

State superintendent announces budget initiatives

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

On September 18, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster presented a budget request for the next biennium that includes the following library-related items:

- Public library system funding at the 13% index level of \$27,260,300 for 2009-10 and \$28,078,100 for 2010-11. This compares to 2008-09 funding of \$16,783,500.
- BadgerLink funding of \$3,234,000 for 2009-10 and \$3,469,400 for 2010-11. This compares to 2008-09 funding of \$2,111,000. The requested funding would allow for the addition to BadgerLink of curriculum-supporting information databases.
- 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 \$1,145,300 for 2009-10 and \$1,180,800 for 2010-11. This compares to 2008-09 funding of \$1,097,200. The requested amount would fully fund the service contracts.

- Library delivery service funding of \$216,000 for 2009-10 and \$232,000 for 2010-11. This funding would cover an estimated 50% of the statewide backbone delivery costs currently incurred by public library systems.
- NFB-Newsline funding to support newspapers accessible by telephone for blind and physically handicapped people of \$113,000 for 2009-10 and \$117,700 for 2010-11. This compares to 2008-09 funding of \$108,000.
- Maintain current authority to distribute Common School Funds of up to \$40,000,000.

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

The budget request will now be reviewed by the Governor, who will submit a proposed budget to the legislature early in 2009. ☼

Channel changes to quarterly publication

Beginning with this issue (Volume 44, Number 1), *Channel* will now be published four times per year instead of six. This decision is in response to budget and staffing changes at the Department of Public Instruction which make timely production of the newsletter six times per year increasingly difficult to achieve. With the change to a quarterly schedule, the DLTCL plans to increase the number of pages in each issue to accommodate longer, more in-depth articles about issues of interest to the Wisconsin library community. The e-newsletter, *Channel Weekly*, will continue to provide timely information and updates to the library community on a weekly basis.

The DLTCL makes use of a variety of methods of communicating information to the Wisconsin library community. It has published the *Channel* newsletter for

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Blitzke lauded for contributions to statewide library delivery service

By **Sally Drew**, Director
Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing

Bob Blitzke, recently retired from the South Central Library System Delivery Services, received the Special Services award from the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) at the WLA Conference Awards Banquet on November 6, 2008. Bob was nominated for the award by the State Superintendent's Delivery Services Advisory Committee for his work to develop and build the statewide delivery network and service. Bob worked for the South Central Library System (SCLS) for more than 20 years. During this time he established the SCLS internal delivery service and was the primary architect for the implementation phase of the statewide delivery service.

Bob worked to create support for the concept of building on the interlibrary loan network by adding physical delivery services. He set up routes, hired and trained drivers, and communicated with library staff. At the beginning he drove many of the routes himself, and also spent countless hours working on the many details needed to provide proper labeling, provide and distribute containers, develop routing schedules,

determine access methods for obtaining materials from libraries, and cheerfully work through any barriers to success.

Planning for the statewide delivery service dates back to the early 1990s when the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning began to discuss the need for a statewide delivery service that would interconnect 17 public library systems. Between 1992 and 1996, the Division funded four one-year delivery service projects in Central, Western, Eastern, and Southeastern Wisconsin to demonstrate the feasibility of this service. By the end of this period, 15 public library systems were interconnected with participating academic libraries. In 1998, the DPI formed the Delivery Services Advisory Committee. Bob's ideas and counsel were very helpful to the advisory committee.

Today, Wisconsin's delivery network connects:

- Academic libraries – including all campuses of the University of Wisconsin System and all UW-Madison Campus Libraries, the Wisconsin Technical College System, the Wisconsin Historical Society/Archives Division and

University of Wisconsin System research centers, and most private colleges in the state.

- Public libraries – all seventeen public library systems and, through them, every public library and branch in the state.
- School libraries – through public library systems, most public school districts and many private schools.
- Special libraries – Federal and state correctional institutions, medical center libraries, corporate libraries, mental health institute libraries, special resources such the Cooperative Children's Book Center and a number of State agencies.
- Wisconsin Libraries Distribution Service – the free distribution of informational materials from libraries, educational institutions, government and non-profit agencies to members of the Wisconsin Libraries Delivery Service Network.

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many years to share information on issues of interest to the library community. *Channel Weekly* was introduced in January 1999 to make use of the opportunity for the fast and efficient delivery of information provided by the Internet, and has been published weekly since that time. The Division was an early leader in the country in its use of the web for posting information about its services and activities. In addition, the DLTCCL initiated and has for many years

overseen the management of various electronic discussion lists designed to facilitate the sharing of information among librarians throughout the state, including WISPUBLIB, WEMTA-L, WISCAT-L, BADGERLINK-L, and WIERATE.

The Division will continue to strive to keep the Wisconsin library community informed about significant state library developments through its various communications efforts. ☼

Channel

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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.wi.gov.

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If the network had not been created, the most affordable alternative to a dedicated courier service for shipping materials among Wisconsin libraries would be to use the USPS, which libraries used before the development of the network. Using 2006 statewide delivery volume data, network participants would have spent nearly 2 million more dollars to ship materials through the postal service than it cost to fund the statewide delivery service operated by the South Central Library System. Secondly, because of ease of use and affordability, resource sharing materials shipped through the network grew 113% from 1997 to 2007.

The delivery of materials between libraries is the final piece of the interlibrary loan and resource sharing process and is an important service to Wisconsin library users. The delivery service is much appreciated by library staff as it saves time and money in preparing materials for shipping to another library and providing for a stable delivery method. The delivery service has greatly contributed to and fulfilled the ideals in the legislative declaration from Chapter 43 of the State Statutes. The legislature recognizes:

- The major educational, cultural and economic asset that is represented in the collective knowledge and information resources of the state's libraries, and
- That the most effective use of library resources in this state can occur only through interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries and the effective use of technology.
- The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to provide laws for the development and improvement of public libraries, school libraries and interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries. ☼

Statewide Resource Contacts

Cooperative Children's Book Center

4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706
 ccinfo@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) 286-6064

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.wi.gov/rll/wrlbph/index.html
 Marsha Valance, Regional Librarian (800) 242-8822

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Audiovisual Wisconsin 2008

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

This annual column contains descriptions of programs recently added to the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library's (R&LL) lending collection of audiovisual materials about our state. The programs are about the history, people, culture, and physical, economic, political, and social environment of Wisconsin, and, in some cases, nearby regional areas that share common experience. The list of programs includes DVDs and a few CD-ROMs.

A brief, non-evaluative description is given for each title, and R&LL's call number is included as an identifier for the convenience of borrowers. Producer or distributor contact information is provided for those wishing to inquire about purchase. Because of the large number of titles in this year's list, program descriptions are especially brief. 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.wi.gov>), may be consulted for additional information about each title, as well as for other titles in the same series and other materials on the topic.

Materials may be borrowed from the R&LL 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 R&LL. For further information on materials or how to request them, contact the Reference and Loan Library: 2109 South Stoughton Road, Madison, WI 53716-2899; phone, (888)542-5543, option 3 (in state) or (608)224-6169; fax, (608)224-6178; email, dpirlill@dpi.wi.gov.

There are new programs in two of Wisconsin Public Television's (WPT) popular television series. (Wisconsin Public Television, Program Marketing, 821 University Ave., Madison, WI 53706; (608) 263-4575; <http://www.wpt.org>).

Two programs join *Janesville* (2006) in the "Wisconsin Hometown Stories" series which is produced in partnership by the Wisconsin Historical Society and WPT.

Green Bay (2007; 60 minutes; closed-captioned) (DVD V-258) celebrates the history of Wisconsin's oldest city located at the mouth of the Fox River.

LaCrosse (2008; 60 minutes; optional subtitles) (DVD V-316) looks at the river town located where the LaCrosse, Black, and Mississippi Rivers meet.

In both programs, archival images and live interviews are used to describe early history, ethnic groups, growth and development of the cities, and their contributions to the state as a whole. Teacher resources, transcripts, and more supplemental materials are available online: <http://www.wisconsinstories.org/greenbay/> and <http://www.wisconsinstories.org/lacrosse/>.

Three new programs in "The Wisconsin Gardener" series bring the total number of segments to 60. In this series, master gardener Shelley F. Ryan visits gardens and talks with guest experts about plant varieties and gardening techniques appropriate to Wisconsin's growing conditions, plant and garden craft, and cooking ideas. The 30-minute programs have optional English subtitles. Program transcripts and other resources are available online: <http://www.wpt.org/garden>.

Celebrate Fall (2007) visits Baileys Harbor to learn how to create autumn garden displays and a nursery in Galesville to see ornamental grasses, and talks with a chef about onions, leeks, and garlic, and with a plant pathologist about garden viruses. (DVD V-249)

The Magic of Gardening (2008) shows fanciful gardens in Wisconsin including a backyard swimming hole, a garden with whimsical ornamentation, a miniature garden, and a picture frame garden. (DVD V-317)

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (2008) looks at air plants, types of garden pots, trees, the slow food movement, and poison ivy. (DVD V-318)

In two DVDs produced by Wisconsin Public Television in association with Native American Public Television, Native Americans present their own views of life and military experiences. (VisionMaker Video, 1800 North 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68503; (877)868-2250; <http://www.visionmaker.org>)

The Oneida Speak (2007; 57 minutes; closed captioned).

Oneidas in Wisconsin tell about themselves through their journals written in the 1930s as part of the Works Progress Administration Writers Project. These first hand accounts present a true picture of Oneida history and daily life at that time. Related information is online:

http://www.nativetelecom.org/enews/producer_profile/danforth_profile.html. (DVD V-311)

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Way of the Warrior (2007; 57 minutes; closed captioned). Patty Loew, member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, hosts a program which looks at the experience of Native American veterans, including some from Wisconsin, in World Wars I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The meaning of “ogichida” is described as being one who protects and follows the way of the warrior. Related information is online: <http://www.wpt.org/wayofthewarrior/index.cfm>. (DVD V-310)

The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission has released several DVDs and CD-ROMs about Native Americans in the Great Lakes region. (Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861; 715-682-6619; <http://www.glifwc.org>)

GLIFWC Videos (2000) is a compilation of the three programs “Poisoning the Circle: Mercury in Our Ecosystem” (12 minutes), “Spearfishing Coverage Compilation” (17 minutes), and “With an Eagle’s Eyes” (26 minutes). The first two programs look at the issue of mercury contamination of fish which is a traditional food source of the Ojibwe, and at the early years of the spearfishing controversy in Wisconsin. The third program explains treaty rights, tribal sovereignty, and court decisions affirming treaty rights. (DVD V-319)

Mikwendaagoziwig: They Are Remembered (Sandy Lake Tragedy) (2007; 28 minutes; with accompanying book) tells how hundreds of Ojibwe died when the United States government relocated Ojibwe from Wisconsin, Michigan, and eastern Minnesota to west of the Mississippi River in the 1850s without adequate supplies or preparation. (DVD/V-320)

Gidakiiminaan (Our Earth): An Anishinaabe Atlas of the 1836 (Upper Michigan), 1837, and 1842 Treaty Ceded Territories (2007) is a book with an accompanying CD-ROM. The book is a language atlas containing maps showing the Ojibwa language name for places and natural features in the 1836, 1837, and 1842 treaty ceded territories in east central Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The interactive CD-ROM contains maps with links that provide printed translations and voice pronunciation of the Ojibwa geographic place names. OVERSIZE E99.C6 G54x 2007)

Indinawemaaganidog (All My Relations) (200-) is an interactive CD-ROM useful for beginning and advanced Anishinaabe language students. Photographs and the names of species of animals and plants are shown in

Anishinaabe and English, and sound pronunciation of the Anishinaabe word is given in eastern and central/western dialects. (CR-61)

Non-Medicinal Uses of Plants by the Great Lakes Ojibwe (Onijiakiing = From the Earth). (2000-) is a CD-ROM with a database identifying native plants of the Great Lakes Region and their non-medicinal traditional uses by the Ojibwa people. Included is an image file, bibliography, transcripts of discussions by elders, recipes, and video clips of elders speaking about uses of some of the plants. (CR-62)

The Flood of 2008: Stories from the Rock River in Jefferson and Rock Counties (2008; 55 minutes) documents the massive flood in southern Wisconsin in the summer of 2008, as it affected the communities along the Rock River in Rock and Jefferson Counties. It includes news footage and interviews with reporters, government officials, residents, and victims of the flood, and shows rescue and damage control efforts and examples of neighbors helping neighbors. (DVD V-334) (Videogenics; 20 S. Main St., Janesville, WI, 53545; 608-754-8411)

Native Wisconsin: Official Educational DVD for Use in Studying Native American Communities in Wisconsin (2007; 27 minutes; optional subtitles) introduces and presents some facts about each of the eleven Native American tribes in Wisconsin. It shows a powwow, describes early boarding schools and tribal schools today, and tells of the relationship of the tribes with natural resources and the land. This program is part of an educational package available to educators that helps satisfy the ACT 31 curriculum requirement. (DVD V-253) (Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council-Native American Tourism of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 9, Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538; (715)588-3324; <http://www.natow.org>)

Triviatown: It’s the World’s Biggest Trivia Contest (2008; 85 minutes, with bonus features) is a documentary on the world’s biggest trivia contest conducted annually by WWSP 90FM, the student-run alternative radio station at the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point. It profiles teams and players and individuals involved in the 54-hour on-air contest, and shows the parade and festivities that enliven Stevens Point when hundreds of teams and thousands of people congregate there at contest time.

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(DVD V-315) (Media Targeting Associates;
<http://www.media-targeting.com>)

As the public broadcasting stations in Wisconsin produce important documentaries about our state and region, so, too, does WDSE-TV, the public broadcasting station in Duluth, Minnesota. WDSE-TV has documented much of the rich history of, and current day activity in, the region around the western shores of Lake Superior for its television series called "Album." Film footage, photographs, and live interviews are typically used in the 30-minute programs that look at the land, people, and events in northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin, and especially in the cities of Duluth and Superior.

The programs listed here were produced for broadcast in the "Album" series in the 1990s and were made available on DVD in 2008. These particular programs from the series are about Wisconsin or are on topics of special interest in Wisconsin. (WDSE-TV, 632 Niagara Court, Duluth, MN 55811-3098; (218)724-8567; <http://www.wdse.org>)

The Age of Brownstone (1991) is about Lake Superior brownstone quarried in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and used as a popular building material that influenced regional architectural styles. (DVD V-264)

Big Top Chautauqua (Under the Big Top) (1996) describes Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua, a summertime tent show entertainment and cultural program, begun in 1986 near Bayfield, Wisconsin, and modeled on the concept developed in the 1870s in New York state. (DVD V-307)

The Birkie at Twenty (Twenty Years of Birkie Fever) (1991) presents a history of the founding and development of the American Birkebeiner, the annual cross-country ski race held at the Telemark Lodge in northern Wisconsin near Cable. (DVD V-305)

Charting the Corps (1994) documents the history of the Duluth District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its impact on the harbors of Duluth and Superior. (DVD V-275)

Commercial Fishing in the Islands (1991) documents the history of commercial fishing in the Apostle Islands. (DVD V-276)

Dr. Smith I Presume? (1994) is an interview with Dr. Linnea Smith, a physician from Wisconsin who started a clinic in the Amazon jungles of Peru. (DVD V-277)

Duluth Curling Club: The First Century (1991) describes the sport of curling, which is also popular in Wisconsin, and the history of the Duluth Curling Club. (DVD V-274)

Environment 101: A Lesson on Northland College (1993) explains how Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, was founded as a small liberal arts college in 1892 and developed an earth-friendly philosophy that helped it survive and grow. (DVD V-279)

Fairlawn: House of History (1992) describes the architecture and interior of the elegant mansion built between 1889 and 1891 in Superior, and how it later became home for the Douglas County Historical Society. (DVD V-280)

Flying with Lightning (1991) tells how Richard Ira Bong, from Poplar, Wisconsin, grew up to fly the P-38 Lightning fighter bomber and become America's top fighter ace in World War II and won the Congressional Medal of Honor. (DVD V-281)

Gangsters in Wisconsin (Gangster Holidays in Wisconsin) (1990) shows some of the northern Wisconsin vacation hideaways for John Dillinger and other mobsters of the 1920s and 1930s. (DVD V-282)

The Island of the Yellow Breasted Woodpecker (1991) looks at the early history of Madeline Island when it was a center of activity for Chippewa Indians, fur traders, and missionaries, and tells that it is today a spiritual center for the Chippewa. (DVD V-285)

Isle Royale, the Apostles, and Voyageurs (1992) explores features of three national parks in the Lake Superior region and tells some of their history. (DVD V-286)

The Last Voyage: Edmund Fitzgerald (1991) describes the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald and tells about its sinking in Lake Superior on November 10, 1975, with the loss of all twenty-nine men on board. (DVD V-288)

Life and the Land: Old Time Farming (1994) is a history of early farming in northwestern Wisconsin and northeastern Minnesota, describing types of farms and the hard work it was for immigrants to clear the land and make a home. (DVD V-289)

Life on the Finnish Homestead (1996) describes the settlement and homesteading by Finnish immigrants in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, and tells that their descendants are preserving traditional music and customs. (DVD V-290)

Lighthouses of the Apostle Islands (1991) tells the stories chronologically of the standing lighthouses on six of the twenty-two Apostle Islands and their keepers. (DVD V-291)

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Ojibwe Wild Rice Harvest (Part I and Part II) (1997) tell about the traditional early fall wild rice harvest by Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, showing how it is done on Nett Lake in Minnesota, and stressing that even with modern methods wild harvest time remains for the people a connection with the ancestors and the spirit. (DVD V-271 and DVD V-272)

The One Room School (Reading, Riting & Rithmatic) (1992) describes one-room schools as part of America's education system and tells how they developed and were important in the region around Duluth, Madeline Island, and Superior. (DVD V-296)

The Orchards of Bayfield (1994) is a history of large scale apple growing in the area around Bayfield, Wisconsin, with visits to Bayfield's 33rd annual apple festival and talks with growers of apples and other fruit crops. (DVD V-292)

Polka: Music of the People (1996) celebrates the polka music that came with immigrants to become an important part of the culture and social structure on Minnesota's Iron Range. (DVD V-300)

Postmark, Northland (1994) recounts the history of local mail delivery in the Lake Superior region of northern Minnesota, telling about the days of hand-sorting and delivery by boat, dogsled, horse, and railway, and describing later changes in postal service. (DVD V-295)

Remembering Swedish Immigrants (They Came from Sweden) (1996) tells why Swedish immigrants came to Minnesota, what they did when they arrived, and how their descendants honor them and preserve traditions today. (DVD V-301)

Silent Cal Goes Fishing (1993) documents President Calvin Coolidge's 1928 summer vacation spent trout fishing at a private lodge on Wisconsin's Brule River. Archival photographs and film footage show how nearby communities prepared for his stay and housed his temporary office in the junior high school in Superior. (DVD V-297)

They Took My Father (1992) presents an interview with Mayme Corgan Sevander about how, in 1934, she left her home in Superior, with her family to go to the Soviet Union with other Finnish-American socialists to help build the worker's paradise, and how, when Stalin came to power, her father, Oscar Corgan, and brother were taken to prison as enemies of the people. (DVD V-302)

Stonehouse on Shipwrecks (1996) presents an interview with maritime historian and author, Frederick Stonehouse, about the sinking of the ship Edmund Fitzgerald and other

shipwrecks and lore of Lake Superior and the Great Lakes. (DVD V-299)

Times of Tall Timber (Logging Days in Wisconsin) (1990) is a history of logging and the lumber trade in northern Wisconsin in the 19th century days of huge white pine, including description of the life of lumberjacks and life in the logging camps. (DVD V-292)

Traditional Ojibwe Ice Fishing (1998) features Ben Chosa of Wisconsin's Lac du Flambeau Reservation who explains how to make lures, spears, and a hole and a blind, and demonstrates traditional fishing techniques practiced by Ojibwe Indians around the upper Great Lakes. (DVD V-303)

Twin Ports Connections: A Century of Bridges between Duluth and Superior (1993) looks at the history of the bridges that have linked northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin at the twin ports of Duluth and Superior, from early draw-spans to the toll-free Duluth-Superior High Bridge. (DVD V-306)

U.W.S.: Normal to Extraordinary (1993) presents a history of the University of Wisconsin—Superior that opened in 1896 as Superior Normal School where men and women could learn the basics of teaching, and that today is still a school for educators. (DVD V-293)

Whalebacks to Warships (1991) traces the history of steel shipbuilding in the twin ports of Duluth and Superior from the days of the whalebacks in the 1800s to the end of World War II. (DVD V-308)

Whiteout! (1994) describes some of the blizzards that have hit Duluth and surrounding area including the 1991 Halloween blizzard, and those in March, 1892, November, 1905, Washington's Birthday in 1922, and the 1940 Armistice Day storm. (DVD V-309)

"Academy Evenings" is an annual lecture series presented by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, a nonprofit organization with a mission of celebrating thought, culture and nature in the state, and of addressing common problems by connecting Wisconsin residents and ideas from all areas of knowledge. This lecture series demonstrates the spirit of the "Wisconsin Idea." The following DVDs are live recordings of some of the lectures, all of which are followed by question and answer sessions with the audience. (Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters, 1922 Old University Ave., Madison, WI 53726; (608)263-1692; <http://www.wisconsinacademy.org>)

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Allison Coshenet joins staff of Reference and Loan Library

By **Sally Drew**, Director
Interlibrary Loan and Resource Sharing

Allison Coshenet is the newest librarian at the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library, beginning work on October 27. Her duties involve responding to requests for reference and information services for the Reference and Loan Library. She will also work closely with the Ask?Away 24/7 electronic statewide reference service. Allison is learning to answer reference requests via the “chat” and email reference services and will assist with publicity, training, and best practice development. Allison will assist

with the Ask?Away pilot project for school libraries.

Prior to joining the Reference and Loan Library staff, Allison worked at the West Bend Community Memorial Public Library as a reference and adult services librarian, and at a variety of private businesses, including The Lamm Wallach Companies, Inc., and Strong Financial Corporation in the Milwaukee area. She has a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science from UW-Milwaukee and a Bachelor’s degree in Business and Management from Alverno College. ✨



*Allison
Coshenet*

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Be Happy Like a Monk, UW-Madison professor of psychology and psychiatry, Richard Davidson, presenter (2/13/2007) (DVD V-325)

Democracy in Wisconsin: Cleaning Up Our Act, Bill Kraus, Joel Rogers, Brady Williamson, Jr., presenters. (2/19/2008) (DVD V-322)

Everyday People: An Artist’s Tribute, Wisconsin artist David M. Lenz, presenter. (9/27/2007) (DVD V-330)

From Darwin to DNA, UW-Madison evolutionary biologist Sean Carroll, presenter (11/13/2007) (DVD V-324)

Healing Words: Poetry and True Story in Medical Settings, Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Dr. Arthur Derse, and Wisconsin poet laureate, Ellen Kort, presenters. (5/10/2007) (DVD V-326)

I-94 Outreach: Mayors Tom and Dave, Mayor of Milwaukee, Tom Barrett, and Mayor of Madison, Dave Cieslewicz, presenters. (5/16/2006) (DVD V-333)

Keeping the Dream Alive, UW-Madison education professor Gloria Ladson-Billings, presenter. (3/11/08) (DVD-323)

Outbreak! Bird Flu, AIDS, and Biological Warfare, UW-Madison professor of medicine, Dr. Dennis Maki, presenter. (4/26/2007) (DVD V-327)

Stamping Out Tobacco Addiction: An Achievable Goal, UW-Madison medical school professor, Dr. Michael Fiore, presenter. (10/12/2006) (DVD V-328)

Stem Cells 101: The Latest News, Our Future Challenges, UW-Madison Professor Ian D. Duncan, presenter. (10/11/2007) (DVD V-331)

Tales from the Other Biotech Frontier, attorney and UW-Madison medical ethicist, Alta Charo, presenter. (10/23/2007) (DVD V-329)

Understanding Immigration is a 4-part program: “Immigration Then and Now,” Thomas Archdeacon, presenter; “Immigration Here at Home,” Jose Olivieri, presenter; “Feeling Their Clout: The New Immigration and Political Power,” Benjamin Johnson, presenter; “Immigration Today: The Problem and the Debate about Solutions,” Tamar Jacoby, presenter. (9/11-10/2/2007) (DVD V-321).

Understanding the Middle East is a 5-part program: “The Roots of Conflict,” Joe Elder, presenter; “Rx for Oil Addiction: the Middle East and Energy Security,” Jan H. Kalicki, presenter; “The Dilemma of Fundamentalism,” Martin E. Marty, presenter; “Beyond the U.S. Veil: Women in the Middle East,” Mary Layoun, presenter; “Paths to Peace,” Nadav Shelef and Ali Abootalebi, presenters. (9/13-10/4/2006) (DVD V-160)

Wisconsin Farmers and Mexican Workers: Building Bridges between Two Cultures, founders of Puentes/Bridges Carl Duley and Shaun Duvall, and dairy farmer, John Rosenow, presenters. (5/7/2008) (DVD V-332) ✨

Terry Wilcox retires from Reference and Loan Library

(Editor's Note: The following article includes excerpts from an article written by Bob Shaw, Wisconsin Interlibrary Services (WiLS) for the Wisconsin Library Association Resource Sharing Roundtable Newsletter.)

Terry Wilcox, who has guided the Interlibrary Loan department at the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library for the past eighteen years, retired in November 2008. A Wisconsin native, Terry graduated from UW-Oshkosh majoring in library science and minoring in French and Spanish.

Terry's first library job was at UW-Stout in 1980 where she worked on standing orders and processing materials. A year and a half later she

moved to UW-Parkside where she was the evening circulation supervisor. In 1985 she "went to jail" and during the next five years she was the librarian at Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution and Taycheedah Correctional Institution. In May of 1990 Terry accepted the position of Interlibrary Loan Librarian at Reference & Loan and she stayed at that position until her retirement.

Terry said the aspects of the job she most enjoyed were working with people solving problems and doing one-on-one training. Terry has dealt with hundreds of Wisconsin library staff through training sessions, sites visits, and the statewide ILL meetings.

Terry is moving to Kila, Montana which is near Kallispel and is just a half-hour



Terry Wilcox

southwest of Glacier National Park. Her cabin is on a trout stream with abundant wildlife including bears and golden eagles. She has cousins living nearby and is looking forward to reading (surprise!), gardening, and just relaxing. ☺

Marsha Valance retires after 20 years as director of RLBPH

Marsha Valance, director of the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (RLBPH) since September 1, 1998, will retire on December 30, 2008. Marsha led the RLBPH, which is operated by the Milwaukee Public Library through a contract with the Department of Public Instruction's Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL), during transitions in technology and collection development and in providing excellent service to those people who cannot use traditional print materials. The Library of Congress National Library Service (NLS) provides the recorded and Braille materials for the Regional Library collection. DLTCL staff recognized Marsha's service during this fall's Wisconsin Library Association meeting in Middleton.

Marsha's accomplishments during her tenure included starting the Regional Library Summer Reading outreach program in 1990, and sending storytellers such as George Shannon around the state to give programs promoting summer reading. She also developed early literacy "reading readiness" kits containing print-Braille books and matching recordings, as well as beginning a program of Braille young adult books to supplement the NLS collection. Marsha increased staff for the

Regional Library and recruited Library Ambassadors to improve outreach to potential users and to network with other professionals.

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Staff from the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) presented a certificate to Marsha Valance in recognition of her service to the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. From left, Rick Grobschmidt, division administrator for the DLTCL; Marsha Valance; Sally Drew, director of the Wisconsin Reference and Loan Library, DLTCL; and Barbara Huntington, Public Library Youth and Special Services Consultant, DLTCL.

The Chain of Command

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

The relationship of the library board to the director and staff can pose problems if the chain of command is not maintained. The questions in this issue revolve around maintaining an effective balance of administrative relationships in the library.

As part of our efforts to keep costs down, we told the director to try to use more volunteers. Two board members have offered to help in the library, but is it a conflict for trustees to volunteer in the library?

Because volunteers are not compensated for their work, there may not be a conflict of interest or a compatibility of office issue for them to volunteer in the library, as long as no compensation is received for the job (note that trustees may not work in paid positions at the library, since the compatibility of office doctrine prevents the same person from holding an office and a position where one post is superior to the other). Despite the fact that it may not be illegal or unethical for library trustees to volunteer in the library, the situation may lead to problems.

Having board members interact with staff and patrons in day-to-day library operations can disrupt the traditional hierarchy for library supervision where the board supervises library administration and employs a director to supervise day-to-day operations. On the one hand, the director directly or indirectly supervises both volunteers and paid employees. The trustee, on the other hand, supervises and evaluates the library director. So having trustees work under the director as a volunteer when they also supervise the director creates a conflicting relationship in the administration of the library.

However, there may be libraries in small communities where the “people pool” for volunteers in the community is so small that it is difficult to find enough volunteers for the library in addition to those who already serve on the library board. In such circumstances, the director may be able to identify work situations or tasks that are fairly autonomous or independent, with little or no interaction with library staff and public operations. Examples might include such back room tasks as sorting, collating, mending damaged materials, or preparing new materials for the shelves (e.g., applying protective covers, routing stamping and labeling).

Library trustees may find it tempting to chip in to help operate the library when money is tight. However, their time may be better spent focusing their efforts on generating the support and funding necessary for stable library operations.

I have been appointed to the library board, but I’m also good friends with the library director’s spouse. In addition, the board president is a good friend of mine and our social circles intersect with the director’s. Is it inappropriate for me to discuss library business with the director when I see him socially, or does it violate open meetings law?

Such a situation is not unusual in many communities. Not only might the director be on social terms with board members, but those trustees may themselves meet socially. But there need not be a conflict or problem so long as both the trustee and director clearly acknowledge the relationship and make an effort to keep casual conversation about the library from becoming deliberate planning or complicity. The goal is to neither allow work to spoil a friendship nor friendship to affect the work of the director or the director’s relationship with the rest of the board. Be especially careful to limit the discussion of specific work issues, particularly personnel, so as not to affect that balance. If you feel like the conversation is getting into questionable areas, suggest that the discussion be referred to the board president to be placed on the next agenda and brought before the full board. It may not be inappropriate for library trustees to ask questions or discuss library business in private settings with the director, but it may be quite another when the discussion is between library trustees.

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I suggested that the library board all attend a workshop for trustees conducted by our library system, but one of the other trustees said it would violate open meetings law for us all to attend, since library administration will be discussed. Is she right?

No. Wisconsin Statutes § 19.82(2) defines a meeting as:

...the convening of members of a governmental body for the purpose of exercising the responsibilities, authority, power or duties delegated to or vested in the body. If one-half or more of the members of a governmental body are present, the meeting is rebuttably presumed to be for the purpose of exercising the responsibilities, authority, power or duties delegated to or vested in the body. The term does not include any social or chance gathering or conference which is not intended to avoid this subchapter...

Consequently, as long as the board members attending do not use the workshop as an opportunity to have a discussion among themselves about business specific to your library, the full board may attend the workshop without risk of violating the open meetings law.

The board for our Friends of the Library group has vacancies that no one seems willing to fill, and our director is tempted to serve as an officer on their board. Is that a problem?

Since the Friends group is typically an autonomous group, there probably is not a legal problem with the director serving on the board. But since the Friends group is established to support the library and provide additional financial support, it may not be appropriate for the library director to be in a position on the board making decisions to provide funding for requests she herself or her staff would submit. Therefore, to preserve the separation between the agency submitting requests (the library) and the group granting the support or funding (the Friends board), it is probably best for the library director not to serve on the Friends board. Similarly, the president of the library board should not serve as president of the Friends of the Library or, whenever possible, as an officer on the Friends board.

Is the library board allowed to view personnel evaluations of library aides and assistants?

While the library board is not forbidden from viewing performance evaluations for library employees, the practice is best avoided to maintain the separation between the director's role in the management of library and its staff from the board's duty to supervise overall library operations. Wisconsin Statutes 43.58(4) states: "the library board shall supervise the administration of the public library and shall appoint a librarian, who shall appoint such other assistants and employees as the library board deems necessary, and prescribe their duties and compensation." This chain of command has the library board supervising the library director and the administration of the library, and the library director hiring and supervising the rest of the staff. That relationship is recommended in Trustee Essential 7 (<http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/te7.html>), which states that "the library will operate most effectively if the two parties cooperate and communicate on important personnel matters, while avoiding intrusion into each other's area of responsibility." TE-7 also emphasizes that "the library board delegates to the director the responsibility for the day-to-day assignment of staff duties and supports the recommendations of the director for changes in staff compensation (within the policies established by the board)."

But since the library board has the ultimate responsibility to supervise the administration of the public library, they may be justified in reviewing performance evaluations if they insist. They should keep in mind that the evaluations were conducted with some assumed confidentiality between the employee and the director.

Additional information on the relationship of the library board, the director, and the staff can be found in Administrative Essentials, "AE-11, The Library as Employer," <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/ae11.html>, and "Trustee Essential 2: Who Runs the Library?" <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/te2.html>. If you have additional questions about the chain of command in the library, contact John DeBacher at (608) 266-7270, john.debacher@dpi.wi.gov . ☺

The impact of downloadable audio and video on libraries

By **Cathy Markwiese**

Milwaukee Public Library
and

and **Steff Morrill**

South Central Library System

A discussion paper on this topic was originally written for the Library Information Technology Advisory Committee (LITAC). This paper has been shortened and updated for publication in Channel. Part 2 will appear in the next issue of Channel. The original document is available on the LITAC website at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pld/litac.html>, scroll down to Related Information and click on Background Papers. There listed in the yellow table is a link called: **Downloadable Audio/Video (9-07)** (download.doc).

This paper presents descriptions of some of the popular downloadable audio and video formats, services, and devices being used by consumers for information and entertainment. The paper discusses alternatives to compact discs (CD) and digital videodiscs (DVD), but does not discuss services such as YouTube or MySpace. It raises issues and many questions for consideration.

What's Happening in the Consumer Market?

Trend: *Audio and video are easily accessible on a computer or device without any physical media necessary.*

So far, audio adoption greatly outpaces video adoption. One of the issues for video adoption is the shortfall of content. Studios are not licensing large amounts of content to anyone, ensuring that the DVD will be around for many years to come.¹ However, looking at the segment of

the population still using brick-and-mortar video stores, they tend to be less technologically savvy, which may mean that video stores (and borrowing DVDs from libraries) may become less popular as time goes on.²

Many online audio and video services include some sort of interactive component, such as recommendations based on similar users, the ability to provide ratings and reviews, shared lists of recommended items based on theme, a place to send messages to other users, and more. This additional content provides added value that the physical media does not have.

There are also different models for access – free, subscription (where consumers pay a monthly fee for a certain amount of content), rental, and purchase. For both audio and video, a distinction is made between streaming services (where the content is not downloaded to your computer) and download services (where the music or video file can reside on your computer or portable devices).

Below are descriptions of some audio and video services. This list is far from exhaustive, but should give readers a sense of the types of services available and the most popular services.

Audio content and services

- *iTunes:* iTunes began selling music in 2001. Millions of tracks are available from the site. As of June of 2008, 5 billion songs have been downloaded from the service. Most audio files from iTunes includes digital rights

management (DRM) that limits the types and number of devices on which downloads can play, though iTunes has expanded into offering some songs without DRM for the same price. iTunes is designed to work with Apple's iPod series of portable devices. The DRM on their files prevent them from being used with most other devices.

- *AmazonMp3:* Amazon.com has an MP3 music download store, which includes millions of DRM-free songs from EMI, Universal, and many independent labels. The songs play on any device, and cost between \$.89-.99 to buy a song.
- *Audible.com:* Audible.com offers spoken word downloadable content for purchase in a variety of formats and their content works on a wide variety of portable players and computers. They sell their content through iTunes and Amazon, as well as through their own online storefront.
- *Rhapsody:* Rhapsody, from RealNetworks, offers consumers two levels of subscription service, ranging from \$12.99 to \$14.99/month. Both allow unlimited streaming of music, but the \$14.99 plan, available only for Windows computers, allows music to be downloaded and transferred to specific MP3 players (iPods not included). Napster offers a similar service.

Video content and services

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- *Hulu*: Hulu, a joint project of NBC Universal and News Corp, brings together video content from more than 100 content providers, including major networks and movie studios. The site offers current primetime hits, classic TV shows, and a limited number of feature films. It also acts as a portal for other sites by providing results from other sites to search queries for video. All video is streaming and free.
- *Joost*: Joost, like Hulu, contains TV shows and movies which can be streamed to a computer. It also includes a social networking component. Users can join “groups” to talk with other viewers and get recommendations.
- *NBC Direct*: While users can watch video by streaming it from NBC’s regular site, NBC Direct provides an option for users to download episodes at a higher video quality, including HD. Subscribers can have the most current episodes of a show automatically downloaded to their PC for free.
- *Netflix*: Netflix, the company known for its DVD-by-mail subscription service, also has a watch-on-demand service for its subscribers. 12,000 movies and TV shows can be streamed to a computer or to a TV by using a “Netflix Ready Device”, which now includes Xbox 360 and TiVo.
- *Movielink and Blockbuster*: Similar to Netflix, Movielink and Blockbuster offers downloadable movies. Unlike Netflix, users can rent a single movie. The movie is

downloaded to the computer (unlike Netflix, where the movie is streamed), and can be watched for 24 hours. Movies can also be purchased.

- *iTunes*: iTunes provides downloadable movies and TV episodes for rental or purchase. All video can be used on the computer or transferred to iPods. Users can purchase entire seasons of a TV show for a discounted price.
- *Amazon Video on Demand*: Amazon also offers movies and TV shows for purchase, and movies for rental. A subset of titles can be purchased or rented and then sent directly to TiVo digital video recorders, making it very easy for consumers to watch content on their televisions.

Questions to consider:

- Libraries have traditionally circulated audio and video formats. How will libraries circulate these formats when there are no physical materials?
- If consumers become accustomed to DRM-free music or video, what will this mean for library download services, where, at least so far, DRM is essential to allow circulation?
- Could libraries provide a way for patrons to listen to subscription streaming music or video in the library? If so, what would be the technical and legal issues related to this?

Trend: Consumers are taking their media with them, and accessing information on the go.

Society is becoming more mobility-focused, and consumers want the

ability to take their media with them, which requires portable devices of different types. These devices range from strictly music or video players to devices that enable the convergence of media, internet access, and phone service.

Examples of devices

- *iPod*: The iPod family consists of some devices that are primarily video and audio players (Classic iPod, iPod Shuffle, iPod Nano) to internet-connected devices, including the iPhone and iPod Touch. Both the iPhone and iPod Touch include a full-featured browser and also the ability to purchase music from the iTunes music store directly through the device.

Like other internet-connected mobile devices, the iPod line uses two different methods to allow access to the internet. The iPhone uses a cellular connection to access the internet. This type of connection requires a subscription fee but is available wherever the cellular service is available. The iPod Touch uses WiFi access (the traditional “wireless” access available in many of our libraries). This type of access does not require an access fee, but it will only work when in range of a WiFi network.

- *Other MP3 and video players*: While the iPod’s holds the majority of the market share, other video and audio players are used by consumers, including the Microsoft Zune, the Creative Technologies line of players, and others. Most of these support the Windows Media Audio

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(WMA), MP3, and Audible formats for audio, and the WMV format for video. Primarily, these devices support different formats than those supported by iPod.

- *Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs)*: Current PDAs can be used for video and music playback, and can often be used for internet access as well (using WiFi). However, the media formats supported are often limited. One example is the Palm TX, which can support DRM-free audio and video formats with a built-in player, and can access the internet with a simplified browser.
- *Cell phones and smartphones*: Many cell phones today can also be used as video and audio players. Smartphones combine cell phone, full e-mail support, internet access, and digital media in one device. Blackberry and Treo are two examples. Media support tends to be limited on these devices as on PDAs.

Questions to consider:

- What does this mobile access to information mean for libraries? How do our web services work with the many internet connected devices?
- Could wireless internet access in libraries become more popular as these mobile Wi-Fi enabled devices become more popular? How do we accommodate mobile users?

What's Happening in the Library Market?

Trend: *Some downloadable video, music, and audiobook services are available for libraries.*

Some library vendors have begun to offer downloadable video, music and audiobook services:

- *OverDrive*: OverDrive offers libraries thousands of audiobooks and hundreds of videos (many short childrens' videos and instruction) and songs. OverDrive sells content primarily in a traditional "circulation" model (one purchase, one use at a time). They do sell individual, selected titles for unlimited access for a yearly subscription fee.
- *netLibrary*: netLibrary offers only downloadable audiobooks at this time. They offer a collection of over 3000 titles for individual purchase and a subscription plan to collections of recorded book titles (in the adult, children & young adult, and academic areas).
- *Classical.com*: This classical music site offers a subscription service for individuals and libraries. Members get unlimited access to streaming classical music, and 8 downloads per month.
- *MyLibrarydv*: MyLibrarydv is a video download service from Recorded Books, which currently includes over 500 videos. Files are downloaded and played on the computer (Windows only), and cannot be transferred to portable devices. The service is available only as a subscription to the entire collection.

Because of DRM incompatibility, titles from netLibrary cannot be used

on iPods. OverDrive has introduced a limited collection of audiobook titles (mostly "classics") that are in the MP3 format and can be used on iPods.

As you can see, there is significantly less content available for the library market than the consumer market and none of the popular consumer services have developed a service for the library market. Audible.com has tried some library models, but none of them have been workable. They have indicated that they are planning to introduce another library model soon, but no information is yet available on what this model might be.

Questions to consider:

- What might this separation between the library and consumer services mean for libraries? Can the collections available in the library services market compete with the consumer services market?
- Is it effective for libraries to subscribe to services that exclude a large part of the market share in portable players? What does the lack of content mean for library services?

¹ Joe Hutsko (2007, June 21). All the Films You Want to See, but When? New York Times (Late Edition (east Coast)), p. C.7. <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1292110871&sid=17&Fmt=3&clientId=17733&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

²The Diffusion Group (2007, July). Movie Rental Behavior and Proclivity to Use Online Movie Services. <http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/c69141>

(Part 2 of article will be published in the next issue of Channel.) ✧

Library systems to share \$16.8 million in state aid

Wisconsin's 17 federated public library systems will share \$16.8 million in state aid during 2009 to economize on shared resources and cooperative library services.

The aid payments support regional cooperation and sharing of library resources so libraries can provide higher levels of service to all state residents while reducing duplication. Library system funding is the state's primary program of support for public library service statewide. Systems received the first of two aid payments, which will total \$16,783,500, in November.

"In tough economic times, people turn to public libraries more than ever to access information they need to cope with the challenges they face," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "These payments to the state's regional public library systems support services that allow local public libraries to run as efficiently and economically as possible."

Wisconsin's 388 independent public libraries have all voluntarily joined a public library system. The systems are regional library organizations created to improve public library services and to increase Wisconsin residents' access to library materials and services. Systems use funds according to plans developed and adopted by regional boards to meet the needs of each public library system area. Library system services include:

- ensuring that system residents have complete access to

all public libraries within the system area. State residents made 33.3 million visits to public libraries and checked out 60 million items last year.

- coordinating the loan of library materials among participating libraries to meet user needs. Annually, libraries loan 7.2 million items to each other in response to users' requests. System-supported delivery networks deliver interlibrary loan items.
- providing training and continuing education for local library staff to help them provide the best possible service to their communities.
- coordinating cooperative library technology projects. About 90 percent of the state's public libraries now participate in shared computer systems that offer users on-line catalog access to regional library holdings. All public libraries provide the public with the use of computers with high-speed Internet connections. Two-thirds of all public libraries offer wireless access for laptop users in the library.

"As local and county governments balance the need for local services with taxpayers ability to pay for those services, public library systems help local libraries make the most of their community's library investments and resources," Burmaster said. "State aid to public library systems is a wise and welcome use of state tax dollars to support the valuable services and materials local public libraries provide." ☼

2009 State Aid to Public Library Systems

System	Amount	System	Amount	System	Amount
Arrowhead Library System <i>Rock County</i>	\$490,327	Milwaukee County Federated Library System	\$2,992,687	Waukesha County Federated Library System	\$1,071,682
Eastern Shores Library System <i>Sheboygan and Ozaukee counties</i>	\$646,769	Nicolet Federated Library System	\$1,195,522	Winding Rivers Library System	\$858,231
Indianhead Federated Library System <i>Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, and St. Croix counties</i>	\$1,257,792	<i>Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, and Shawano counties</i>		<i>Buffalo, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties</i>	
Kenosha County Library System	\$445,689	Northern Waters Library Service	\$591,499	Winnefox Federated Library System	\$990,351
Lakeshores Library System <i>Racine and Walworth counties</i>	\$712,917	<i>Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer, Vilas, and Washburn counties</i>		<i>Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, and Winnebago counties</i>	
Manitowoc-Calumet County Federated Library System <i>Calumet and Manitowoc counties</i>	\$348,919	Outagamie-Waupaca Library System	\$679,155	Wisconsin Valley Library Service	\$952,408
Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System <i>Dodge, Jefferson, and Washington counties</i>	\$843,385	<i>Outagamie and Waupaca counties</i>		<i>Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, and Taylor counties</i>	
		South Central Library System	\$2,299,979		
		<i>Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk, and Wood counties</i>			
		Southwest Wisconsin Library System	\$406,188	TOTAL	\$16,783,500
		<i>Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties</i>			

Free Author Fair kicks off WEMTA 2009 Spring Conference

By **Steve Sanders**, Director
Instructional Media and Technology Team

On Sunday, March 22 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association will sponsor a children's and young adult authors fair as a part of the WEMTA Spring Conference. Over 30 authors and illustrators will be on hand to meet participants and sign copies of their books, which will be for sale at the event. Each author and illustrator will have an opportunity to give a short (ten-minute) presentation. The Author Fair is free and open to the public on the Grand Terrace of the Monona Terrace Convention Center.

The works of these authors provide a cross section of ages, cultures and genres. One of the authors is Lorna Balian, whose *Humbug Witch* was first published in 1965 and is still very popular with young readers. She won a number of awards throughout the years and now her daughter,

Lecia Balian, has followed in her footsteps as an illustrator of children's books. Francisco X. Mora is a Milwaukee artist who has also illustrated several picture books, some which are written in both English and Spanish. For more information about the Author Fair, including a complete listing of the authors, see:

<http://www.wemtaonline.org/wemta/AuthorFair/>.

Those registering for the WEMTA conference will have an opportunity to hear the keynote author, Deborah Hopkinson, on Tuesday afternoon. Deborah is an award winning author whose book, *Into the Firestorm*, is about 1906 San Francisco earthquake

and fire and one boy's heroic fight to survive it. Other books from Deborah Hopkinson include ALA Award-Winning *Apples to Oregon*, *Under the Quilt of Night*, and *Fannie in the Kitchen*.

The theme of the conference is *Networking for Accountability: Weaving a Web of Best Practice*. Other conference highlights include keynote speaker Michael Wesch, creator of the YouTube sensation *Web 2.0 ... The Machine is Us/ing U* and a WEMTA visit to the Capitol. For more information on the conference program and registration information see: http://www.wemtaonline.org/wemta/Conf09_home/.

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Before coming to Wisconsin, Marsha held a variety of library related positions including librarian intern at the New York Public Library, reference librarian at the Acton Memorial Library in Massachusetts, County Librarian at the Dubuque County Library, director of the George B. Dedrick Library in Geneseo, Illinois, and director of the Grand Rapids (MN) Public Library in Minnesota. ☼



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