Attorney General opinion did not discuss the potential effect of a municipal civil service ordinance on any of these issues because the City of Sheboygan does not have a civil service ordinance. Similarly, the opinion also did not discuss the appropriate source of funds for any lump sum payment made in case of termination without cause, because termination is not being contemplated.

The full opinion is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/pdf/agsheboygan061222.pdf> . ☼



Statewide Resource Contacts

Cooperative Children's Book Center

4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706
 ccbcinfo@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
 Marsha Valance, Regional Librarian (800) 242-8822

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

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 Bughner, 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
Martha Farley, 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

Got a question in the middle of the night?

Ask?Away delivers for Wisconsin patrons and libraries

By **Martha Farley**, Supervisor, Reference and Interlibrary Loan
Reference and Loan Library

Wisconsin residents reap a variety of benefits from the Ask?Away virtual reference service, which augments the resources provided by libraries and library systems throughout the state.

Ask?Away is part of the global QuestionPoint 24/7 Service, which provides email and chat-based reference service. Patrons may turn to Ask?Away for reference help when their local library is not available. Fifteen out of 17 public libraries and 14 academic libraries in Wisconsin participate as full partners in the consortium. Wisconsin librarians staff the chat service more than 40+ hours a week. When Wisconsin librarians are not on chat duty librarians from other states and the QuestionPoint back-up staff respond to questions.

Students of all ages, including adult learners turn to Ask?Away for help with homework and major academic research projects. Teachers often recommend that students explore the Ask?Away service to build their computer technology skills. Patrons of all ages seek assistance with a variety of general reference questions. They may be looking for source related to their hobbies, ranging from selecting and training a new puppy to locating an expert appraiser for highly collectible music memorabilia, or they may turn to Ask?Away for help finding local service providers in a range of fields, from dentists to lawyers to counselors.

The subscription cost to join the national cooperative is subsidized by a Library Services and Technology Act grant. Any library in the state can add a logo to its website and get 24x7 chat service from the global cooperative. Libraries or library systems that pay an additional fee for the software

have access to the email reference system, a global knowledge base of reference questions and answers, and the opportunity to follow up on chat sessions of their local patrons that have initially been handled by members of the consortium.

The experience of the Reference and Loan Library and other participating Wisconsin libraries has shown that patrons are using Ask?Away to find out more about local library policies. Patrons are turning to Ask?Away to resolve questions about the collections, circulation and interlibrary loan practices of their local libraries. Librarians staffing Ask?Away refer to the Ask?Away policy pages submitted by participating libraries to the library's website to respond accurately.

Younger patrons, who are used to connecting to resources and contacts through the Internet, are often more comfortable posting questions anonymously on the Ask?Away service or their local library email or Instant Messaging service than approaching their public or school librarian in person. These younger patrons are often the hardest group to attract to the library, and Ask?Away can reach them on their own terms, and direct them back to their local library, reinforcing the value of resources provided locally and on a state-wide basis. Wisconsin residents who are elderly, mobility-constrained, or located in more remote parts of the state, or in communities with limited hours of public library service, can be well-served, and connected to the resources of their local public library in additional ways through the Ask?Away service.

To learn more about the service, and to see how your local library presents Ask?Away, go to <http://www.askaway.info/>. To view the Ask?Away Virtual Library Publicity Kit, go to <http://www.askaway.info/librarykit/> . ☺



Wisconsin gears up for 2007 Summer Library Program

By Barb Huntington, Youth and Special Needs Consultant
Public Library Development Team

The Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) sponsors an annual statewide summer reading program for children and teens. The children's theme for 2007 is "Get a Clue@ Your Library" The artwork was created by children's book illustrator Mark Teague. His titles include *Pigsty*, *Baby Tamer* and *One Halloween Night*. He is also the illustrator of Cynthia Rylant's beloved *Poppleton* series for beginning readers and the best-selling books by Jane Yolen *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* and *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?*

The teen theme for 2007 is "YNK @ Your Library" (You Never Know), with artwork designed by illustrator Russell Walks. Walks has done work for Marvel Comics, DC Comics, Dark Horse Comics,

Golden Books, Amazing Stories, LucasFilm LTD, McGraw Hill, Spider, Star Wars INsider, Topps Company, and Warner Books. His personal work has garnered both regional and national acclaim and hangs in private collections throughout the United States. Walks has created numerous pieces for Lucasfilm licensees, including the Star Wars 25th Anniversary poster.

This year's program will focus on mysteries, clues, and puzzles. The manual has ideas and book suggestions for all ages on topics such as being a detective, spying, disguises, and finger printing. Public libraries will plan activities all summer that tie in with the theme and involve reading, crafts, guest presenters, and other activities related to mysteries and puzzles for younger readers.



Ike is on the trail of a cat, which brings him into a library, where he solves the mystery and discovers the summer program. Ike also narrates the radio PSA segment. The PSA can be previewed at <http://www.csllpreads.org/2007/PSA/kidspsa.htm>.

New this year is a television PSA for teens produced for CSLP by Studio Imagination. The video PSA features a retro-detective spot filmed in black and white. A 40s style detective leaves his office when he gets a call. It turns out the call was from a librarian who claims she has answers for all the detective's questions. The teen radio PSA is a modified version of the video script. It can be previewed at <http://www.csllpreads.org/2007/PSA/yapsa.htm>.

DLTCL is making one copy of the video PSAs available to each public library system. Some systems will be providing copies for their libraries or will lend their copy. In addition, any library can order one directly by going to the Upstart web page at <http://www.upstartpromotions.com/csllp>. The cost for a DVD is \$4.50. The audio files for the radio PSAs can be downloaded free from the CSLP web page at the web addresses listed above. ☺



Wisconsin belongs to a collaborative of 42 states that work together to produce quality support materials for their summer library programs. The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) organization created video and radio public service announcements (PSAs) to promote the program. This year's video PSA for children was produced by the acclaimed children's film production company Weston Woods. The PSA features Ike LaRue, the dog detective who is a character in several of Mark Teague's books and who is also featured on the summer program poster. In the PSA,

County reimbursement extended to adjacent counties

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

Last spring the legislature passed Senate Bill 272, which was signed into law as 2005 Act 420 by Governor Jim Doyle on May 19, 2006. A new provision of the law extends to adjacent counties the requirement that counties reimburse public libraries for the cost of serving county residents who live in areas of the county without public library service. Beginning in 2008, libraries in adjacent counties, both within and across system borders (but excluding Milwaukee County), may be reimbursed for library use by residents of each of those counties who do not maintain a public library.

How and when does our library seek reimbursement?

The law utilizes the same schedule and requirements that were established under 1997 Act 150 for reimbursement payments to public libraries within counties. To receive reimbursement by March 1, 2008 (the first year the statutes require the reimbursement by adjacent counties), the library must provide the following information to county clerks by July 1, 2007:

1. the number of loans of library materials by the library during the prior calendar year (in this case, 2006) to residents of an eligible adjacent county who are not residents of a library municipality,
2. the library's total number of all loans of material during the prior calendar year (2006),
3. the total library operating expenditures (not including capital expenditures or expenditures of federal funds) for the prior calendar year (2006).

From these the county clerk can determine the cost-per-loan and the amount to be paid to the library. Staff at the library system or the county library service may be able to facilitate this process. In some cases, new patron variables or residence fields may have to be established in the library's automation system in order to extract the relevant residency information.

It is essential that data be collected in a manner that can withstand scrutiny by the county. If your library has rigorous procedures for confirming the place of residence of each user, and if your library keeps an actual count of annual usage broken down by place of residence, the county will probably have no problems accepting your data.

The statute provides that a county clerk may have access, upon request, to all books and records used to determine both the annual library material loans to county residents who do not maintain a public library and the total annual library material loans. However, the identity of individuals using the library is protected under Wisconsin Statutes s. 43.30.

Do libraries automatically get reimbursed?

No. Each year libraries must submit their request to the clerk of the adjacent county by July 1 of the year for loans during the previous year to residents in eligible areas of the county. The county must then reimburse the library for at least 70% of the cost by March 1 of the following year.

How do we track the use?

Over 80% of public libraries are members of Integrated Library Systems (ILS) maintained by the

public library system that automate the process of tracking the loan of library materials. These shared ILS consortia should make sure that circulation reports can be generated for member libraries to establish patron use in adjacent counties so that residents of municipalities that do not maintain a public library can be distinguished from those that do. Libraries with stand-alone ILS systems or manual circulation processes should establish procedures to track the loan of materials to library users in such a way as to be able to determine the total loans each year to residents of individual municipalities. The total number of loans for the prior year to residents of areas without direct library service should be submitted to the county clerk by July 1 of each year, beginning in 2007, along with the total cost of library operations for the previous year and the total circulation for the library.

Will we be reimbursed by all adjacent counties?

Not necessarily. Some counties either have a consolidated library service or a joint city-county library. In other counties, any areas of the county not serviced by municipal libraries have established branches of a county library service that provide service to the rest of the county. In these cases there would be no areas of the county without either county or other municipal library service. Some other counties have a number of municipal libraries (city, village, tribal, or joint libraries) that encompass most of the area of the county. The county is required to reimburse only for loans to residents of those municipalities that do not have their own library or participate in a joint library.

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Congress to address Internet, telecommunications legislation

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

While the 110th Congress is just getting started, there is already a considerable amount of legislative activity related to the Internet and telecommunications. Below is a brief summary of the bills that have already been introduced in the new Congress.

(1) Universal Service for Americans Act (USA Act, S. 101): This bill has been introduced by Senator Stevens (R-Alaska). The senator has introduced much of the Internet and telecommunication legislation for the past 15 years. Following are some bill highlights:

- It requires Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to contribute to the federal Universal Service Fund. (The Federal Communications Commission [FCC] has been seeking other ways to sustain the fund because its current source—mandatory contributions

from telecommunication companies—may not be sustainable in the long term.)

- It creates a \$500-million-a-year broadband program to help telecommunication companies serving rural areas to upgrade their networks to support broadband access to the Internet. Funding will not go to individuals.
- It requires the FCC to establish “appropriate fiscal controls and accountability standards” for the E-rate program. The FCC will also have to create performance goals for the E-rate program and develop processes for measuring the progress of schools and libraries toward achieving advances in broadband Internet connectivity.
- Exempts the E-rate program from the need to comply with the federal Antideficiency Act (ADA). This act, which relates to complying with federal accounting regulations, has caused delays in E-rate funding in past years.

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What is an “adjacent county?”

A county is considered adjacent if it shares a border, even at a single point, with your county.

another county, any counties adjacent would be subject to reimbursement, assuming eligible residents from those counties use your library.

Can we establish what areas of the adjacent county are eligible for reimbursement by requesting a list of municipalities that are subject to the county library tax?

No. Municipalities with public libraries are not required to request exemption from the county library tax under s. 43.64(2)(b). Loans to their residents would not be eligible for county reimbursement even though their property is subject to the county library tax.

How do we determine what municipal areas of the adjacent county are subject to the new reimbursement requirements?

Similar to the process used under 1997 Act 150, your library system may be able to assist you. Also, the public library annual report data, available online at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/dm-lib-stat.html> lists municipalities that are members of joint library agreements. Circulation to residents of those municipalities, in addition to other municipalities in the county with public libraries would not be eligible for reimbursement.

serve residents of an adjacent library system under s. 43.17(10) & (11).

Can counties refuse to pay the reimbursement?

No. The reimbursement is required in the statutes. While no specific penalty is incorporated in the statute, a county that fails to reimburse when properly notified could be sued by the library seeking payment.

Can our library be reimbursed by other cities, villages, or towns in adjacent counties that have libraries?

Yes, although those municipalities are not required to do so.

The municipalities in our joint library have property that spans over three counties. Is our library eligible for reimbursement by any county adjacent to any of those three counties?

Yes. So long as one of the municipalities has a border extending into

Do we have to subtract 500 loans from the total for each eligible municipal area?

No. That provision is related to the threshold at which a library can refuse to

For additional information contact your public library system or John DeBacher (608/266-7270; john.debacher@dpi.state.wi.us) or Al Zimmerman (608/266-3939; alan.zimmerman@dpi.state.wi.us) of the DLTC staff. ☼

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A summary of the legislation is at <http://commerce.senate.gov/public/files/USFforallsecbysec.pdf>. The bill is at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:s101is.txt.pdf.

(2) DOPA - Deleting Online Predators Act (S. 49): This bill was first introduced in the last session of Congress, where it passed by a wide margin in the House but never had a vote on the Senate floor. The bill will require schools and libraries that receive E-rate funding to block or restrict access to “social networking” Websites like MySpace. The 2007 bill is similar to the previous bill, but there are some differences. For example:

- The 2007 bill says that libraries must “protect” against access to social network sites, while the previous bill said they had to “prevent” such access. (Protect is an easier threshold to meet vs. the need to prevent such access.)
- The 2007 bill gives the FCC the authority to define what a “social networking” site is, while the previous bill defined such sites in the bill itself.

American Library Association (ALA) information on the 2006 version of DOPA is at <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/techintele/dopa/DOPA.htm>. The 2007 bill is at http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:s49is.txt.pdf.

(3) Internet Freedom Preservation Act (S. 215): This is very similar to the Net Neutrality legislation that was introduced in the last Congress. It will take the FCC regulations of nondiscrimination, which currently apply in the more traditional voice telephony market, and apply them to Internet providers too. Highlights of this bill include the following:

- Prevents Internet providers from blocking or degrading the ability of anyone to access the Internet and to use, send, or receive any lawful content.
- Ensures that any content, application, or service made available over the Internet be offered in a nondiscriminatory manner with respect to quality of service or access.
- Prevents an Internet provider from giving preferential treatment (e.g., faster access) to any content or services that it controls. (This is designed to address the fast developing vertical market where cable and DSL providers now control the underlying circuit, the actual Internet access itself, and an increasing share of the content.)
- Allows Internet providers to take any reasonable actions to manage their network, including network security.

- Does not restrict or prevent tiered pricing for bandwidth.
- Nine months after the bill becomes law, the FCC must report to Congress on the impact of the law and any problems or issues associated with its implementation.

See http://dorgan.senate.gov/documents/newsroom/net_neutrality.pdf. The ALA also has posted information on this issue at <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/techintele/networkneutrality/netneutrality.htm>.

(4) Internet Stopping Adults Facilitating the Exploitation of Today’s Youth (SAFETY) Act of 2007 (H.R. 837):

This bill, while targeted at helping prevent online exploitation of youth, also raises privacy concerns. For example, the bill requires ISPs to record a user’s name and address which can be linked to a specific Internet protocol address. This will facilitate the tracking of Internet use back to an individual’s PC. The bill also gives the Attorney General broad authority to issue regulations on what other information must be retained by ISPs, and for how long. Law enforcement will still need a court order to obtain any data retained by Internet providers. But the more data that are tracked and retained, the greater the concerns about privacy. The SAFETY bill is at http://thomas.loc.gov/home/gpoxmlc110/h837_ih.xml.

(5) Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA, P.L. 103-414): This law was originally enacted in 1994. It required telephone companies to make certain technical upgrades to their networks to make it easier for law enforcement to initiate phone wiretaps. While not a new bill, the law has been the subject of recent actions related to the Internet. In 2003 the U.S. Department of Justice requested that the FCC extend CALEA to cover Internet access too. This request went through a legal challenge in May 2006, but the federal court did rule that the FCC can require certain Internet providers to comply with this law. The Commission set several dates in 2007 for ISPs to state their intent to comply. Most academic libraries in Wisconsin and 75% of the K-12 schools and public libraries receive their Internet access through WiscNet, the state’s not-for-profit ISP. In February the WiscNet board voted unanimously that it is a “private” network, which is exempt from CALEA compliance. (Bob Bocher is on the WiscNet board.)

See the ALA information on CALEA at <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/techintele/calea/calea.htm>. The

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DPI publishes *Youth with Special Needs* resource guide

By **Barb Huntington**, Youth and Special Needs Consultant
Public Library Development Team

The Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) recently distributed copies of the new “Youth with Special Needs: A Resource and Planning Guide” publication to all public libraries in the state. This publication includes national and state background information on various special needs areas, as well as suggestions for overcoming barriers for youth in these population groups. After March 9, 2007, the publication will also be available on line at: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/dltcl/pld/ysnpl.html>.

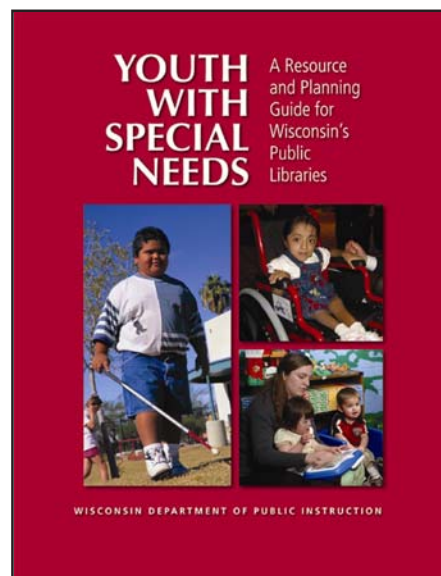
The publication expands on the core strategies identified in the original publication, *Public Library Services for Youth with Special Needs: A Plan for Wisconsin*, completed in 1999. The new publication revises the strategies and includes numerous national and state resources for the targeted areas, suggested service activities, and best practice examples.

Librarians will find the resource and planning guide useful when doing long-range planning but, also:

- * As a ready reference tool to answer patron questions about agencies that serve youth with various types of special needs.
- * To request free promotional and informational materials.
- * To identify potential partnering agencies at the local, county, and state level to collaborate on particular projects or to help distribute information about library services to targeted population groups.

- * As a source for summarized information and data on given areas of special needs and for resources that can provide more data.
- * As a source of ideas for possible grant projects or initiatives to serve targeted youth with special needs.

DLTCL has received a request to feature this publication on serving people with disabilities at an ALA preconference in June in Washington, D.C. The request was made because few states have long-range plans that address services for youth with special needs. ☼



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paper “Private Network and Interconnection Exemptions Under CALEA” (<http://www.digestiblelaw.com/electronicssurveillance/blogQ.aspx?entry=3754&id=32>) by Albert Gidari is also an excellent source. Mr. Gidari serves as a consultant on this law and other technology issues for ALA.

If you have any questions on the above information, please contact Bob Bocher at robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us, 608-266-2127. ☼

Studies show economic impact of public libraries

Two new studies have been added to the Economic Impact of Public Libraries resource page on DPI's website.

The new studies include one conducted by Levin, Driscoll & Fleeter of Columbus, Ohio, on nine libraries serving four counties in southwestern Ohio and released November 29, 2006. The study, “Value For Money: Southwestern Ohio's Return from Investment in Public Libraries,” is described and linked here: <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/jan1006makingcitiesstronger.html> .

The other study from the Urban Institute, “Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development,” was released on January 11, 2007 and is described and linked here: <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/jan1006makingcitiesstronger.html> .

Both studies, as well as other economic impact and taxpayer return on investment studies, are collected at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/econimpact.html>, along with additional resources for libraries interested in conducting local studies. ☼

Libraries can help promote BadgerLink identity

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

Background:

BadgerLink resources are available to all Wisconsin residents from their libraries, offices, home and other locations. The Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning maintains a BadgerLink website which provides access to all BadgerLink databases and other government and digitized resources from Wisconsin as well as general online information of interest to library staff, educators and others.

BadgerLink currently includes full text magazines, newspapers, and reference information in a variety of formats from the following vendors: EBSCO (magazines, newspapers, reference information), ProQuest (newspapers), Newspaper Archive (older newspapers), Gale (LitFinder – poems, essays, speeches, plays), and TeachingBooks, Inc. (children's literature information and videos).

In order to facilitate maximum use of these statewide resources, libraries and other organizations are encouraged to provide access to them through local library, library system or organization websites. The more ways these resources are made available to the public, the better. BadgerLink is funded through a tax on telecommunications services through the Universal Service Fund. The BadgerLink website facilitates authentication to these resources in a variety of ways.

Libraries or organizations can also provide access through several ways:



1. Provide a link to the BadgerLink website
2. Provide links to various BadgerLink resources separately
3. Provide authentication through library card or other login on a local library website and then through use of a referring URL, provide access to specific resources
4. Use aggregator software to provide access to multiple databases in conjunction with searching a library's card catalog

Issues:

Libraries sometimes do not provide any access to BadgerLink resources. When access is provided, the resources are often difficult to find on the website.

Libraries using referring URLs or aggregator software do not always include access to all available state funded resources. Websites are not kept up-to-date when new resources are added.

Websites also may not contain any information that the resources are provided using state funding or make any reference to or connection to BadgerLink. Library users are left with the impression that their local library is funding the access to all resources and they cannot obtain from other sources.

Many state residents do not know that they have access to these resources at

all or they do not understand they can access the materials from home.

Recommendation for best practice:

All Wisconsin libraries should have a link to the BadgerLink website which indicates the source of funding and administration and provides access using various methods of authentication. Libraries using local library authentication and referring URLs or aggregator software should indicate somewhere on the local website that resources are provided through the BadgerLink program. Library staff can find instructions on creating BadgerLink links for their web page and logos to use for this purpose at <http://www.badgerlink.net/promote.html>. Library staff can also download quick reference cards to use in assisting patrons with various databases at <http://www.badgerlink.net/training.html>.

The following statement is suggested for use on a website:

BadgerLink is a project of the Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning for the citizens of Wisconsin. Funding is provided through the Public Service Commission Universal Service Fund. ⚙

Wisconsin school districts will share estimated \$29 million from Common School Fund

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

Wisconsin's 425 school districts will share an estimated \$29 million in school library aid from the state's Common School Fund, according to calculations by the Department of Public Instruction.

"Income from the Common School Fund that is paid to school districts is a critical resource for school library media centers to provide print, multi-media, and other library materials that open the world of information to students," said State

Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Research shows that school library programs that are adequately staffed by licensed professionals and funded so they can provide a broad range of resources lead to higher student achievement."

"Increased payments from the Common School Fund come at an important time for school districts, which are struggling to provide strong educational programs for their students in spite of ever tighter budgetary conditions. While aid from the Common School fund shouldn't be a districts' sole source

for library acquisitions, it is an important and welcome resource for school districts as they strive to ensure a quality education for every child," she added.

While districts won't receive payments until April 25, the DPI provides the calculations early to help districts plan expenditures and permit library media specialists to order materials as needed. Purchases must be made by June 30, 2007 and must be used for expenditures cited in statute.

Library aid payments for the 2006-07 school year are estimated at \$23.08 per census student, an increase from last year's payment of \$22.32. The school census is the number of persons between the ages of 4 and 20 living in a school district as reported to the DPI. Statewide, the school census count was 1,256,267 for 2005-06.

Common School Fund payments are derived primarily from interest earned on bonds and low-interest loans made from the fund to school districts and municipalities by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, which manages the fund. As established in the state constitution and statutes governing the Common School Fund, timber revenue from public lands, certain fines and forfeitures, and proceeds from unclaimed property are added to the principal of the fund.

The list of Common School fund allocation estimates by school district and more information about the Common School Fund can be found on the DPI website at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sfs/comsch.html>. ☼

Library advocates gather in Madison for 2007 Library Legislative Day

On January 23, 158 library advocates participated in the 2007 Library Legislative Day in Madison. Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Ed Van Gemert, Acting Director, General Library System, University of Wisconsin-Madison, were the keynote speakers; Tia Nelson, Executive Secretary, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands provided a briefing on the Common School Fund.

The annual Library Legislative Day is an opportunity for librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries to discuss with their legislators issues facing libraries. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Library Association and the Wisconsin Educational Media Association, the day includes briefings on issues and visits with legislators. This year's Legislative Day was organized by Kris Adams Wendt, Julie Schneider, and Bob Smiley.

In her remarks, State Superintendent Burmaster said it is crucial to Wisconsin's democratic and economic future that we continue to maintain strong schools and libraries. Wisconsin's economy of the future depends on a well educated and informed citizenry—and for Wisconsin to compete, we must maintain good schools, good libraries, and a high quality-of-life. Van Gemert said a strong University of Wisconsin System is good for libraries and good for the state of Wisconsin. ☼



DLTCL staff participate in 2007 New Wisconsin Promise Conference

By Stuart Ciske, Technology Consultant
Instructional Media and Technology Team

The Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning provided resources on division programs and services during the 2007 New Wisconsin Promise Conference held January 9-10 at the Monona Terrace Conference Center in Madison. Participants picked up BadgerLink bookmarks, school library media study results, and WINSS information from among the myriad of materials on display, and had the chance to meet and talk with Assistant State Superintendent Richard Grobschmidt and staff from the division's five teams: Community Learning and Partnerships, Instructional Media and Technology, Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing (Reference & Loan Library), Library and Statistical Information Center (Information Technology), and Public Library Development.

The nearly 1500 conference participants had the opportunity to

focus on a single conference track, or sample highlights from any of the four tracks featured - Literacy, Mathematics, Engagement in Learning, and School Improvement for Systemic Change. National experts on the cutting edge of school reform, mathematics, and literacy shared their knowledge and expertise with conference participants, who also attended sessions by Wisconsin presenters from schools and districts.

The conference, sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction, showcased workable ideas and practical models to support the DPI goal of providing every child in Wisconsin the opportunity for a quality education and afford every educator the opportunity to enhance their practices to meet the ever-evolving needs of children throughout the state. ⚙



**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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