

Library programs see increases in state biennial budget

By Mike Cross, Director
Public Library Development Team

On October 23, both houses of the Wisconsin legislature approved a budget bill for the 2007-2009 biennium, and the bill was signed into law by Governor Doyle on October 26. The budget includes funding for many library budget initiatives proposed by State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster to the Governor and approved earlier by both the Senate and Assembly. In addition, the budget exempts from county levy limits payments counties make to public libraries under s. 43.12 (“Act 150 payments” and “Act 420 payments”). The budget retains the maintenance of effort requirements for public library system membership.

Funding for these items will be at the levels recommended by the Governor:

- 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. Total library system funding will be \$16,138,000 for 2008 and \$16,783,500 for 2009. This compares to 2007 funding of \$15,521,200.
- Library service contract funding for the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (WRLBPH), the Milwaukee Public Library, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS), and the Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) totaling \$1,134,200 for 2008 and \$1,097,200 for 2009. This compares to 2007 funding of \$876,900. The approved funding will improve contracted service levels and allow the WRLBPH to upgrade their technology to allow for the delivery of digital talking books.
- 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 will allow for maintenance of the current BadgerLink resources.
- Library service contract funding for the Wisconsin 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.

The budget also includes 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 budget provides that school library aid (from the common school fund) may be used by school districts to purchase library-related computers and software that will be housed in the school library. However, it is required that, at most, 25% of a school district’s school library aid can be used for such purposes, and that the school district’s library media coordinator must be consulted before making these expenditures. ☺

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IMT team holds annual regional meetings

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

Guided by the State Superintendent's initiatives with the 21st Century Skills Partnership and the American Diploma

Project, the Instructional Media and Technology Team engaged over 500 Wisconsin educators in a series of regional meetings September 25-October 12, 2007. This year's theme was *21st Century Skills and Wisconsin: Developing Leadership from Within*.

The day-long meetings were held in Rice Lake, Pewaukee, Appleton and Wisconsin Dells. This year, in cooperation with Intel Education Foundation, attendees participated in the *Intel(r) TEACH to the Future Leadership Forum*. The forum provided face-to-face professional development focusing on the importance of leadership in promoting, supporting, and modeling the use of technology in instruction. Participants explored relevant research and behaviors related to supporting effective technology integration and associated professional development.

In addition, DPI staff presented information on state and federal grants and funding programs, updates on current research centering on the 21st century skills frameworks, the recent launch of Thinkfinity and the new BadgerLink Toolkit. Copies of the program materials are posted to the IMTT website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/imt>.

Wisconsin represented at 2007 National Book Festival

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

The Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) collaborated with the Wisconsin Center for the Book to set up a Wisconsin booth at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., on September 29, 2007. The Center for the Book sent three people to Washington to staff the booth in the area reserved for states.

Mary "Casey" Martin chaired the group and reported that the event was a huge success. She reported that attendance appeared to be double what it was last year. The people in the booth worked non-stop from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. greeting people and talking with them about Wisconsin's many authors and illustrators. Many items were given away to the visitors to the booth.

DLTCL coordinated the production of the items distributed to children. The featured Wisconsin children's author this year was Lois Ehlert and the featured title was Ehlert's newest book, *Wag a Tale*, published by Harcourt in 2007. Harcourt gave permission to DLTCL to develop an activity sheet based on the book. It featured cut outs of some of the dogs in the book and children were encouraged to create

their own dogs to play with the dogs featured on the page. Harcourt also provided posters featuring the book and stickers of the various dogs, which were distributed at the booth. Children who attend the National Book Fest receive a map of the U.S. and go from one state booth to another to get their map stamped with an image representing each state. This year the image on the Wisconsin stamp was the face of one of the dogs from the Ehlert book. ☺



Front, Mary "Casey" Martin of the Wisconsin Center for the Book; back, Dennis Martin and Mary Chute, Deputy Director for Library Services, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). (Photograph courtesy of IMLS)

Channel

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

September-October 2007
Volume 43, Number 1

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

Send comments about bylined articles to the authors. Direct other content inquiries or mailing list changes to editor Roslyn Wise at (608) 266-6439 or roslyn.wise@dpi.state.wi.us.

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Three Wisconsin school districts receive Improving Literacy Through School Libraries grants

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

The U.S. Department of Education has announced that three Wisconsin school districts are recipients of Improving Literacy Through School Libraries grants. The School District of Cashton will receive \$122,637 to improve library media services and technology in the school district, Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton Schools will receive \$84,355, and CESA 12 will receive \$180,278 to improve library services in the Mercer School District.

The Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program is a one-year grant for school districts in which at least 20 percent of the students are from families with incomes below the poverty line. The program helps LEAs improve reading achievement by providing students with increased access to up-to-date school library materials; well-equipped, technologically advanced school library media centers, and professionally certified school library media specialists.

The Cashton School District will serve 349 students in rural Monroe County with its Cashton Doors to Literacy Program. Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton Schools will serve 660 students in two rural schools with its Libraries Enhancing Academic Performance (LEAP) project. The CESA 12 project will provide improved literacy services to the 170 PK-12 students of the Mercer School District. ☼

Statewide Resource Contacts

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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

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Audiovisual Wisconsin 2007

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

This column appears annually and contains descriptions of mostly recent audiovisual programs about Wisconsin—its people, its history, its culture, its physical, economic, work, political, and social environment. Many VHS videocassette programs described in previous “Audiovisual Wisconsin” columns are now being released on DVD, so this year’s list of DVDs includes mention of some of those earlier programs. All of the titles described here are in the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library’s extensive lending collection of audiovisual materials about the state.

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

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

Badger Village: Our Prairie Home (2006; 69 minutes) produced by Dave Erickson of Ootek Productions, presents the story of a parcel of land on the Sauk prairie in Sauk County, Wisconsin, that was originally a Native American village, became a farming community, then a temporary federal housing community for war workers at the nearby Badger Ordnance Works, and later a home for GI students at the University of Wisconsin. The documentary includes interviews, reenactments, and historic photographs. (DVD V-203) (Badger History Group, 565 Water St., Prairie du Sac, WI, 53578. <http://www.badgerordnancehistory.org>)

The Defenders: A History of the Birth Control Movement in Wisconsin (2006. 2-disc set with booklet). One disc

is a 93-minute documentary on the social movement that fought to gain the right to birth control and safe legal abortion in Wisconsin, and on the history of the organization Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. The second disc is a 26-minute overview of the effort to secure birth control services for Wisconsin families and what it will take to protect their rights. Both discs include contemporary and archival film footage and photographs. (DVD V-176) (Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc., P.O. Box 510795, Milwaukee, WI 53203-9839; 608-256-7549, ext. 2137)

Game Over: Women in Prison (2006; 30 minutes, closed-captioned; with guide) is a documentary in which female prisoners and officials at the Taycheedah Correctional Institution in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, discourage girls from criminal behavior by describing and showing the reality of being confined to prison. It was videotaped by inmates themselves, and looks at the daily life in prison and the problems and issues women prisoners face, and includes filmed statements by eight inmates who tell their stories and offer advice for avoiding a life in crime and time in prison. (DVD V-179). This program is a companion to the 2005 documentary *You Don’t Want to Live in My House* (DVD V-110) in which male inmates and officials at the Green Bay Correctional Institution send the same message. (NEWIST/CESA 7, 2420 Nicolet Dr., IS 1040, Green Bay, WI 54311; 800-633-7445; <http://www.uwgb.edu/newist>)

Inspirational Wisconsin: A Film of Scenic Choreography (2006; 60 minutes) is a celebration of Wisconsin’s natural beauty filmed by Joseph T. LaMartina with the addition of nature photography by Richard LaMartina. Scenic views are set to music, and there is minimal narration, on-screen printed inspirational quotations are interspersed, and brief captions identify locations. This visual journey across the state is intended for relaxation and inspiration. (DVD V-226) (VideoGraphics, 4205 Wood Rd., Racine, WI 53403; 262-554-5534)

Remembering Derleth: A Brief History of Some of His Friends (2004; 24 minutes) contains a collection of clips from amateur films made at meetings of the August Derleth Society, Walden West Festivals, and other functions and events commemorating and celebrating the life and work of Wisconsin author August Derleth. It includes views of a gravesite visit, a bridge naming ceremony, and memories shared by people who knew him, and several brief silent film clips of August Derleth himself. (DVD V-202)

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From the same producer is the DVD of the 2000 VHS videocassette release *Sauk City/Prairie du Sac, 1938* (2005; 68 minutes). It is a moving picture portrait of daily life in the towns of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, in 1938, with views of people and their dress, work and businesses, buildings, and activities. Originally a silent film produced by Amateur Service Productions, it has the addition of current day sound commentary and reflections by local resident W.J. "Shimmel" Coenen. (DVD V-201; VHS V-7275) (Saxon Technology, 3838 Hwy. 78, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572; 608-437-8970; saxon@mhtc.net; <http://www.cucarecords.com>)

Wisconsin (Discoveries—America series) (2006; 60 minutes) looks at the uniqueness of Wisconsin's culture and beauty through a series of video essays about some of the people, places, businesses, and recreational activities in the state. There are segments on Milwaukee and Wisconsin Dells, Circus World Museum, log rolling, a barbershop quartet, a beer fest and musky tournament in Eagle River, a cruise in the Apostle Islands, and businesses including an organic dairy, a cheese factory, a bicycle company, and restaurants in Door County. (DVD V-183) (Bennett-Watt Productions, 13021 244th Ave. S.E., Issaquah, WA 98027; 800-327-2893; <http://www.bennett-watt.com>)

Wisconsin Barns: Touchstones to the Past (2005; 29 minutes) celebrates classic and traditional barns found in Wisconsin and describes them as important reminders of the agricultural past. The program suggests that there are adaptive uses for those barns that are worth saving and looks at some barns in various stages of restoration and renewal. (DVD V-198) (Tom Laughlin/Kovia Productions, N2856 Walden Lane, Lake Geneva, WI 53147; <http://www.koviaonline.com>)

Milwaukee Public Television makes available on DVD some of their documentary programs, most of them about the city's history or about people with a connection to the city. (Milwaukee Public Television, 1036 N. 8th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233; 414-297-7540; <http://www.mptv.org/local/documentaries.php>)

Behind the Headlines: Inside the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (2002; 60 minutes) shows the inner workings, daily operation, and behind-the-scenes activity of Wisconsin's largest newspaper. The "Milwaukee Journal Sentinel" began in 1995, a result of the consolidation of the "Milwaukee Sentinel" which started in 1837 and the "Milwaukee Journal" which started in 1882. (DVD V-237)

Building the Denis Sullivan (2002; 80 minutes) is the story of the planning, designing, and construction of Wisconsin's flagship, the Denis Sullivan, a recreation of a nineteenth-century three-masted Great Lakes cargo schooner. Completed in Milwaukee in 2000 by professional shipwrights and volunteers, the tall ship celebrates Wisconsin and Great Lakes maritime history, and is used for science education and nautical training. (DVD V-238)

A Day in the Life of Milwaukee (2001; 30 minutes) was recorded in 2001 and showcases unique places and people in Milwaukee by mixing views of the city with scenes of everyday life and local special events. (DVD V-236)

Etched in Acid: Warrington Colescott (1998; 60 minutes) is a biographical program about printmaker and professor emeritus of the University of Wisconsin, Warrington Colescott. The artist and others comment on his inspiration, creative process, and the use of humor and satire in his work. He is shown in his studio in southwestern Wisconsin using his technique of acid etching and color printing. (DVD V-239)

The Making of Milwaukee (2006; 290 minutes on 3 DVDs; closed-captioned) uses contemporary and archival film footage, photos, and pictures to present a history of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from earliest days of Native Americans, to the metropolis of the early 21st century. It looks at the ethnic heritage of the city and stories of immigrant settlers; industrialists, innovators, politicians, and others who contributed to the development and character of the city; the city during times of war and peace; the roaring twenties, the Great Depression, and the unsettling 1960s, to today. (DVD V-199). Schools and libraries may request a free copy of this DVD program from the producer by going to <http://www.themakingofmilwaukee.com> on the Internet. A related online social studies curriculum for grades 4-12 and additional historical information are available at the same Internet address.

Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) has some new programs on DVD and is also making some earlier VHS videocassette programs available on DVD. (Wisconsin Public Television, Program Marketing, 821 University Ave., Madison, WI 53706; (608)263-4575; <http://www.wpt.org>)

Fill'er Up: The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations (2007; 30minutes; optional subtitles) was produced in cooperation with the Wisconsin Historical Society and looks at vintage gas stations in Wisconsin. It covers their distinctive and unique architectural styles, their influence in changing standards of commerce and marketing, and their role in popular culture. (DVD V-241)

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Great Lakes Legacy and *Great Lakes Connections* (2007; 56 minutes; optional subtitles) are two 28-minute special programs in the *In Wisconsin* television series on one DVD. They explore the importance of the Great Lakes and how the people of Wisconsin are connected to them, and examine economic and environmental issues that affect this water resource. (DVD V-244)

Poems About Places (2007; 28 minutes; optional subtitles) is another special program in the *In Wisconsin* television series. Here, visual poems about several natural, historical, and commercial locations in Wisconsin were created by five Wisconsin poets and five videographers who were paired and collaborated to combine their art. In each case, the words of the poet were written to the videographer's images and the videographer edited the images to accompany the poem. (DVD V-243)

Wisconsin Korean War Stories (2006; 120 minutes; optional subtitles) is a two-part program in which Wisconsin veterans of the Korean War share memories of their experiences in what is often referred to as the "forgotten war." They talk of going to war and of battles and actions during the war, and also share their views of the war as one that held the line but did not end in victory. This program is part of "The Wisconsin Collection" series produced in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society and in association with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. (DVD V-184)

Five new programs in WPT's *The Wisconsin Gardener* series bring the number of segments to 57. These are the first programs in the series to be released only on DVD; earlier programs were on VHS videocassette. In this series, master gardener Shelley F. Ryan and guest experts visit gardens and give advice about plant varieties and gardening in Wisconsin's land and climate conditions. The programs include how-to information on crafts and cookery related to plants, gardens, and crops. Each program is 30 minutes long and has optional English subtitles. "The Wisconsin Gardener" Web site offers resources and transcripts of programs: <http://www.wpt.org/garden>. Descriptions of the other programs in the series may be found in WISCAT or SALCAT.

Focus on Foliage (2007) deals with coleus, fungal diseases, cover crops, and unusual evergreens, and shows insect art by a Wisconsin artist. (DVD V-234)

Garden Design (2007) examines ideas for garden layout, mixing plants, plant choices, and creating living spaces in the garden. (DVD V-200)

Harvest Traditions (2006) shows wreath making using dried plant materials, planting bulbs in a natural

setting, and heirloom squash, pumpkins and gourds, and tells the meaning of the marigold in celebrating the Mexican holiday the Day of the Dead. (DVD V-162)

Healthy Weeds (2007) covers ornamental bamboo, the installation of a rain barrel, and how to remove dandelions without chemicals and then prepare them for eating. (DVD V-220)

Hot Plants (2006) looks at new or especially interesting garden plants and shrubs, hot peppers and how to roast them, using peppers, fruits, and herbs in vinegars, and growing shiitake mushrooms. (DVD V-161)

The Best of Wisconsin Gardener: Container Gardening (2007; 120 minutes; optional subtitles) brings together on one DVD four earlier programs in the series that deal primarily with the topic of container gardening: "Shade and Container Gardening" (1994), "Garden Style" (2003), "Gardening and Cooking with Herbs" (2005), and "Pot It" (2006). (DVD V-242)

These programs from WPT were originally released on VHS videocassette and are now available on DVD:

Spring Fever: 30 Years with the UW Varsity Band (2004; 60 minutes; optional subtitles) features the University of Wisconsin—Madison Varsity Band and its director Michael Leckrone in a history of the band's thirty years of spring concerts with footage from the concerts and other appearances, video clips, commentary, and interviews. (DVD V-186)

The World's Greatest Showmen (1998; 77 minutes; with optional subtitles) produced in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society's Circus World Museum tells the history of the circus in the United States and in Wisconsin, and of the showmen who made the circus great. (DVD V-185; VHS V-7007)

WDSE-TV, the public television station in Duluth, MN, now has available on DVD its 2002 VHS videocassette release of *Ojibwe Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look in All Directions*, a series of six programs documenting the history and culture of the Anishinaabe-Ojibwe people of the upper Great Lakes region. The programs include dramatic reenactments, archival photographs, artwork, and interviews with historians and with Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan tribal members. Programs are about 58 minutes each and are closed-captioned. Companion teacher guides and resources are on the Internet at <http://www.ojibwe.org>. (WDSE-TV, 632 Niagara Court, Duluth, MN 55811-3098; phone: 218-724-8567 or 1-888-563-9373)

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Gakina-awiiya: We Are All Related describes the Ojibwe view of the interconnectedness of all people and all life and the relationship between the Ojibwe and their environment. (DVD V-235 NO.1/VHS V-7357 NO.1)

Gwayakochigwin: Doing Things the Right Way explains Ojibwe leadership, tribal government, and the traditional way of making decisions with respect, thorough deliberation, and community consensus. (DVD V-235 NO.2/VHS V-7357 NO.2)

Gaa Miinigooyang: That Which Is Given to Us looks at the Ojibwe economy today and how it has changed from the subsistence lifestyle before the arrival of the Europeans. (DVD V-235 NO.3/VHS V-7357 NO.3)

Bimaadiziwin: A Healthy Way of Life tells about the Ojibwe meaning of a good and healthy life, their holistic approach to health and medicine, and the impact of the European arrival on Ojibwe health. (DVD V-235 NO.4/VHS V-7357 NO.4)

Gikinoo'amaadiwin: We Gain Knowledge examines the traditional way of passing knowledge from generation to generation, the impact of western beliefs and values, and the mixing of traditional and nontraditional ways in modern tribal schools. (DVD V-235 NO.5/VHS V-7357 NO.5)

Ojibwemowin: The Ojibwe Language looks at the Ojibwe language and oral tradition, including the importance of storytelling and the near disappearance of the language and recent efforts to preserve and speak it. (DVD V-235 NO.6/VHS V-7357 NO.6)

Ootek Productions (E3177 Flowage Rd., Lone Rock, WI 53556; 608-583-3366; ootek@copper.net) has released some of its original VHS programs on DVD:

Community Conservation: Living in the Park (59 minutes; with study guide; 1996 on VHS and in 2006 on DVD) describes the land ethic of conservationist Aldo Leopold and looks at community conservation as central to the debate on environmental policy. (DVD V-207; VHS V-6357)

Gather Like the Waters: The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (2 discs; 118 minutes; with guide; VHS in 1994 and DVD in 2007) is a 2-part documentary of a canoe exploration of the last free-flowing stretch of the Wisconsin River that is located between Prairie du Sac and the Mississippi River. It examines both the natural and human diversity along the Lower Wisconsin, and describes efforts to preserve its environment. (DVD V-204 and VHS V-2906)

Polka from Cuca (2 discs; 106 minutes; VHS in 1994 and DVD in 2005) celebrates the polka as Wisconsin's state

dance and polka music as part of Wisconsin's folk heritage with performances by some of the state's best polka musicians, and tells the history of Cuca Records, the recording company of the largest catalog of polka music. (DVD V-209 and VHS V-6229)

Polka 2000: Old Songs for a New Century (1999; 59 minutes) shows polka dancing and Wisconsin polka musicians in performance at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., in 1998, and at the Wisconsin Folklife Festival in Madison. (DVD V-211 and VHS V-7053)

Powder on the Prairie: The Story of the Building of the Badger Ordnance (34 minutes; in 1992 on VHS and in 2007 on DVD) describes the land before the construction of the Badger Ordnance Works in 1942 and what the eviction from their farmland meant to the people in Sauk County. Also on the DVD is *Erhart Remembered*, about local historian Erhart Mueller who documented the building of the installation and its impact. (DVD V-227 and VHS V-2674)

Powder to the People (2000 on VHS and 2007 on DVD; 60 minutes; closed-captioned) describes the role of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant (formerly Badger Ordnance Works) during war and after, and the resulting social changes in rural Sauk County. (DVD V-229 and VHS V-7237)

The Rush for Grey Gold (1997 on VHS and 2007 on DVD; 118 minutes; closed-captioned) uses accounts of people who lived it and reenactments to tell the story of the 1820's rush of miners to the Upper Mississippi Lead Region. (DVD V-228 and VHS V-6549)

A Sauk County Almanac (28 minutes; 1989 on VHS and 2007 on DVD) includes interviews with area naturalists and environmentalists, and comments by Nina Leopold Bradley and recitations of the words of her father, Aldo Leopold, in an inspirational celebration of the natural beauty of Sauk County, Wisconsin. (DVD V-208 and VHS V-1261)

A State of Escape (2002; 59 minutes) looks at the history and development of recreation areas, resorts, and recreational activity in Wisconsin. It tells of famous people who traveled to northern Wisconsin, shows rustic architectures, and includes interviews with resort owners. (DVD V-210 and VHS V-7325)

Thunder in the Dells (1991 on VHS and 2007 on DVD; 29 minutes) is a documentary on the Winnebago Indians in Wisconsin, their history, treatment by the government, and the legacy of Chief Yellow Thunder. (DVD V-230 and VHS V-2110)✪

ALA study shows maintaining adequate library Internet bandwidth a nationwide problem

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

Access to adequate Internet bandwidth has emerged as a key issue for public libraries nationwide and here in Wisconsin. This article provides a brief summary of a recent American Library Association (ALA) study on this issue and offers a perspective on bandwidth issues confronting Wisconsin's public libraries.

ALA Public Library Internet Bandwidth Study

From January through June 2007 the American Library Association's Office for Information and Technology Policy (OITP) conducted a study to examine both the barriers to adequate Internet bandwidth in the nation's public libraries and possible solutions. The complete report of the study is available at http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/contacttwo/oitp/papersa/public_version_final.pdf. The study was funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Ninety-eight percent of public libraries nationwide provide free public Internet access. Thus, as the report aptly states, "The problem has become not basic connectivity, but obtaining and sustaining access to Internet services and resources the public needs as the demands of the medium and its users grow rapidly." The ALA study documents how public libraries nationwide are having problems maintaining adequate bandwidth for their Internet access. As documented below, Wisconsin is no exception. The ALA study revealed that adequate bandwidth for acceptable Internet access is a complex issue and different states and regions within states approach this issue from varied perspectives. Within the context of the different perspectives, the ALA study did reveal certain key findings on Internet connectivity applicable to most states and regions of the country. These common findings include the following.

1. *Collaboration and aggregation works.* A collaborative approach to adequate library Internet connectivity—at a state or regional level—is often more successful than individual libraries working to obtain more bandwidth by themselves. Libraries in states with statewide or regional networks generally had fewer problems in maintaining adequate Internet connectivity. (Ninety-three percent of Wisconsin public libraries get Internet access via a regional network managed by their library system.)

2. *The need for higher bandwidth is growing dramatically.* The more interactive Web environment (e.g., video, gaming) requires considerably more bandwidth than static (text-only) Websites. What was considered sufficient bandwidth just a year or two ago is no longer adequate. The need for constantly increasing bandwidth is not expected to slow in the foreseeable future.
3. *The minimum threshold for library Internet bandwidth should be 1.5Mbps.* The minimum recommended standard of 1.5Mbps is only for the smallest libraries, and most libraries will need bandwidth substantially greater than the minimum. Even those states with robust state or regional networks are experiencing slow Internet access because of inadequate bandwidth.
4. *There is a need for planning.* Some type of planning process or modeling must be undertaken to help libraries determine their needs for higher bandwidth. The amount of bandwidth needed will vary depending on the number of computers in the library and the Internet-based services or applications offered by the library. All agree that whatever configuration is chosen, it should be scalable, because more bandwidth will be needed, perhaps sooner rather than later. Each library's needs should be analyzed in relation to the options for broadband that are available.
5. *There is a lack of awareness of the roles of libraries.* Interviews with public officials and telecommunication providers showed that many do not understand the critical role of libraries in providing access to resources and information on the Internet. An awareness campaign needs to be targeted at key decision makers and providers about this role.

The dramatically increased need for ever more bandwidth is being driven primarily by the ever-changing nature of the Internet and its use. The Web has become a critical access tool for a wide range of purposes, including access to financial services, government services, health care, shopping, submitting job applications, and many more. As the ALA report states, "People simply have more things to do with public Internet access."

Along with a general increase in use, many Websites have migrated from a "text-only" environment to one that

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DPI appoints Lisa Reale as new BadgerLink Coordinator

Lisa Reale is the new BadgerLink Coordinator and is responsible for providing access to BadgerLink for all types of libraries and for residents from their homes, offices, and other locations. Lisa began in October, 2007. She previously worked for the University of Wisconsin Colleges, Information Technology Department as an Information Processing Consultant. She worked with the

Distance Education program maintaining their website, providing online course maintenance, and serving students, faculty, and staff. She also worked for short periods for CUNA Mutual Insurance, American Family Insurance and the University of Wisconsin Accounting Services. She has a bachelor of Science in Information Systems with a minor in Business from Drexel University.

BadgerLink is a statewide program providing full-text information from magazines, newspapers, reference materials, and primary documents as well as information on children and adult literature. The BadgerLink coordinator works to provide access authentication for users to the resources and provides technical support and training materials to libraries and users. ⚙

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increasingly uses multimedia. Added to this is the popularity of image and video sites (e.g., Flickr, YouTube) and interactive online gaming. Accessing these newer and very popular services and applications require substantially more bandwidth than the old text-only Web. (This changing Web environment is sometimes referred to as “Web 2.0”.)

Wisconsin is one of several states highlighted in the report (see page 143). Bob Bocher, the Public Library Development Team’s Technology Consultant, chairs the OITP Subcommittee on Telecommunications and assisted ALA staff in conducting the study. ALA staff and the Telecommunications Subcommittee will be reviewing the results of the report with Gates Foundation officials. Both organizations will be looking at possible follow-up activities to address the broadband Internet connectivity issues in our public libraries.

Internet Bandwidth: A Wisconsin Perspective

While ninety-eight percent of public libraries nationwide provide free public Internet access, in Wisconsin one hundred percent of our public libraries provide free access.

As stated above, ninety-three percent of Wisconsin’s public libraries get Internet access via a wide area network (WAN) managed by the library’s regional library system. All seventeen regional library systems in the state manage WANs for their member libraries. The WANs are part of the regional network infrastructure that connects to BadgerNet, the statewide telecommunications network. The WANs are used primarily for shared integrated library system traffic and Internet access.

The first BadgerNet network provided a minimum 1.5Mbps connection to all libraries. In 2006 the state’s

Division of Enterprise Technology implemented the second generation of BadgerNet, and some libraries were furnished with circuits less than 1.5Mbps. For most small libraries with 2 to 4 workstations this has not been a problem, but for some libraries the smaller circuit (e.g., 768Kbps) has been inadequate to support the library’s Internet needs. Like public libraries nationwide, many Wisconsin libraries are now providing wireless Internet access, and the more interactive Web environment also is placing additional stress on bandwidth. Another key factor is that 100% of the budget for the state’s TEACH program, which pays for most of a library’s BadgerNet bandwidth, has been allocated. For FY 2007 TEACH will pay \$3,179,910.02 to subsidize 416 public library and branch BadgerNet circuits. Just within the past year an additional forty six libraries and several branches started receiving TEACH subsidies. With this increase in the number of libraries, and the need for TEACH to also subsidize K-12 school BadgerNet circuits, the TEACH program currently does not have any funds remaining to subsidize requests from libraries or schools for additional bandwidth. The DPI library division has been working with TEACH staff to address library bandwidth issues. For example, there is language in the 2007-09 state budget to allow TEACH to pay for increased library and school bandwidth with federal E-rate funds.

It is expected that public libraries will continue to see an increase in bandwidth demands for the foreseeable future. Wisconsin public libraries that experience slow Internet access because of inadequate bandwidth should contact their system technology staff to review possible solutions. You may also contact Bob Bocher, Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning, 608-266-2127, robert.bocher@dpi.state.wi.us. ⚙

Wisconsin public library economic impact study launched

NorthStar Economics, Inc., a Madison-based consulting firm, will conduct a study to determine the economic benefit of public libraries for Wisconsin residents and to quantify the return on investment to Wisconsin taxpayers.

The company was awarded a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction to complete the study funded through the federal Library Services and Technology Act. The project will focus on the economic benefits that libraries bring to a global, knowledge-based economy. Public libraries increasingly have to compete with other municipal

services for funding, and they need to be better able to articulate their contribution and economic impact in their respective communities.

“Public libraries are a tremendous asset to their communities,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “We anticipate that this study will confirm and quantify the important contributions that public libraries make to lifelong learning and quality of life for Wisconsin residents.”

NorthStar will work with a steering committee to prepare a study to measure

the economic impact and return on investment in the public libraries and library systems in Wisconsin. It also will conduct an analysis of library activities and services that contribute to the success of public library involvement in economic development and the benefits the libraries confer upon individuals, families, students, businesses and organizations, whether they are library users or not.

In the data gathering phase of the project NorthStar will conduct surveys and collect data throughout the state, combined with at least 27 regional group interviews. Library systems will help to identify local libraries that might serve as regional data collection sites, representing a diverse demographic range.



iHOLA! Project workshops to be offered around state

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

Wisconsin has received a \$19,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help train librarians on techniques to best serve their Hispanic communities and to familiarize them with the on-line resources available through WebJunction. The training program in Wisconsin will be called the ¡HOLA! Project (Hispanic Outreach Library Action Project).

Four special-needs trainers from regional library systems traveled to Seattle in late September for a week of training, along with Barb Huntington, DLTCL Youth and Special Services Consultant. These four consultants will each be presenting three regional training workshops for librarians around the state. The trainers are Nancy Fletcher (of Waukesha County Federated Library System); Leah Langby (Indianhead Federated Library System); Jamie Matczak (Nicolet Federated Library System); and Marcia Sarnowski, (Winding Rivers Library System). ☼

Workshop Schedule

- Thursday, December 6, 2007**
Indianhead in Menomonie
- Thursday, January 17, 2008**
Wisconsin Valley in Wausau
- Friday, January 18, 2008 (Snow Date, January 25)** Northern Waters in Hayward
- Thursday, January 24, 2008 (Snow Date January 31)** Kenosha, Lakeshores, Mid-Wisconsin in Waterford
- Friday, February 22, 2008**
South Central LS in Madison
- Friday, February 29, 2008 (Snow Date March 7)** South West LS in Fennimore, at Tech College
- Wednesday, March 5, 2008**
Nicolet in DePere
- Thursday, March 6, 2008**
OWLS and Winnefox in Appleton
- Thursday, April 3, 2008**
Winding Rivers in LaCrosse
- Wednesday, April 16, 2008**
Milwaukee and Waukesha in Milwaukee
- Wednesday, April 16, 2008**
Eastern Shores and Manitowoc-Calumet in Manitowoc
- Thursday, April 24, 2008**
Arrowhead in Janesville
- Wednesday-Friday, April 30-May 2, 2008**
Best Practice Highlights
WAPL Conference, Stevens Point

“We are pleased to be taking on this project” said Dr. David J. Ward, NorthStar founder and president. “Our focus is to develop regional economic development strategies that incorporate the New Economy: one based on brain power, innovation, entrepreneurship, risk capital, technology transfer, and quality of life. Public libraries are important institutions that contribute to quality of life and access to knowledge in communities throughout Wisconsin. It is our hope to illuminate the important role of public libraries as significant economic drivers in the New Economy.”

NorthStar expects to complete the project in spring of 2008, and results will be announced at the Wisconsin Public Library Association annual conference in May. The Wisconsin Library Association Foundation has funds earmarked for disseminating the results of the study once it has been completed.

Additional information on the economic impact of public libraries and examples of other state and regional studies can be found on the DPI website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/econimpact.html>. ☼

What's new at the Reference and Loan Library, Part I

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

Editor's Note: *This is the first installment of a two-part article describing new books at the Reference and Loan Library. Look for Part Two in an upcoming issue of Channel.*

Need to keep current on computer technology, online sources, and virtual reference service? These new titles can help library staff and board members with varying levels of technical expertise.

Technology for the Rest of Us: A Primer on Computer Technologies for the Low-Tech Librarian, edited by Nancy Courtney (Libraries Unlimited, 2005) can help librarians understand the fundamentals of computer technologies and communicate more effectively with IT staff, patrons, and library board members. The book includes eleven essays by librarians and information technology professionals on subjects including OpenURL, Blogs and RSS, and adaptive technologies.

Your Library Goes Virtual by Audrey Church (Linworth Pub., 2007) is a great basic step-by-step guide designed to help school libraries and media centers enhance and expand their virtual presence. Church presents compelling arguments for investing in virtual library resources. The book includes an overview of different types of resources, information literacy

skills tools and tips, steps to implementing a virtual library and more.

Technology and the School Library: a Comprehensive Guide for Media Specialists and Other Educators by Odin Jurkowski (Scarecrow Press, 2006) offers detailed information on technology in the school media center. The book targets school media specialists and educators working outside the library. It covers educational software, the Internet, school library websites, equipment, classroom support, student computers, security systems and technology plans.

Technology Made Simple: Improvement Guide for Small and Medium Libraries by Kimberly Bolan and Robert Cullin (ALA, 2007) is a true hands-on guide for librarians, directors and trustees of small and medium sized public libraries who need to develop, implement, and maintain computer services. The appendixes alone are priceless. They include worksheets covering all aspects of the process including; hardware and software inventory, assessment and analysis, patron service and policy assessment, staff assessment and staff self-assessment, technology brainstorming, sample technology assessment, technology planning, technology budget, sample request for quotation, license tracking, problem report log and marketing technology.

Coming in Part Two: Building patron relationships, marketing new library programs and library administration and professional development.

Mary Clark retires from Reference and Loan Library in September

Mary Clark, Resource Sharing Technology Supervisor at the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library, retired in September after 25 years of service. She began work for the Reference and Loan Library in 1982, coordinating the State Agency Library Processing Center (SALPC) which provided cataloging and processing services for state government libraries using OCLC and WISCAT services, and she was instrumental in the development and implementation of several automation projects for the Reference and Loan Library.

Mary provided major contributions to development of a statewide database of library holdings (WISCAT) beginning in 1987. Her work incorporated all types and sizes of libraries into statewide resource sharing as both interlibrary loan borrowers and lenders. Over the last 20 years, Mary worked carefully through each generation of technology to make it work and to make the products available to libraries in a cost effective manner. Mary also supervised the implementation of BadgerLink authentication and other technical activities and the Wisconsin Document Depository Program including the Wisconsin Digital Archives. In May 2007, Mary was awarded an honorable mention at this year's Virginia Hart Special Recognition Award ceremony.

Sally Drew, director of the Reference and Loan Library, said "Mary's work has taken a remarkable dedication to the purpose, a high degree of knowledge, an amazing patience, and a strong ability to work with Reference and Loan Library staff members and library staff in many Wisconsin libraries." ☺

2008 Summer Library Program workshop held in Green Bay

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

The Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning worked with ten collaborating regional systems to present a Summer Library Program workshop which for the first time was scheduled in the fall. The workshop was held at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay, on October 16, 2007, one day before the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) Conference. The timing seemed to work well for some librarians who were able to combine travel to the workshop with travel for the WLA conference. Other library directors mentioned that they appreciated being able to send some staff to the workshop and others to the conference because of the back-to-back scheduling. Registration had to close several weeks in advance of the deadline because of the enthusiastic interest in the program. Over 125 people registered for the event.

The Planning Committee included Claudia Backus, Waukesha; Shawn Brommer, South Central; Leah Langby, Indianhead; and Lisa Langsdorf, Kenosha and Chair of the Youth Services Section (YSS) of WLA. Winnefox System managed the registration and financial issues. Co-sponsoring Systems included Arrowhead, Eastern Shores, Indianhead, Manitowoc-Calumet, Milwaukee, Nicolet, South Central, Waukesha, Winnefox, and Wisconsin Valley.

The 2008 theme for children is “Catch the Reading Bug” and the teen theme is “Metomorphosis.” Programs at the workshop addressed both the science of insects, as well as programming ideas for bugs and worms. ♻️



Participants enjoy their ladybug hats in Patti Sinclair’s craft session at the Summer Library Program Workshop on October 16, 2007. To see more photos of the workshop, as well as the session handouts, go to <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pld/slp.html>.



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