

# Chapter 43: Remade for Systems

1971-2013

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# Brief History of Public Libraries in Wisconsin

- 1872: Wisconsin's first legislation to establish free public libraries
- 1891: Wisconsin Library Association founded
- 1895: Wisconsin Free Library Commission established
- 1905: WFLC begins operating a library school (transferred to UW in 1935)
- 1921: Wisconsin first: public library certification law
- 1956: Federal Library Services Act passed (expanded to Construction in 1964)
- 1965: Free Library Commission transferred to Division for Library Services in DPI
- 1971: Public Library System law enacted; first 4 organized in 1974
- 1997: Act 150 adds county reimbursements

# 1949: Early Experiments

*Cont. from Page 3.*

Service on a federal grant. In March, 1949, the bill came before the State Legislature to provide county and regional library service on a demonstration basis, which was passed.

Mrs. Veslak's activity in establishing community libraries was not part of her job, but purely her own desire to help bring about library service to areas that needed and desired it.

This new project of combining services for the City of Shawano and the County of Shawano, as well, did not go without outside recognition. Miss Marion Humble, in her book, "Rural America Reads," contained a detailed definition of the origin, functions and services offered in Shawano County. Chas. E. Buttler, of the American Library Association of Chicago, assistant to the Secretary of the American Library Association, came to Shawano in 1935 saying, "We heard about this project in Chicago and as our main objective is the extension of library service where there is no service, we are interested in this project as it showed a way for such service." He stated that in only one state in the Union, Mississippi, where the project is state owned, was there a similar service such as established in Shawano County.



*Shawano County Library Mobile.*

- Federal Funds supported planning for state library services
- State Approves county and regional services demonstration projects
- City of Shawano and County combined & enhanced services.
- Another 3-year state-funded experiment, to develop regional service spanning Door and Kewaunee Counties, was not sustained.

# Early Regional Services

1952: Advisory Referendum to continue Door-Kewaunee Regional Library fails

1956: ALA's *Public Library Service: A Guide to Evaluation With Minimum Standards* released; First Library Services Act enacted; 25 libraries form Southwest Association of Public Libraries

1957: Wisconsin's first LSA plan adopted

1959: LSA funded ordering and processing center in SW Wisconsin serving five counties; LSA funded regional library system serving five counties in northwest Wisconsin

1961: LSA funding is used to establish an area reference center for a 10-county area of north central Wisconsin

# Early Regions to Systems

- 1963: *A Design for Public Library Development in Wisconsin: Standards for Measuring Progress*, adapting the 1956 ALA public library standards to Wisconsin, adopted by Free Library Commission, WLA, and Trustees Association
- 1964: Library Services and Construction Act enacted, extending LSA provisions to urban libraries
- 1965: Free Library Commission becomes the Division for Library Services in DPI
- 1966-69: *Public Library System Development for Wisconsin: An Action Program* developed and released by WLA
- 1971: SB 47 signed by governor, substantially changing Chapter 43 and implementing a system for library system development



# History of Library Systems

- Some preliminary systems funded with LSA funds, 1959-61
- In 1971 Senate Bill 47 was signed into law (there were other substantial changes in Chapter 43)
- Counties are the “building blocks” of systems (but libraries must join, too)
- System law revised in 1980, 1986, 1993, 1998, 2006
- First four systems established in 1973, last two in 1981
- Currently there are 17 library systems
  - See [AE 17](#) for more information; also [Channel. V.32 no.2](#)

# 43.13-24: Library Systems

- County Planning: a required component
- System duties and services
- State Aid & Funding

# 43.11: County Planning

- Ensured that county acknowledged role in providing services
- Allows for County library services
- Allows for required standards



# County Library Planning Committees

- All counties should have a plan for providing library service particularly for residents not served by a library.
- Plan should cover the counties participation in the library system
- A county may appoint a planning committee or an existing county library services board may serve in this capacity.
- Plans should be reviewed and updated periodically

# Plan of Library Service

- Shall include full access to public libraries participating in the public library system (for residents not served by a public library) and reimbursement for that access.
- May provide direct services (such as book-by-mail or a bookmobile) or contracted services or provide for improved services countywide and in municipalities that have libraries.

# Plan Continued

- May also include minimum standards
  - If approved by the county board, as well as
  - by the public library boards of at least 50% of the participating municipalities representing at least 80% of the population of participating municipalities in the county. [s. 43.11\(3\)\(d\)](#)
- May also require municipal cross-boarder payments for circulation (not to exceed actual cost). [s. 43.11\(3\)\(e\)](#)

# Benefits of Library Systems

- Facilitate and enhance resource sharing
  - Shared Integrated Library Systems (ILS)
  - Inter-Library Loan coordination
  - Delivery services
  - Guarantees mutual borrowing privileges
- Provide specialized staff assistance and continuing education
- Improve communications and provide support network
- Support the use of new technologies
- Other cooperative services and projects as determined
- First line-of-defense for libraries

# System Duties and Services

- Systems services are a product of their region and member libraries.
- State Aid is the funding systems receive on a formula basis, as appropriated by the legislature.
- Many systems receive funding from other sources such as counties and member libraries.

# System Services per 43.24 (2)

- Written agreements with all member libraries – including requirements listed in 43.15 (4) (c) 4 (same services).
- Written agreement with resource library for back up reference, ILL, development of and access to “specialized” collections.
- Referral or routing of reference and ILL requests from inside the system to libraries within and outside the system.
- In service training for library personnel and trustees.



# System Services Continued

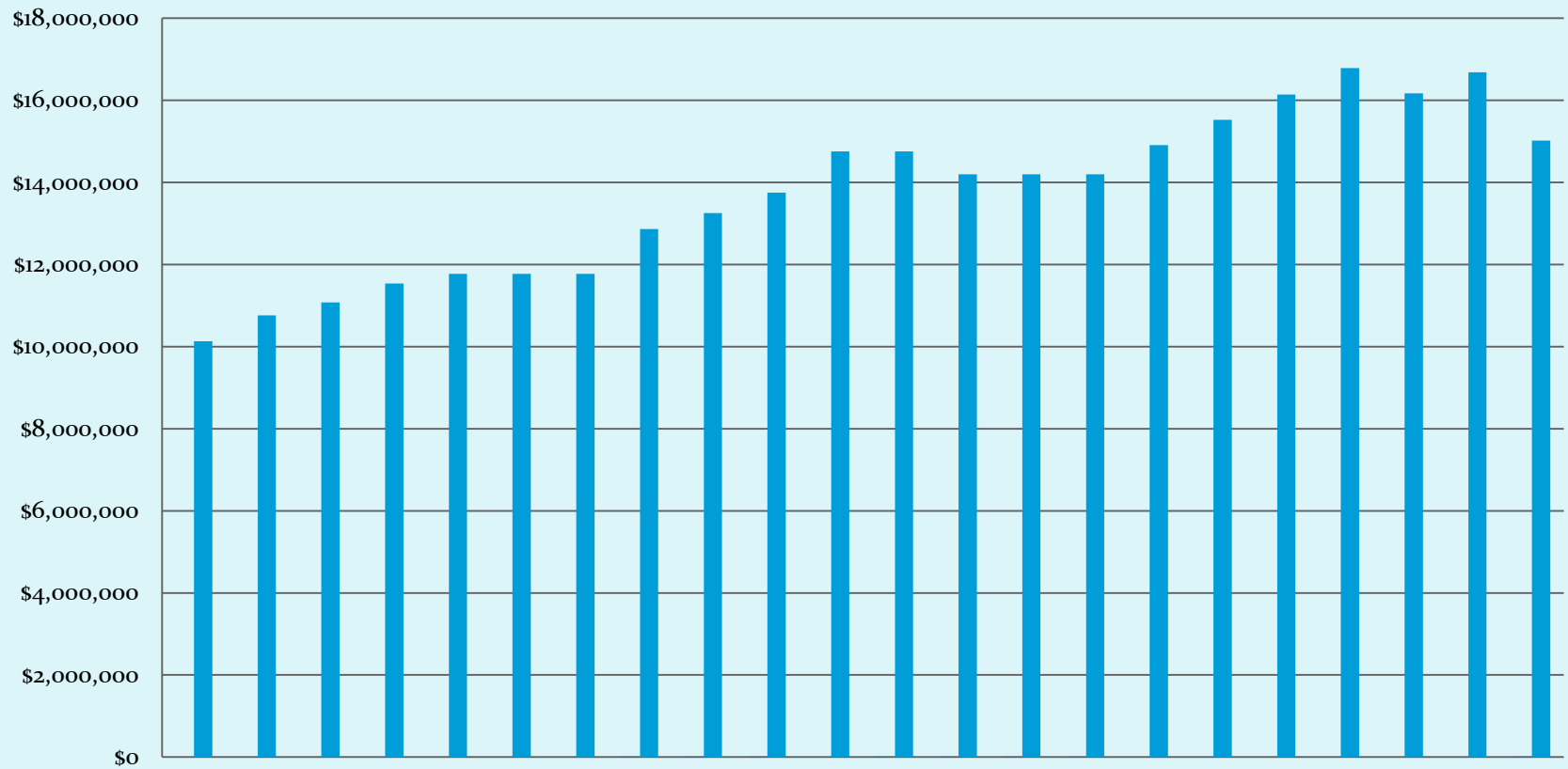
- Electronic delivery of information and physical delivery of materials.
- Service agreements with adjacent library systems.
- Professional consulting services.
- Any other services (catch all).
- Special needs.
- Planning with other types of libraries.
- Planning with Division including tech plan (every 5 years).
- May reimburse libraries for ILL within the system (not to exceed actual cost).

# Annual Report: Effectiveness

- Contains a statement by the library board indicating whether the public library system in which the library participated during the year of the report did or did not provide effective leadership and adequately meet the needs of the library and an explanation of why the library board believes so. The division shall design the form of the statement so that it may be removed from the report and forwarded to the division before it is sent to the public library system.

# System Aid Since 1991

**System Aid 1991-2012**



# Funding and Sources

Initial system law did not set required state funding

1980 amendments targeted state funding at 11.25% of local levels

1986 changes set target at 13%

1993: 13% language removed

1997: State Superintendent required to request 13% level funding

In 2000s, funding shifted from GPR funds to Universal Service Funds (initially approved for BadgerLink, contracts and TEACH)

# More Information

- *Trustee Essentials:*

- Membership: <http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/files/pld/pdf/te17.pdf>
- System Boards: <http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/files/pld/pdf/te26.pdf>

- *Administrative Essentials:*

- Membership, including History  
[http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/pld\\_ae17](http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/pld_ae17)

- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *Channel* Article

<http://channel.dpi.wi.gov/files/channel/pdf/chn3702.pdf>

# Questions?

Your Library System Director and Staff

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