

20-Year Landscape

Each group was asked to consider the following question: For your topical area, what will the Wisconsin Public library landscape look like in 20 years? How has the geography changed? What is the role of systems? Of resource libraries?

Awareness group:

- Will the resource library be needed?
- Library systems will be consolidated
- What if the resource library became a system?
- Fewer libraries?
- Central hubs?
- Will we need to rebrand?/how?
- How to communicate our services?
- How to communicate new networks? Non-public libraries?

Funding group:

- Model: fewer systems. Each system provides centralized support to member libraries. Each system also has multiple offices/sites (as needed) providing technology support, centralized print repository, and delivery services
- Central repositories for physical materials, which incorporate delivery services.
- Some centralized services provided by one/few systems office and regional technology services provided by regional technology districts
- Goal: economy of scale
- Also, eliminate mandate on resource libraries. Allows the capital model: negotiate, purchase....easier
- Will the Wisconsin retirement system be intact?
- Mandated per capita funding model, plus other funding sources like property tax, sales tax
 - Transparent funding information provided to patrons
 - Library taxing districts
- Dedicated funding stream to public libraries, eliminating the need for reimbursement
- Eliminate cross-borrowing restrictions/reimbursement
- Library board has authority to initiate different sources of income

Library Law group:

- Chapter 43.001 written to preserve enduring service principles and allow flexible service responses (43.001 refers to philosophical reasons libraries are important and worthy of public funding.)
- Libraries remain part of DPI
- Systems are technology infrastructure custodians

- Resource library statutes are rewritten to contract with resource providers of their own selection {43.16/43.24 (2)(b)}
- Fewer systems – fewer libraries?

Resource sharing group:

- No resource libraries
- Largest libraries as incubators (small libraries can, too)
- Largest libraries resources for consulting not materials
- Systems pass through for money or more hands-on
- Focus other than circ
- Determine new measures of success
- Give up delivery
- Core services from systems?
- Local history
- Genealogy
- Digitization
- System sharing ideas
- Collaboration coordinated by system
- More intense technology knowledge or \$\$\$\$
- Contract with FedEx
- Community centers
- Skype
- Libraries will still have STUFF
- Provide info
- Staff helps navigate
- Clientele – tablets – storytime
- Systems coordinate group purchases
- Expertise/consult/educate
- Less than 17 systems
- 4 geographic?
- Peers? [similar sized libraries]
- # of viable libraries
- More virtual circ
- Less physical circ

Service implications of technology group:

- Will we still have 17 systems? Or will be more regional? Geographical? More systems but smaller? Fewer systems but larger?
- Duplication of services: marketing, training, etc...better use of funding?
- Consultancy services?
- State providing more services?

- Will we continue at this fast pace of technology?
- Will library buildings still exist?
- People will always need help with technology: we are the free source of help
- Are libraries still relevant as holders of public knowledge? Education?
- Libraries still seen as “connectors” to technology?
- Physical items for checking out? Or electronic resources available to public?
- We are more than books – programs, meeting rooms, community gathering place
- Broadband availability for smaller libraries: need it or they won’t be able to keep up
- Libraries will become more personal – more about relationships with users
- Print materials: still ordering? Or more e-resources/databases?
- Systems need to stay in the front of changes – negotiate for all libraries – be the voice for everyone
- When does sharing not make sense?
- Systems -> offer a “menu” of services? A tier system
- Let customers “buy” their library services? With state funding per user – subscription services?
- Focus on the services your patrons want
- Equalize access of information – small and large cities/libraries
- Green technologies – print on demand
- FREEGAL – purchase CDs?
- Trends come and go – libraries need to adapt – roll with changes
- Balance needs of public interest with the “classics” – collection development
- Public library as a public forum for discourse/discussion on lots of issues
- Outreach is easier with current technology
- Social media – what role will library play?
 - Use for making community aware of issues – do libraries get to have an opinion?

Technology infrastructure group:

- Statewide ILS or “statewide discovery layer”
- Who are library systems accountable to?
- Role of state: WPLC? DPI?
- More cooperation
- *Resource library law = barrier to reconfiguration*
- What does authentication look like in 20 years?
- Systems: less geographic boundaries...will systems be moving physical things? Delivery
- What is the role of free 20 years from now?
- Community role of library infrastructure: small, large groups, individuals
- Where will library be in 20 years?
- Will there be ILSs in 20 years? Self-publishing
- Tech infrastructure throughout the community: library, parks & rec, school, healthcare (?) – more integration of community services