

School Library Summit seeks solutions to staffing crisis

By Nancy Anderson, Consultant
School Library Media
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On April 29 and 30, 2010, approximately 65 stakeholders representing urban, suburban, and rural settings from around the state came together in Rothschild, Wisconsin, to deal with the problem of reduced budgets impacting staffing decisions and increasing student need for library media services. Individuals representing the Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND), the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB), the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA), the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA), the Wisconsin Education



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers speaks to participants at the Wisconsin School Library Summit in Rothschild on April 30.

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Association Council (WEAC), parents, school board members, classroom teachers, library media specialists, and district administrators engaged in discussions which built on shared knowledge about the current situation, created a vision of the future, and identified priority strategies and action teams. The Wisconsin School Library Summit was co-sponsored by COLAND and State Superintendent Tony Evers. The Beginnings Report from the COLAND Visioning Summit showed the need for action on this issue; a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funded this summit and the ongoing work of the action teams.

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The current situation in Wisconsin shows increasing disparities in the learning opportunities students have available in different districts across the state. There was agreement that students need to understand and to be able to use 21st century skills in order to be successful as they move into the worlds of higher education and work. It was agreed that certified school library media specialists provide critical support for the development of these skills. There was also an acknowledgement that budget cuts have had a very negative impact on the number of positions currently staffed by certified professionals. Rural districts and Milwaukee Public Schools have been hit particularly hard.

Jan O'Neill, co-founder of QLD (Quality Leadership by Design), facilitated the work of this diverse group. The framework she used moved the discussion and process forward which was not an easy task given the wide range of issues that factor into the current situation. Participants had a limited time for these discussions meeting only Thursday evening and all day Friday. The willingness of the participants to discuss the issues honestly, think creatively about how to move forward, and continue as part of ongoing action teams was a tribute to their dedication to the students in this state. The experiences and expertise of everyone participating created very rich

discussions. Information was also provided by a panel including Val Edwards, National Board Certified Library Media Specialist; Dan Rossmiller, Director of Government Relations for the Wisconsin Association of School Boards, and Kim Williams, parent representative. Video clips were used to show current and past practice in school

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School library summit participants discuss issues facing school library media centers in the state.



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Channel

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libraries and provide comments from Wisconsin administrators, teachers, and students.

After much discussion there was some agreement on certain elements of a vision and there was also ongoing debate about other components. An action group was formed to continue to work on developing that vision. There was general agreement on a key element of the vision which included the need for equitable and universal access beyond the walls of the school library for all students. To accomplish this it will require the leadership of professionals in this field, administrators who understand what the role of a school library media specialist should be, and collaboration between school librarians and everyone else involved in helping students develop essential 21st century learning skills. Action teams related to other elements of the vision met for a short time Friday afternoon. At that point those teams discussed issues related to developing additional models for the delivery for library media services, ensuring that teachers are adequately trained in the area of information literacy, and building awareness and understanding about the learning opportunities that certified school library media specialists provide for students and teachers.

Summit organizers appreciate the time and energy participants have put into this effort and are grateful for their willingness to continue to work to move forward. ☺

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Cooperative Children's Book Center

4290 Helen C. White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706
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 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 Talking Book and Braille Library

813 West Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233-1436
 http://www.dpi.wi.gov/rll/wrlbph/index.html
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 firstname.lastname@dpi.wi.gov

Reference and Loan Library announces name change

By Sally Drew, Director
Reference and Loan Library

The Reference and Loan Library has changed its name with the launch of a new website describing its services (<http://dpi.wi.gov/rll/index.html>). The new name is Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning or RL&LL for short. Over the last decade, the emphasis on use of technology to provide online statewide resources and services has required a larger portion of staff time and resources. At the same time, the budget for acquisitions has decreased substantially and collection development has centered on core areas. The name change reflects the overall shift in priorities and services.

The new website was launched on May 4. The home page features the primary online resources currently available. These resources are available to all Wisconsin library staff and users and can be accessed by residents from any computer with web access. Primary online resources include AskAway, BadgerLink, WISCAT and Wisconsin Government Documents. The website provides guidance on finding information and seeking help in using online resources and identifying core materials in the print and audiovisual collections.

The Reference and Loan Library has traditionally offered many services to library staff in relation

to its programs and will continue to do so. On the Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning website, these services can be accessed by clicking on the Services for Libraries and State Agencies button. Library and state government agency staff can find an abundance of information on working with RL&LL staff on programs such as BadgerLink full text databases, delivery services, digitization of library materials, the Wisconsin Document Depository Program and Digital Archives, interlibrary loan services, reference services, WISCAT union and virtual catalogs and interlibrary loan management system, and the

Wisconsin metadata and state government thesaurus projects.

RL&LL also manages websites for two contract organizations, the Child Care Information Center and the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library. These two websites can be found through the new RL&LL website.

RL&LL staff invites you to try out the new website and we hope you like our new look. If there is other information you wish they had provided, please let them know. Contact Sally Drew at sally.drew@dpi.wi.gov or by phone at 608-224-6161. ☼

Name change reflects evolution of library services

With a name change from the Reference and Loan Library to Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning (RL&LL), the organization maintains the long established tradition of changing its services to keep up with the shifting needs of Wisconsin libraries and residents. The RL&LL's evolving services have been a part of Wisconsin library services from the beginning.

The Free Library Commission was organized on December 3, 1895 with Frank A. Hutchins, Lutie Stearns, and Senator James H. Stout supplying the motivating

forces and guiding hands. The initial library contained donations of books to form "traveling libraries." The traveling libraries were collections of books packed in specially constructed wooden cases, each with double doors, lock and key, that were delivered by train, wagon, or sled to Wisconsin small towns and rural communities where they were used for a six month period. The boxes came in three sizes which contained 30, 50, or 100 volumes. Lutie Stearns was the first Traveling Librarian and promoted the establishment of public

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libraries and use of the traveling library collections. In 1903, the law was revised to officially include a Department of Traveling Libraries within the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. Eventually, the boxes began to supplement the collections of established public libraries and became a practical method of broadening the education opportunities of the time. The circulation of traveling libraries ceased in the mid-1950s.

The Wisconsin Statutes included provisions for access to and distribution of government documents to libraries beginning in 1901. In 1903, provision was made for the Free Library Commission to designate libraries to receive depository shipments of state documents.

In 1965, the Wisconsin Free Library Commission was merged into the Department of Public Instruction as the newly designated Division for Library Services. The Traveling Library was renamed the Reference and Loan Library. Library staff and individuals without local library service could use the services of the Reference and Loan Library, and materials were shipped through the mail. The Reference and Loan Library also served state government employees and provided service to schools in areas where there was no public library.

The legislature passed laws authorizing the establishment of

public library systems in 1971. Public library systems were to improve and extend public library services, promote resource sharing among libraries, and increase access to library materials and services for the state's residents. The first four Wisconsin public library systems began operating in 1973. As public library systems were established statewide, the Reference and Loan Library gradually discontinued loaning materials directly to Wisconsin residents and instead served libraries through interlibrary loan, reference referral and other services. The scope of the collection began to decrease and core subject areas were developed to compliment local library collections.

The establishment and improvement of resource sharing policies and practices among libraries of all types, public library systems, and multi-type library organizations at the state and regional level became an ongoing mission of the Reference and Loan Library. Library staff provided leadership for and participated in statewide planning efforts and programs involving interlibrary loan, reference services, the state government document depository program, online and full-text database service development, telecommunications planning and use, union and virtual catalog development, delivery of library

materials, and digitization of library materials. Staff worked with the Council on Library and Network Development, the Delivery Services Advisory Committee, the Library Information Technology Advisory Committee, and the Library Services and Technology Act Advisory Committee and their precursors to establish policies and programs.

Use of technology to improve and expand library services

The Reference and Loan Library was in the forefront in applying technology to statewide library services. In the 1960s staff used TWP and TWX teletype machines to send and receive interlibrary loan requests. The library joined OCLC in the mid-1970s and undertook retrospective conversion of library records. The State Agency Library Processing Center was developed to provide centralized cataloging for state library agencies using OCLC. Staff developed a bulletin board system for sending interlibrary loan requests using early microcomputer equipment in the mid-1980s.

The Reference and Loan Library began to apply emerging national standards to resource sharing early in technological development. The WISCAT union catalog was developed in 1982 and first produced in

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Best Practices: Building Issues

Being proactive about building needs saves money and prevents headaches

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

The ounce of prevention that's worth a pound of cure that was prescribed by Ben Franklin applies to library buildings as well. While tight budgets and staff reductions may make it tempting to dispense with regular building checks and maintenance, the outcome is likely to be more expensive. Some routine practices can prevent failure of vital equipment; others help to maintain a safe and efficient operation, and may prevent accidents or possible fines when building or safety codes are overlooked.

Facility issues worth a regular review can be roughly split into three categories. The first encompasses the physical plant and its maintenance. The second relates to safety and emergency concerns. And the third area focuses on the public image of the library. The detail and complexity of the periodic reviews of the building depends on the size of the library, the systems installed in the building, and the staff or financial resources available. But in all libraries, periodic building reviews enable issues to be identified and addressed before repairs become more costly. In the case of building safety, early correction of issues can prevent unfortunate accidents or costly lawsuits. And, ultimately, the library building will be more pleasant and serviceable to the community.

The Physical Plant

Library directors, especially new ones, can be surprised and overwhelmed by the complexity of modern library buildings. Even older buildings can have electrical, ventilation or plumbing systems that can challenge even an expert's skills. The director should first locate or compile

an inventory of equipment and determine what periodic checks may be required. If the building has recently been built or renovated, documentation for any new fixtures, equipment and systems may have been compiled and provided by the contractor. If you are concerned that some essential maintenance issues may not be apparent, the city engineer or building inspector may be able to help identify issues to be included in the review plan. The library board or employees, past or present, may also be able to provide details or insights. If all else fails, request that the library board approve enlisting an engineering firm to review the building, inventory the equipment, and help develop a maintenance plan.

Because the issues and needs of the library building may not differ from other municipal buildings, the library board or director should first check to see if the library can dovetail with the municipality's maintenance plan. Your city, town, or village may have maintenance or public works employees who can conduct routine maintenance such as changing filters, checking boilers, and lubricating air handlers either for no charge, at a reasonable fixed rate, or on a cost-recovery basis. The municipal support might even extend to basic plumbing and electrical repairs. In other cases, the public works department may be willing assist in contracting for necessary service checks and repairs. Be sure that the library board is aware of any resulting agreements and how charges, if any, are to be assessed. In some cases, the costs or availability of direct municipal support may be such that the library is better off contracting with a private firm for maintenance or repairs.

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Some components of the building that might require periodic checks or maintenance include:

- Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning. HVAC systems can be as simple as a boiler and windows that open, or incredibly complex with overlapping systems and controls that may be integrated into a computerized control system. But even a simple boiler may require semi-annual checks and water conditioning. Other systems can require lubrication, belt checking, cleaning, or balancing. Humidity control systems may require periodic checks of drain lines or cleaning to remove deposits. Outside or rooftop condensing units should be checked and cleaned. Ignoring routine maintenance of a component can lead to failure and repairs or physical damage that far exceeds the cost of maintenance, whereas periodic maintenance can improve efficiency and extend the life of the system components.
- Check the roof to ensure its integrity and utility. Flat roofs may require clearing of scuppers or central drains. Ignoring clogged gutters and downspouts can lead to interior flooding or damage. Be cognizant of the seed activity of trees in the area to protect against clogging of drains or equipment.
- Elevators and lifts require annual state safety inspections, but periodic (quarterly or monthly) lubrication and inspections by an elevator contractor can prevent failures and lead to a state inspection without incident. Be sure your elevator maintenance firm has adequate access to parts and supplies; you do not need to contract with the original vendor (and can save by obtaining competitive bids), but the technician must be familiar with your equipment and controls.
- Check other aspects of the building's exterior envelope. Windows and door seals, caulking and weather-stripping

should be checked and repaired for energy efficiency and to prevent mold or other moisture damage. Exterior light sensors may require cleaning. Cracked or leaking gas-filled windows should be replaced to maintain their insulation value. Shrubbery or trees may need to be trimmed to prevent interference with the building or roof.

While rarely required, brick buildings should be checked periodically for tuck pointing or other mortar repair. Check for erosion or deterioration of the foundation.

- Computers that centrally control or operate systems, such as surveillance or HVAC systems, may themselves need to be maintained, upgraded or replaced. Internet connections or data lines for fire alarm or security monitoring should be properly maintained. Failing to renew a monitoring contract could expose the library to unnecessary risks.
- Regular sealing and restriping of the library's parking lot or driveway can extend its life. The municipality may be able to include the library's asphalt surfaces in its street maintenance program. Similarly the sidewalks should be regularly checked for cracks or heaving segments, and repaired as necessary.

Safety Systems and Emergency Procedures

Some building safety issues require periodic walk-throughs to ensure a safe environment; others involve alarm or other systems that may require periodic maintenance.

- Fire alarm, sprinkler, and security systems may include interrelated components that require periodic safety checks to comply with local or state building codes. Smoke alarms must be tested and certified. Also, fire extinguishers should be checked regularly and periodically recharged. Your city or village may be willing to

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include the library building in their testing or maintenance contracts. A walk through for fire safety may prevent a citation from the fire marshal. Your fire department may be able to assist identifying issues and review your fire safety and evacuation procedures.

- Check security and emergency lighting systems, whether outdoors, in areas where safety may be a concern, or inside, where batteries and bulbs on emergency backup lights may require replacement.
- Exits should be checked regularly to make sure that signs are in place and emergency lights are functioning, that doors are not blocked, and that locks are working properly. Doors equipped with alarms to prevent use except in emergencies may need to be checked. Alarms may have batteries that require replacement.
- First aid kits should be checked and refreshed periodically, in addition to disaster supplies. The library's emergency plan should be reviewed annually with the board and staff, and copies kept at predetermined places.
- Evacuation procedures should be reviewed and practiced at least annually. Tornado Awareness and Fire Safety weeks offer good opportunities to coordinate tests with municipal or county agencies. Review operation of fire extinguishers, defibrillators, or other emergency equipment with staff.
- Be sure that cleaning supplies (chemicals) are stored and labeled properly, with Material Safety Data Sheets available when appropriate.
- The city or village risk management (insurance) provider may provide training or free safety reviews and ergonomic checks of work areas. By addressing safety issues proactively, the insurer's exposure to claims is thereby reduced.
- Maintain a registry of keys issued; re-core locks as necessary to ensure building security. Check that file drawers or cabinets with sensitive or protected information are kept locked.

If you contract with a private company or service for periodic maintenance or safety checks, they might urge you to include full parts and labor coverage for repairs in the contract. Be aware that such contracts are a financial benefit to the vendor, and that, as equipment ages, the costs of such all-inclusive coverage may become unnecessarily expensive. The library board could instead consider establishing a reserve fund for repairs, replenishing the reserve each year as it is depleted. Or the municipality may agree to provide funding for unanticipated expensive repairs (such as the complete failure of a major air conditioning unit) from a central contingency fund, rather than by annual appropriations to the library's own equipment repair fund. Local circumstances dictate the most prudent action.

The Library's Image

The public does tell a book by its cover, and the public perception of the library is also colored by the initial visual impression. When conducting a walkthrough of the building for new board members, employees, or public officials, solicit their impressions of the library's organization and appeal—their fresh outlook may identify issues in the building that have blended into the background for you. Directional signs that once made perfect sense to the library staff may now be confusing to the newcomer. What is the general appearance of the shelving, displays and bulletin boards? Does the library have the outward appearance of organization and efficiency, with enough eye-appeal mixed in? The library should appear neither harshly institutional nor unnecessarily whimsical.

- Check periodically that signs are simple, straightforward, and readable from typical vantage points. Review shelf headings and classification indicators to ensure they still correlate to the collection. Consider a peer review to identify areas of the collection that could be more logically or clearly arranged.

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Computer Output Microfiche (COM) using the MARC standard. The database migrated with new technologies from COM to CD-ROM to online and finally to availability through the web. The MITINET program was developed on an Apple IIe to allow libraries to convert their holdings to the MARC format using the WISCAT microfiche and was later converted to IBM-compatible PCs and expanded to provide an expert system for original MARC cataloging. An interlibrary loan management system was developed and eventually integrated into the web version of the software. The development of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) Z39.50

standard allowed for the search and retrieval of data from local online catalogs adhering to the standard. WISCAT is currently a combination union catalog and virtual catalog with an interlibrary loan management system. The implementation of the International Standards Organization (ISO) protocol allowed exchange of data between interlibrary loan systems. The NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol allows for the interchange of transaction data between interlibrary loan management systems and circulation systems and the RL&LL is currently experimenting with this protocol. The Reference and Loan Library staff began using a remote

terminal to search DIALOG databases and provided access to research results to libraries in the early 1980s, adding access to BRS, WILSONLINE and other online databases as feasible. In 1998, The Department of Public Instruction held the Library Technology Planning Conference which recommended the purchase of online databases on a statewide basis so that information would be available to all libraries and residents. BadgerLink was initiated that year to supply full-text online information statewide. Current content includes full text magazines, newspapers, electronic books, and downloadable audio and video content. The BadgerLink website

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- Conduct cleaning at off-hours or at times of minimal library use. Work out an appropriate schedule with your employee or contractor for light, regular cleaning as well as periodic thorough dusting and cleaning.
 - Regular cleaning of carpets not only improves appearance but can extend the life of the carpet pile.
 - Be sure to review the library for ADA accessibility issues. Watch that furnishings, shelving or carts have not encroached upon required aisle widths, or that the expansion of the collection has not placed materials in unintentionally inaccessible locations.
 - Consider the outside appearance of the library as well. The exterior should appear inviting and welcoming. Make sure signs are clear and library hours readable from the street. Event signs should be simple and clear.
 - Work with your board and municipality to develop a reasonable landscape program to provide an attractive and vital appearance. Local garden clubs, service organizations, or dedicated Friends of the Library members might be willing to help with annual cleanups, installations, or mulching.
- By developing and implementing regular, periodic reviews and maintenance of the library facility, the building will operate more economically, efficiently, and continue to serve and delight library users for years to come.
- Questions about library administration may be addressed to your library system staff or to John DeBacher at john.debacher@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 266-7270. ☼

Madison library VISTA receives Governor's Service Award

By **Betsy Prueter**, Education/Grants Specialist,
Community Learning and Partnerships Team
Libraries, Technology, & Community Learning

Jim Handorf, VISTA member at the Madison Public Library, was one of six individuals recognized at the Governor's Service Recognition Luncheon on April 15, 2010 at Monona Terrace in Madison. First Lady Jessica Doyle presented the awards and congratulated the winners. The Governor's Service Recognitions are presented to programs and individuals participating in organizations funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America. This event provides an opportunity to recognize organizations and individuals that help solve serious social issues and help strengthen their community.

Jim received the Governor's AmeriCorps*VISTA participant award for his work to expand the job help program at the Madison Public Library. Primarily, Jim has expanded the services by connecting with the Department of Workforce Development, the Dane County Job Center, the Greater Madison Area Society of Human Resource Managers, Workforce Readiness Committee, Lussier and East Madison Community Centers, and Park Bank. In addition, Jim was able to connect with MAGNET, a group of young professionals which, among other goals, has a vibrant community service chapter, and Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) whose members are interested in using their assets and skills to help with anti-poverty community initiatives.

In addition to developing an extensive community partner network, Jim worked with Madison Public Library staff members to successfully secure an LSTA JOBS Grant for \$15,590 to expand job services and employment training. Now that the Madison Public Library system has received the grant, Jim will be developing surveys to measure current practices, will expand an already successful Job Help project by bringing in numerous volunteers and Teaching Assistants from the UW Writing Center to teach

classes and run seminars, coordinating site locations, training volunteers and library staff to implement these services, and making all classes accessible to families and community members by providing child-care and bilingual resources. The grant also will allow Jim and library staff to bring library services to various shelters, and community centers city-wide.

Serve Wisconsin, along with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the CNCS State Office, sponsors the Governor's Service Recognitions. Serve Wisconsin is a 22-member citizen body appointed by the Governor responsible for overseeing AmeriCorps grants, which address unmet human, environmental, public safety, educational, and homeland security needs. For more information about Serve Wisconsin or funded AmeriCorps programs, visit (<http://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov>).

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. Together with the USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit (<http://www.nationalservice.gov>). ☼



Jim Handorf, back row, center, VISTA member at the Madison Public Library, is pictured with his supervisor, mother, DPI staff, and VISTA State Office staff.

Thinkfinity expedites resource access and professional networking

By **Donna Steffen**, Consultant
Information and Technology Literacy Standards and
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Instructional Media and Technology Team

This spring *Verizon Thinkfinity.org* (<http://www.thinkfinity.org>) posted a new website with a great “new look and feel” for accessing tens of thousands of best practice resources and numerous stimulating professional development and instructional tools. There is a new search engine that is speedy and intuitive for connecting searchers with relevant resources across the partner-created and partner-reviewed resources. Whether the Search begins through a topic, grade level, media type, or Standard search or a combination of all areas, numerous resources quickly are accessed. Each of the eleven content partners has built or is launching soon a new website and each has upgraded their site search

engine. Monthly, all partners add new Web 2.0 resources: podcasts, talk with the expert, student and educator collaborative communication ports, along with new traditional resources.

In addition to the redesigned “new look and feel”, educators, librarians, literacy leaders and parents can join the new Thinkfinity Community, to share and network on best practices for cultivating 21st century learning and instructional communities, while focused upon Thinkfinity learning resources for students of all ages.

The Thinkfinity Community started with 1,700 community members in January and each week sees the membership growing exponentially. All Wisconsin Thinkfinity Field Trainers, nearly 200,

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provides easy access to the full range of materials through federated searching or selection and searching of individual products. Authentication of Wisconsin residents assures compliance with vendor contracts.

In 2000, in order to improve access to government information, the Reference and Loan Library contracted with the Department of Administration to establish an online thesaurus related to state government services and to assist in the management of the search engine for the state’s emerging state government web portal. The Wisconsin Document Depository Program began to harvest online state government publications in 2004 as state agencies began to

publish documents on the web rather than make them available in printed form.

The Reference and Loan Library staff also took part in early national experiments to establish collaborative reference services in order to expand the availability of librarian assistance. The AskAway 24/7 statewide service was established in 2006. AskAway provides chat and email reference service using library staff working collaboratively in the United States and other English-speaking countries. Reference and Loan Library staff worked with the University of Wisconsin – Madison to develop collaborative processes for working with public libraries and government agencies to digitize

local library materials. Staff provides assistance with digitization of library materials and has taken part in the Wisconsin Heritage Online process. Staff has developed the *Found in Wisconsin* database to provide access to library digitized collections. Staff has also developed online resource sharing tools to improve access to portions of core collections such as the song book collection and collection of repair manuals for vehicles and electronic products.

The Division has allocated Library Services and Technology grant funds to support many of these services including WISCAT, AskAway, the Wisconsin Digital Archive, digitization of library materials and other programs. ✪

Resources for Libraries & Lifelong Learning welcomes new staffers

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

Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning (RL&LL) joyfully welcomed two new staff members in March, 2010.

Christine Barth is our new Interlibrary Loan Coordinator. Christine comes to us from the Kraft Foods/Oscar Mayer Library in Madison, where she was Associate Librarian. Christine has prior experience at RL&LL with the interlibrary loan and reference teams. She is also a

former educator in the Minneapolis Public Schools. Christine brings significant management experience gained outside of the library community. She is the proud mother of three amazing daughters. Christine holds a Master of Library and Information Science from UW-Milwaukee, and a Bachelor of Arts from St. Olaf College

Erin Wescott is our new part-time reference librarian. Erin comes to RL&LL from the USDA Forest Products Laboratory in Madison,

where her work focused on reference, database searching, circulation and cataloging. She is a former archaeologist with field experience gained at the Wisconsin Historical Society and the University of Minnesota. Erin is a big fan of Badger Hockey, and also enjoys spending time with her very active Australian Cattle Dog. Erin holds a Master of Library and Information Science from UW-Milwaukee and a Bachelor of Anthropology from the University of Minnesota. ☼



Christine Barth



Erin Wescott

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are joining this collaborative educational community. Our course facilitators for our online course for educators, *Thinkfinity for Wisconsin Educators*, are embedding Thinkfinity Community into their course section, as a place where their participants build resource libraries and share and learn best practices. Over 400 K-12 and higher education educators that have attended Thinkfinity professional development

classes throughout the past school year, all are invited to join. In fact, all Wisconsin community educators, librarians, and community leaders are invited to join this online community. At Thinkfinity Community all members will network with colleagues, professional friends, and content experts, sharing best practices and learning about new strategies and resources to meet the needs of their students and content areas. ☼

LSTA competitive and non-competitive grant categories for 2011 announced

By **Terrie Howe**, Consultant,
LSTA and Continuing Education
Public Library Development Team

The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Information and Guidelines for Wisconsin 2011 will be issued within the next few weeks with details about eligible applicants and appropriate uses of funds. If you are interested in the possibility of applying for a federal grant, below is a listing of selective competitive and non-competitive categories. Dollar amounts are preliminary and may be revised on the basis of the total dollars available, applications submitted, and other factors, before final awards are made. *Indicates new LSTA categories.

LSTA 2011 Competitive Grant Categories

Accessibility – \$125,000 Funds will be awarded to public library systems to assist their member libraries and branches with purchasing and installing the technology and other adaptive equipment needed to increase accessibility for people of all ages who have mobility, vision, and/or hearing disabilities, and to provide member librarians with the training to use the equipment effectively.

Literacy – \$100,000 will be awarded to promote and demonstrate the role of public libraries in improving literacy and reading skills for people having difficulty using libraries because of their educational, cultural, or socioeconomic background.

Enhancing Use of Technology in Libraries and Library Systems* – \$100,000 Funds may be used for new/upgraded hardware and software modules (including more software licenses) that (1) offer substantially new or enhanced features and that (2) benefit or enhance services to patrons.

Digitization of Local Resources – \$30,000 will be awarded to allow public libraries to digitize resources that may be of unique or local interest and

make them available on the web to all citizens of the state.

Digitization Large Libraries – \$25,000 will be awarded to large public libraries (population 100,000 or more) to digitize historical resources that may be unique or of state or local interest.

Job Search and Support – \$192,067 Successful applicants will use the funding to serve people who are unemployed, underemployed, and/or seeking to improve their job skills. The intent of this funding is to facilitate and encourage libraries to collaborate with local, regional, and state agencies that are already working to help the targeted population.

Multi-type Collaboration – \$15,000 Applicants must demonstrate collaborative multi-type library project in a community or region to enhance local/regional library services for library patrons. Projects must result in opportunities for local/regional residents to access previously unavailable resources.

LSTA 2011 Non-Competitive Grant Categories:

Delivery – \$90,000 will be awarded to help support the statewide delivery service backbone structure and to support delivery service to the libraries in the very northern part of the state.

Broadband Upgrade Grants* – \$15,500 Financial assistance for libraries obtaining fiber for high speed Internet access through the state's federal broadband grant. This assistance would provide extra wiring or other infrastructure improvements needed to install the broadband connections.

Joining Shared Integrated Library Systems* – \$70,000 Funds will assist public library systems in adding libraries to existing shared systems.

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Eastern Shores Library System teams up with the Wisconsin Digital Archives

By Abbigail Swanton,
Wisconsin Documents Depository Librarian
Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning

The Wisconsin Document Depository Program collects state documents in print and electronic formats and distributes them to designated depository libraries throughout Wisconsin as well as the Library of Congress. As many state agencies continue to provide fewer documents in print, providing access to electronic documents through the Wisconsin Digital Archives has played an even bigger role in the work being done by the Wisconsin Document Depository Program.

Eastern Shores Library System recently made the decision to actively take advantage of the fully cataloged electronic documents being provided by the Wisconsin Document Depository Program by adding all digital archives catalog records to their system OPAC, EasiCat. Electronic documents in the Wisconsin Digital Archives are made available to all libraries, regardless of depository status, providing the opportunity for the Wisconsin Document Depository Program to provide greater access to state government documents than ever before.

Following is an article that Alison Ross, ESLS Cataloging Librarian, wrote for the system's monthly newsletter, [The Library Connection](#), describing their experience with the Wisconsin Digital Archives:

Many of you have heard of the Wisconsin Document Depository Program, but have you also heard of the Wisconsin Digital Archives? As more publications are "born digital," meaning they only exist on the web, or otherwise only exist in electronic format, it was becoming more difficult for state agencies to comply with the law behind the depository program. Out of that need came the Wisconsin Digital Archives. Its primary goals are to "develop strategies for providing permanent electronic access to web content located on Wisconsin state agency websites and to identify a way state

agencies can continue to fulfill their statutory obligation to participate in the Wisconsin Document Depository Program with electronic formats."

The Digital Archives has been distributing fully cataloged records for electronic state documents since October 2005. An aspect unique to the Digital Archives is the availability of these records to all libraries, regardless of whether they are depository libraries. Eastern Shores no longer has a depository library, so we decided to take advantage of these records and the access to electronic government records they would make available through our online catalog.

Since mid-2009, we have been working to retrospectively add all of the records made available through the digital archives. As of the beginning of 2010, there are 776 digital archives records in our catalog. The access is free, so it seemed an easy way to make more quality material conveniently accessible to patrons. In addition, because of the way the archives is set up, access to content through the digital archive URL will remain regardless of what changes are made to the original URL, so we don't have to worry about dead links cluttering the catalog. Abby Swanton is the Document Depository Librarian at the Reference and Loan Library and contact person for the Digital Archives. She has noted she hopes other libraries across the state will also see the advantage of this access and add the records to their OPACs as well.

To find the digital records: The collection code used for these bibs is: AD Wisconsin Gov Doc. If you do a title search on "*" and limit to only that collection code, you can quickly see the list. For a few examples click on: [A Survey of organic farmers in Wisconsin](#); [Got moo-la? : where to go for business assistance in Wisconsin](#); and [Wisconsin farm center](#).

Ross, Alison. "ESLS's Digital Archives." [The Library Connection](#), March 2010. (<http://www.esls.lib.wi.us/newsletter/mar2010.html>) ☼

DPI partners with DNR for summer reading fun

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

This summer young readers will “Make a Splash” at their public libraries when summer reading programs begin. The theme for teens this summer is “Make Waves@ Your Library.”

The Department of Public Instruction’s Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning is again sponsoring a summer reading program for public libraries throughout the state. The water theme encompasses swimming, diving, boating, and other water activities, as well as fish, wetlands, ocean life, and shipwrecks.

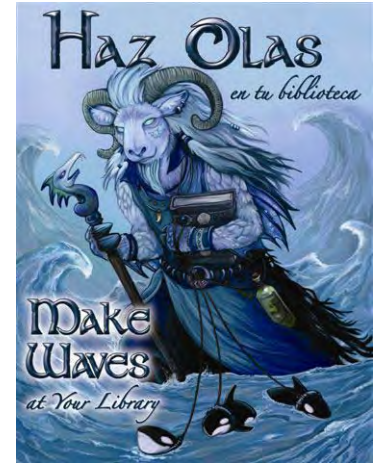


Public libraries throughout Wisconsin will begin registering children and teens for the annual Summer Library Program as the school year ends. The summer program encourages recreational reading during the break from school.

Public library reading programs focus on elements identified by research studies as being extremely important to helping children maintain and improve their reading skills. Summer programs encourage reading for pleasure, self-selection of books and other reading material, and having fun while reading. In addition many public libraries offer recorded books which are very helpful for readers who are struggling. Videos based on books also enhance the enjoyment of stories.

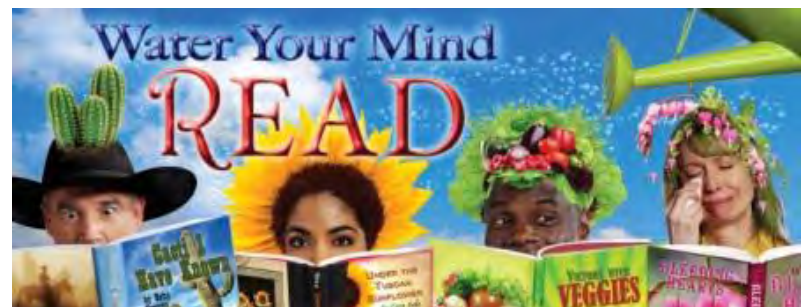
DLTCL is partnering this summer with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The State Parks are providing free day passes to children and their families which allow them to visit most state parks and recreational areas. This collaboration is part of

the State Parks’ “Get Outdoors” effort aimed at keeping children active. The Angler Education unit coordinated a program in which Angler Educators visit libraries and present programs related to fishing such as “What’s in My Tackle Box,” fly tying, and practice casting with a rod and reel. Some public libraries are sponsoring fishing outings for children in which Angler Educators provide all the equipment and the expertise. The Invasive Species unit created a training DVD and gave a copy to all public library headquarters. The DVD demonstrates a preschool story time in which young children learn to find invasive plants that like to “hide” on boats and trailers. Invasive Species Specialists around the state have agreed to bring a boat and trailer to public libraries that present the “Clean Boats, Clean Waters” story program. Public librarians will also be using the many water-related resources of EEK! the DNR’s nature web page for children.



Information about the DNR partnerships and additional information about the importance of summer reading is available on the DLTCL Summer Reading Program web page at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pld/slp.html>.

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WISCAT expands interlibrary loan trading partners

By **Christine Barth**, Librarian
Interlibrary Loan Coordinator
Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning

As part of the Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning team's mission to provide equal access to information resources for all Wisconsin residents, the WISCAT development team has been working on ways to improve the resource sharing system throughout the state. Initiatives now underway are designed to expand the pool of potential suppliers, improve borrowing fill rates, reduce turnaround time, and increase efficiencies in request processing.

In partnership with AutoGraphics, WISCAT's software vendor, upgrades to the WISCAT software are already in progress. Resource discovery is

enhanced by the ability to search statewide library catalogs to identify borrowing locations. Soon, the establishment of connections to Wisconsin OCLC libraries and other AutoGraphics trading partners will allow the automatic creation, transmission and maintenance of borrowing requests to these lenders. From October, 2009 through April 1, 2010, three Wisconsin libraries participated in a pilot test with other AutoGraphics customers. The Hedburg Public Library in Janesville, Waukesha Public Library and La Crosse Public Library participated in the trial along with libraries in Kansas, New Jersey, Connecticut and the Alberta (Canada) Government Library. The feedback was positive and RL&LL hopes to implement this option when it becomes fully operational. ☼

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Learning Express Library License* – \$103,750
Funds support a statewide license for Learning Express Library, an online source of test preparation materials for students and adults. The amount covers a license for 1/1/2011 to 6/30/2011.

Library System Technology Projects – \$350,000
will be awarded to systems on a formula basis for technology projects based on the needs of the systems and member libraries. The formula takes into account system area and population.

School Media Staffing Activities – \$35,000 will be awarded to have follow-up meetings and activities after the summit being held in 2010 to address the ongoing issues related to staffing school library media centers with certified teacher librarians/ library media specialists in the state of Wisconsin.

Statewide Library Access Project – \$15,000 *Non-competitive category* The purpose of this category is to support planning and initial implementation of a “statewide library access” program involving all types of libraries across the state. ☼

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Adults will be able to join the fun at libraries that offer adult summer reading programs. For the first time the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) has provided a manual for an adult programs. The adult theme is “Water Your Mind.”

Data from the 2009 Annual Report is consistent with reports from around the country that indicate library services have increased since the start of the recession. Summer Reading Program participation data for 2003-

2009 is available on the DLTCL SLP page at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/images/pld/slp-participation.gif>. Registration went up almost 7% from 2008 to 2009, from 171,147 to 183,804. There were also increases in the number of children under age five participating in the program, and in the overall attendance at programs. Librarians are expecting their participation rates to increase again this summer and look forward to helping young readers “Make a Splash” this summer.

Wisconsin school libraries receive \$32 million in library aid from Common School Fund earnings

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands presented a check for \$32 million in Common School Fund earnings to State Superintendent Tony Evers on April 7th in the Assembly Parlor of the State Capitol. These funds will be distributed to Wisconsin's K-12 public school libraries at a distribution rate of \$25.85 per child.

“Public school libraries benefit greatly from the Board’s prudent investment strategies,” said Secretary of State Doug La Follette, who serves as Chair of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. “For many school districts, the library aid provided by the Common School Fund may be the only money available for their library.”

Although the distributable earnings this year are slightly lower than last year’s amounts this is the first time since 2003 that the amount went down. The significant drop in short term interest rates had a negative impact on the moneys that were not yet

invested in loans or bonds. Currently there is a trend toward increased lending to schools and municipalities which is projected to result in an increase in the distributable earnings for next year.

State Treasurer and Commissioner Dawn Marie Sass described the State Trust Fund Loan program as a win-win for local communities and schools across the state because the interest from the loans goes back into their communities as aid for the school libraries.

“Libraries in our public schools play an essential role in helping students graduate with the knowledge and skills they will need to be successful in further education or the workforce,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “The Common School Fund is an important source of funding and we are pleased that our school libraries will be able to use this money to provide valuable resources for their students.” ✨



State Superintendent Tony Evers (left) accepts the ceremonial check from State Treasurer Dawn Marie Sass, State Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen, and Secretary of State Doug La Follette.