

**System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW)  
Q2 2025 Meeting Agenda**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025  
**Time:** 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM  
**Location:** Room BF Carter/Anna M, Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, 1 North Main Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 54901  
**Recorder:** Kristen Anderson, Winding Rivers Library System

**Zoom Link**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81792151769?pwd=Tgvu5fsGfnCpCRuc4AM0IJPG81CVMZ.1>

1. Call to Order
2. Quorum Determination
3. Proxy Announcements
4. Introductions/Welcome Guests (Heser)
5. Approval of the Agenda (Heser)
6. Approval of the Minutes from February 10, 2025 (Heser)
7. Treasurer's Report (Anderson)
8. LD&L Report / Advocacy Update (Gay/Conway)
9. SRLAAW Representative to the WiLS Board
10. Remaining Meeting Dates for 2025
11. Affiliated Organization Reports:
  - a. COLAND
  - b. DPI
  - c. Recollection Wisconsin
  - d. WiLS
  - e. WLA
  - f. WPLC
12. Discussion Items
  - a. Federal Funding
    - i. IMLS
    - ii. Flexible Facilities Program Funding
  - b. Report On Federal Legislative Day
  - c. Agenda Reorganization
13. Member Roundtable
14. Next Meeting: Friday, August 8 at 9:30 a.m., Marathon County Public Library, Wausau
15. Adjournment

Note: All items on the agenda are considered action items, regardless of action taken.

## System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) Q1 2025 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025  
**Time:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
**Location:** South Central Library System, 1650 Pankratz Street, Madison, WI 53704  
**Recorder:** Angela Noel, Southwest Wisconsin Library System

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m.

### 2. Quorum Determination

**Members Present** - Tracy Vreeke, Chair (NFLS), Steve Hesel, Vice Chair (MCFLS), Kristen Anderson, Treasurer (WRLS), Karin Adams (Manitowoc PL), Brandi Cummings (Kenosha), Nick Demske (Racine PL), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Tana Elias (Madison PL), Garrett Erickson (Sheboygan PL), Darryl Eschete (Oshkosh), Bruce Gay (Waukesha PL), Leah Giordano (Marathon County PL), Shanneon Grant (La Crosse), Riti Grover (Monarch), Sue Heskin (Superior PL), Joan Johnson (Milwaukee), Karol Kennedy (Bridges), Angela Noel (SWLS), Steve Ohs (PPLS), Becky Scherer (MCLS), Shannon Schultz (SCLS), Bradley Shipp (OWLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Sarah Sugden (BCL), John Thompson (IFLS)

**Excused:** Nancy Kerr (LEPMPL), Jessie Lee-Jones (Platteville PL), Collen Rortvedt (Appleton PL), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS)

**Affiliated Members/Guests** – Ben Miller (DPI), Beth Tomev (DPI), Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Andi Coffin (WiLS/RW), Laura Sauser (WLA), Ellen Kupfer (COLAND), Teresa Schmidt (DPI), Steve Conway

### 3. Proxy Announcements

Leah Giordano (Marathon County PL) is proxy for Marla Sepnafski (WVLS).  
Bradley Shipp (OWLS) is proxy for Collen Rortvedt (Appleton PL).

### 4. Introductions/Welcome Guests (Vreeke)

The group welcomed Katherine Elchert, the new director at Northern Waters Library System to the meeting.

### 5. Approval of the Agenda (Vreeke)

Motion by J. Johnson, second by S. Ohs. Motion passes.

**6. Approval of the Minutes from November 22, 2024 (Vreeke)**

Motion by J. Johnson, second by B. Shipps. Motion passes.

**7. Nominations for SRLAAW Officers (Vreeke)**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer are 1-year positions and no one can serve in any one position for more than 4 years (other than Treasurer; whose organization must act as fiscal agent). C. Sommersmith presented the slate of officers: S. Hesel will serve as Chair, L. Giordano will serve as Vice Chair, K. Anderson will serve as Treasurer.

**8. Election of Officers (Vreeke) (Note: Secret Ballot if Multiple Nominees)**

C. Sommersmith moves to approve the slate of officers presented. Seconded by N. Demske. Motion passes unanimously.

**9. Treasurer's Report (Anderson)**

K. Anderson reports that funds as of December 31, 2024 were \$7,309.40. R. Scherer motions to accept. C. Sommersmith seconds. Motion carries.

**10. LD&L Report / Advocacy Update (Gay/Conway)**

- LD&L met on January 24 and regularly over the last few weeks for Library Legislative Day. A record 238 people have registered. Gov. Evers, Dr. Underly, Dr. Williams, and many others will be speaking. Budget request discussions are going well.
- Poster project—Margaret is moving on to another role, so Pam at WLA will be taking this work on. The Tri-Troy district of Walworth is active right now—Robin Vos' office reached out.
- Joint County payment issues in Clark and Marathon Counties.
- Steve Conway reports that budget meetings are almost through Joint Finance Committee, three more left, then meeting with leadership. No one was questioned request so far and are working off the trust we have developed over the last years. It will still be a tough budget year, so could be anywhere from \$0 – full ask increase. Did need additional explanation of Auto-Graphics (WISCAT) contract. Will need systems to show up at JFC listening sessions around the state. Currently still working on the schedule.
- There will be more legislation coming out that will be negative for libraries, with different authors. WLA currently does not plan to engage with these bills. Gov. Evers would not sign these bills. On a federal level, S. Conway also has different contact if needed.

- S. Hesper asked about current Champions: Rep. Kurtz will remain Champion. Currently working on the Senate—with M. Feldkowski’s input – possibilities are Sen. Quinn and Sen. Testin.

## 11. Legislative Fly-In (Hesper/Miller)

Two fly-ins to DC (COSLA in March, and J. Johnson and M. Gartner in April with ALA). Both groups are sharing information for a unified message. For COSLA T. Vreeke, N. DiMasses, and V. Teal will be attending to represent SRLAAW. J.

Johnson makes a motion to reimburse T. Vreeke for expenses re COSLA. B. Shipps Seconds. Motion passes. N. Demske volunteered to be a back-up for T. Vreeke.

## 12. ALA Councilor Report

Nicole Breed (Chippewa Valley Technical College) was elected to this position by the WLA board. Ben and Laura will meet offline to determine what Nicole’s role with SRLAAW will be and where responsibilities lie around legislation.

B. Shipps attended an ALA workday in Chicago earlier this winter and reports that it’s good to be in Wisconsin right now. Many other states are dealing with bigger issues.

## 13. Affiliated Organization Reports:

### a. COLAND

- i. Have become aware of issues with book donations into prisons and other secured institutions. These facilities have very limited library budgets and have been told they cannot accept donated books, except under very strict conditions.
- ii. Continuing to monitor and give feedback on A.I. guidance for libraries.
- iii. Working to make sure public libraries and school libraries are equally represented.
- iv. Attempting to monitor/track digital equity grants. Also tracking state/federal budgets.
- v. Next meeting will be March 14, 2025 at the Prairie du Chien Public Library.

### b. DPI

- i. LSTA funding is uncertain for 2025-26 and beyond. DPI was watching it very closely. If LSTA funding were to go away, DPI staff would be greatly affected. 16 of 19 staff are currently funded by LSTA money. J. Chamberlain asked if that is similar across the country, and while it does vary, many are organized this way. Roughly 50/50 split in terms

of funding staff and passing grants onto systems for Wisconsin. DPI is actively trying to move WISCAT off of LSTA onto state funding, which is the largest LSTA budget line right now. March 14 is the next continuing resolution deadline at the federal level. As long as it doesn't go past July, DPI should be in an okay position.

- ii. Annual reports are open! DPI is also extending the data dashboard pilot through the end of June. Thank you to WiLS for allowing some leeway in ensuring that funding was available. Next steps will be figuring out if and how the dashboard continues into the future. Hopeful that 2024 data will be in the dashboard prior to the June 30 end date.
- iii. Universal Service Fund: There are two SCOTUS cases that are currently being heard. 1) Telcoms were overcharging schools/libraries for internet services. This decision should come sooner rather than later. 2) Consumers Research v. FCC – alleges that the universal service fund is not approved by Congress and is an illegal tax. E-rate could be affected by this. If this does go Consumer Research's way, it is likely that this would repeat on the state level in Wisconsin.
- iv. Moving forward with the Teen Inclusive Services Internship program. If there are questions, please direct them to Jenny Schomber. Also opened up a new cohort for the Badgerlink Advisory Group. Scaling Communities through Archives grant through partnership with University of Washington. There is a link to more information in the DPI report. Recollection Wisconsin will also review applications if anyone would like to apply.
- v. New Director Spring Training Camp: April 8-10, 2025 in Marshfield. Currently about 53 people on the list, and budget will allow us to accept about 40 people. If directors are interested, they shouldn't wait to register.
- vi. DPI is switching their listserv/mail service. Ben will have more information at a later date. Anticipate that nothing should change, but it is a technology upgrade. Scheduled to happen in mid-March, but that timeline is likely to shift. Spring primary for Superintendent on February 18—Make a plan to vote.

### c. Recollection Wisconsin

- i. If you have libraries or a system collection have stories to share, please reach out to [info@recollectionwisconsin.org](mailto:info@recollectionwisconsin.org). In the last quarter, the Recollection Wisconsin values have been solidified, to go along with the mission and vision that were finalized last year. Digitization initiative has 40 sites coming up this spring that will have student interns. There will be a summer program, so if you might be interested, please contact them.

**d. WiLS**

- i. Has also looked at their organizational values recently. Had a good conversation about how they talk about things and if things needed to change and staff decided they would not be removing their equity, diversity, and inclusion values from their organization. Member meeting is coming and will focus on how libraries are working with communities. Date is Friday, February 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- ii. Thank you to library systems for helping the small library cohort get off the ground. Talking about if this program needs to be offered more than once a year. It's a great way to build connection and network across the state.
- iii. WiLS also now accepts credit cards! They do pass on the processing fee, but this might help streamline payment process for some members.
- iv. WiLS does have a few federal grants (including community archivist grant), so they are working with NEH and are watching closely. Culture Keepers is another grant through IMLS that they are watching closely.

**e. WLA**

- i. Wanted to mention that WLA will send a questionnaire to the final Superintendent candidates re: how libraries (public, school, and academic) fit into their vision and will share responses with members prior to the April election.
- ii. ALA is hosting a Freedom to Read meeting on Wednesday 2/12/2025.
- iii. "On the Road" meetings are coming—more information coming with dates and locations soon. First one will be this Spring. Will be free and open to WLA members and non-members.
- iv. Relaunching LDI – making a few tweaks to the curriculum rolled out in 2023; 6-7 month program.
- v. WAPL is coming up in late April.
- vi. Recently launched a sustainability special interest group. Some committee positions are open, so if you are interested in serving on a WLA committee, please let Laura know.

**f. WPLC**

- i. Almost a million circs over 2023! Board meeting on Monday Feb. 17, 2025 to work on strategic plan. Officers are listed on the report.
- ii. Delivery Workgroup meeting weekly on Fridays to discuss some issues with third-party vendors.

**14. Discussion Items****a. Effect of recent Executive Orders on Libraries**

- i. S. Hesser initiated a discussion around DEI orders from the federal and/or state government. Be a librarian during these times and make sure you are reading the actual texts. Unless you hear explicitly from

your library counsel, libraries should continue to do the work they planned to do.

- ii. NFLS has put together some information for their member libraries to help support topics like meeting rooms, book challenges, ICE in the library, etc. Reminder to staff that the library is neutral. T. Vreeke will share these with the group. T. Elias is another potential resource with some past events at Madison Public. Manitowoc has M4L meeting monthly at the library and one thing that has been important is defining if you are booking the space for a PRIVATE meeting or if it is a public meeting, that anyone who wants to attend can. Meetings are open to all, but they do have to follow library policies. SEWI is partnering with CCBC on a Request for Reconsideration policies.
- iii. The National Council of Nonprofits has a nice daily update/chart on what is going on with the various executive orders. Also, a reminder that WiLS has a Basecamp space for SRLAAW if needed.
- iv. Trustee Training is also important—the basics.

**b. Responding to ICE Requests**

- i. Teresa Schmidt did send out an email with some resources. Individual libraries should work to prepare staff with plans/procedures for how to handle this.

**15. Member Roundtable**

- a. Appleton Public Library has its grand reopening this Saturday.
- b. NFLS is opening the first four job pods in Wild Rose, Medford, Amery, and one in Brown County should be open by the end of March.
- c. Madison Public Library is celebrating their 150th anniversary this year.
- d. NFL draft is coming to Brown County!

**16. Next Meeting:** Wed., April 30, 2025, 3:30PM, Oshkosh Marriott/Convention Center

**17. Adjournment**

Motioned by J. Johnson, seconded by T. Elias. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Angela Noel, SWLS

# SRLAAW

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## Treasurer's Report

May 2025

The SRLAAW meeting funds are deposited in a segregated account in the LGIP under the auspices of the Winding Rivers Library System. Reimbursement for eligible expenses can be obtained by providing receipts to WRLS.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
2020 interest income	21.28		
Membership income - 2020	3100.00		
2021 interest income	3.84		
Funds as of December 31, 2021			\$6607.63
2022 interest income	105.97		
Funds as of December 31, 2022			\$6713.60
2023 interest income	341.22		
Expenditure: NFLS (meeting refreshments)		116.55	
2024 interest income	371.13		
			\$7309.40
2025 interest income	79.47		
Expenditure: NFLS advocacy travel		505.31	
<b>Funds as of April 25, 2025</b>			<b>\$6883.56</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen Anderson  
SRLAAW Treasurer





**DPI Report to SRLAAW – April 2025**

- **Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**
- **Tribal Library Listening Session**
- **Annual Reports**
- **New Director Training Camp**
- **BadgerLink Advisory Group**
- **School Library Month/National Library Week**
- **Video Testimonials**

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**Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**

The White House issued an executive order on Friday, March 14 to eliminate non-statutory components and functions of several Federal agencies, including IMLS. The majority of IMLS funds given to DPI are Grants to States funds which are mandated by Federal Statute.

In response to the executive order, Wisconsin joined with other states in a [lawsuit challenging the order's legality](#). A motion was filed for a preliminary injunction against the order. As of April 25, 2025, no decision has been made regarding the injunction.

DPI received a Grant Award Notification for half of Wisconsin's expected LSTA 2025 funds in the amount of roughly \$1.6 million on April 23, 2025. IMLS informed states that full award amounts were still being apportioned, but did not provide a timeline for the full 2025 amount to be awarded.

IMLS faces reauthorization in October 2025. Their mandatory programs and duties are codified in this legislation and the potential for a reduction in the of functions IMLS is instructed to fulfill could negatively impact Wisconsin and the Library Services program at DPI. This funding is critical to meeting our state statutory obligations.

**Tribal Library Listening Session**

DPI received notice that Tribal Libraries in Wisconsin and throughout the country received grant award termination notices for Native American Basic Grants and Native American Enhancement Grants. These grants are distributed directly to tribal libraries and do not pass through DPI.

DPI convened a listening session to better understand how the loss of these funds would impact tribal libraries now and in the future. The Bad River Tribal Library has immediately closed. Other libraries described the elimination of programs and potential for downsizing staff in the future. Affected libraries are able to appeal the decision to terminate grants until May 12.

### **Annual Reports**

2024 Public Library Annual Reports have been received. Population estimates have been posted. The Annual Salary Summary has been provided to Library Systems. We will complete the IMLS PLS, if possible, though AIR support is not currently available. To build upon positive outcomes from the [SRLAAW Compensation Study](#), the staff section of the Library System Annual Report has been expanded to gather additional data to help System leadership identify and compare similar positions and similar pay and benefit scenarios. This work will inform expansion of the Public Library Staff section in the 2025 Annual Report to refresh our statistics and broaden the possibilities for trend analysis.

### **New Director Training Camp**

DPI hosted New Public Library Director Training Camp on April 8-10 at Hotel Marshfield. Thirty-two public library directors attended the 2 ½ day event, where members of DPI's Library Services Team and public library system staff presented information relevant to library directors new to their positions. Topics of discussion included statutory requirements for public libraries, building strong relationships with library trustees and other stakeholders, facilities management, current topics in librarianship, budgeting, communications, and more. The event was provided at no cost to attendees thanks to funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and support from the South Central Library System.

### **BadgerLink Advisory Group**

The [2025/26 BadgerLink Advisory Group](#) cohort held their first meeting on April 22. The meeting focused on foundational aspects of BadgerLink including the statutory requirements and relationship with other statewide libraries, resource selection and procurement, and resource evaluation. Members had a lively discussion, especially around usage data, and prioritized activities around the meeting topics. The next meeting will be held in fall.

BadgerLink Bulletin article [Your BadgerLink Stories – A Celebration of Statewide Impact](#). Additional stories can be [shared](#) at any time!

### **School Library Month/National Library Week**

State Superintendent Jill Underly proclaimed April [School Library Month](#) and April 6-12 [National Library Week](#). [The Capital Times ran her Op-Ed](#) on April 8. Assistant State Superintendent for the Division for Libraries and Technology Darrell Williams' message ran in the April 1 edition of [School Library Scoop](#). As we end this month, thank you for your continued dedication to knowledge sharing and your ongoing support. While Dr. Williams did not take part in official visits across our school and public libraries this year, he made sure to virtually meet with school library media specialists at their workgroup meeting, the Public Library System Director Meeting, and he welcomed library directors at the DPI hosted New Directors Training Camp.

### **Video Testimonials**

The DPI is requesting short video [public library testimonials](#) asking library users what aspects of the library are important to them and what would happen if those resources/services went away. These videos will be compiled and published on the DPI's social media. You may submit videos through the summer, as this is an ongoing campaign to show support for our libraries during these uncertain times of state budget and federal funding.

Thank you to the Marketing Cohort for not only getting the word out about the video testimonials, but their amazing work putting a comms toolkit together so fast!

# WiLS Report to SRLAAW

April 30, 2025

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## Honoring Steve Platteter and Board Representation for SRLAAW

The WiLS Board honored Steve Platteter at their April board meeting and recognized his many contributions to WiLS and the Wisconsin library community at large. Steve served on the WiLS board as the SRLAAW representative for 12 years, making him one of the longest-serving WiLS board members in recent years. During his tenure, Steve served as board chair, treasurer, and he played an important role in both the 2013 WiLS reorganization and a member of the 2019 Business Model redesign workgroup. He will be deeply missed by WiLS board and staff alike.

While we understand these may be big shoes to fill, we invite SRLAAW to appoint a new representative for your organization to serve a 3-year term on the WiLS Board at your convenience, and Jen is happy to answer any questions from any interested members.

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## Cooperative purchasing

### New Updates to MyWiLS

We recently made some changes to [MyWiLS](#) to improve your subscription management experience! We hope these changes will save even more time so participating organizations get the maximum benefit from our [Cooperative Purchasing program](#).

The updates ease access to vendor information, allow you to customize your statement information and invoicing instructions, alert you to items that need your attention, and save time with prefilled information. And, WSDLC members can now renew participation in the consortium through MyWiLS.

See more details about the updates on [the WiLS blog](#). Thank you for being a part of the WiLS Cooperative Purchasing program!

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## Consortium management

The City Library Collective is refining its new research project focused on improved data comparisons and analysis. Through the development of a custom data dashboard, the CLC is integrating new data elements and peer comparisons to drill down further into their community demographics and impacts of their municipal environments on library use, staffing, and funding.

## Consulting

Registration is now open for the 2025-26 [Small Library Strategic Planning Cohort](#). [This form](#) will be open until September 30th or until ten libraries register, whichever comes first. 37 small libraries have participated since the inception of this cohort model. An update for this year is that DPI confirmed that directors who participate can qualify for 40 CEUs. Questions can come to Laura Damon-Moore at [laura@wils.org](mailto:laura@wils.org).

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## Digital Projects

On April 2, 2025, we received notice from the Acting Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) that our previously awarded grant *Flattening the Curve: Mitigating Cultural Heritage Loss in Wisconsin Native Nations*, was terminated effective immediately.

The Culture Keepers Collective Advisory Council wrote a message on what the loss of this grant, and the loss of NEH funding in general, means for the future of Tribal archives, libraries, museums, cultural centers, historic preservation offices, and language programs. You can read it here by [clicking here](#).

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## Ideas to Action

### **The WiLS 2025 Ideas to Action Fund Application Period Is Open!**

The [WiLS Ideas to Action Fund](#) provides grants of up to \$5,000 so libraries and cultural organizations can bring their project ideas to life. The program encourages partnerships and collaborations among WiLS members and with community partners, supports innovative and exploratory new work, and seeds the development of processes, methods, or resources that can be used by other WiLS members.

We seek innovative or collaborative proposals from libraries and cultural organizations of all types in order to support the good work of the diversity of WiLS members.

**The 2025 Ideas to Action Fund application period is open through June 2nd.** The [proposal form](#) and reporting are built to be simple and quick so awardees can focus on the success of the work and the benefits to their communities.

Not sure about [WiLS membership](#)? It's free and comes with all perks and no strings! Wondering if your project idea is a good fit? Read about [the projects we've funded since 2018](#). Want more details on how to prepare your proposal? Watch [this helpful webinar](#). Have any other questions or want more information? Drop us a line at [information@wils.org](mailto:information@wils.org). We'd love to hear from you!

## Learning Opportunities

### Recording from the WiLS 2025 Membership Meeting

On February 28th, we held [our annual Membership Meeting](#) and welcomed presenters from libraries and library systems across the state who shared their inspiring efforts to solve big challenges in coalitions with other community organizations. We also welcomed attendees from member organizations of all types - school, public, and academic libraries as well as state partners, Tribal organizations, and even other consortia.

We hope you'll stay connected to the WiLS community. You can also read our recently-published [2024 Annual Report](#) to learn more about what we are doing to serve that community.

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## Miscellaneous

### WiLS Board Elections Opening Soon

The WiLS Board Elections are just around the corner, May 12th - May 30th. Your institution must be a [current WiLS general member](#) (psst: it's free), and you must be the voting representative to vote. All institutions are eligible to vote for all seats. Elections are being held for the following positions:

- One representative for a Technical College Library seat,
- **Two representatives for a Public Library seat,**
- One representative for a K-12 Library seat,
- One representative for a Cultural Organizations seat,
- One representative for a Special Libraries seat, and
- One representative for an At-Large seat

### WiLS Supports the Institute of Museum and Library Services

As an organization driven by the belief that libraries and cultural institutions make the world a better place, the WiLS Board and staff [share this message in support of the IMLS](#). We are also eager to support work that advocates for our library members with our state and regional partners. Please contact us if you have ideas about how we can help.

# Recollection Wisconsin Updates for SRLAAW

April 2025

## Recollection Wisconsin Urges Continued Support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services

Read Recollection Wisconsin's statement in support of IMLS employees and funding [here](#).

Notably, several major Recollection Wisconsin initiatives were possible because of IMLS funding (Digital Collections Stewardship training, Curating Community Digital Collections, A/V digitization lending kits through the Community Archiving Workshop, and both Recollection Wisconsin and DPLA benefitted from several rounds of IMLS and LSTA funding in earlier years). More than 15% of the 450 collections in Recollection Wisconsin were created with IMLS funding.

## Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative

The spring digitization internships with Milwaukee Art Museum, Menomonee Falls Public Library, Middleton Area Historical Society, and Door County Public Library are nearing the finish line.

Students have written and shared blog posts about their experiences [here](#).

The summer cohort has been chosen and will begin their work in the last week of May 2025.

- McKenzie Weaver (SOIS, Archives Certificate Program) at [Racine Public Library](#) with Rebecca Leannah, adult services supervisor and local history librarian. Project: Digitizing historic postcards, yearbooks, church histories and directories, and city directories.
- Ceceilia Loeschmann (SOIS) at the [Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design](#) (MIAD) with Maren Knutson, grant manager, Monica Miller, collections and gallery director and Steven Anderson, exhibitions and collections manager. Project: Digitizing the Grassel Collection.
- Kayla Hernandez (SOIS) at [America's Black Holocaust Museum](#) (ABHM) with Mia Phifer, senior education, collections, & outreach coordinator. Project: [Milwaukee Community Journal](#) content and digitizing photos and editorials that document founder Dr. James Cameron's work with the ABHM.
- Elisabeth Primrose (SOIS) at the [Tomah Area Historical Society & Museum](#) with Leah Clipner Watson, assistant museum director, Jim Weinzatl, museum executive director, and Deb Chesser, museum volunteer coordinator and Tomah Historic Preservation Commission member. Project: Digitizing the Frank King Collection. King was a cartoonist, the creator of [Gasoline Alley](#), and from Tomah, Wisconsin.

The program is taking a planned hiatus in fall 2025 to integrate what we've learned from the pilot year and dream big as we restart in spring 2026! We'll share information about applying for the next cohorts when it becomes available.

## Digital Public Library of America Transition Update

DPLA's "goal [is] to establish a vibrant and durable home for our cultural heritage work in 2026" with the Free Library of Philadelphia in 2026. Having secured funding for this transition year, DPLA is now turning its attention to strengthening the work of the hubs in preparation for the transition. More news from DPLA is available [here](#).

DPLA is holding its sixth [DPLAFest](#) at the Harold Washington Public Library in Chicago, IL on October 20 - 21, 2025. “One of DPLA’s top priorities is rebuilding a community of practice around our cultural heritage work—and DPLAfest is an important part of that effort.”

## **New collections**

We recently added some brand new digital collections to Recollection Wisconsin!

The [Eagle River Historical Society’s Craig Moore Research Library collection](#) features hundreds of images of resorts, recreational activities, natural beauty, and more from the Eagle River area. These photos were primarily taken by residents, tourists, and local photography companies between 1880-2000.

[Belleville Public Library’s collection](#) focuses on the history of the French immigrant settlement in the Belleville/Montrose/Exeter area as they began arriving in the 1850s through the 1920s. The collection currently contains documents and postcards but will grow to include photos and other historical materials.

[Bridges Library System’s Community Voices of Jefferson and Waukesha Counties collection](#) aims to build connections between people by preserving their stories for future generations to enjoy. The collection consists of nearly 200 StoryCorps style interviews on a wide range of topics, from military service to farm life to education and more.

[South Central Library System’s new collection](#) features editions of SCLS’ newsletters for member libraries as well as images, brochures, annual reports, and notably [this interview](#) with SCLS former Director Peter Hamon and WILS’ former Director and former SCLS Assistant Director Stef Morrill.

In just a few days, we’ll welcome [a new collection from Edgerton Public Library](#), featuring issues from the 1885-1886 Wisconsin Tobacco Reporter. This weekly newspaper was devoted to the interests of the state’s tobacco industry, one of Wisconsin’s earliest and most enduring specialty crops.

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## **Share Your Historical Collections with the World Through Recollection, Wisconsin**

*Do you have a physical or digital collection to share with the world through Recollection Wisconsin and the Digital Public Library of America? We want to grow our collection so that more Wisconsinites can see their stories represented! Reach out to us at [info@recollectionwisconsin.org](mailto:info@recollectionwisconsin.org) or [register for an upcoming office hours appointment](#). We look forward to working with you!*





## Update for SRLAAW – 2Q2025

***Many thanks for your support of the WAPL conference!***

### **WLA Library Legislative Day**

The 2025 WLA Library Legislative Day was a big success. We had 240 registrations, making this a record-breaking year. Our attendees were thrilled to hear remarks from Governor Evers who stayed at the morning briefing longer than originally planned to interact with audience members and listen to their library stories. We were also honored to hear remarks from Senator Dianne Hesselbein (SD-27), Representative Tony Kurtz (AD-41), State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly, and Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Darrell Williams. Feedback from attendees shared on the post-event survey was very positive. Next year's event is scheduled for February 10 at the Park Hotel, so please mark your calendar.

### **State Biennial Budget Process 2025-2027**

The LD&L budget team has wrapped up our individual meetings with each member of the Joint Finance Committee to talk about our budget priorities. The next step in the biennial budget process has been to send WLA representatives to attend the four public budget hearings with members of the Joint Finance Committee this month. *Many thanks to our site captains: Bradley Shipps, Rebecca Scherer, Tracy Vreeke, John Thompson, Katherine Elchert, Steve Hesel, Bruce Gay, Peter Loeffel, Kris Adams, Wendt, and Marla Sepnafski.*

Event photos and videos of testimonies can be found on the WLA website: [State Biennial Budget Process 2025-2027](#)

### **WLA Foundation Scholarship Program Now Taking Applications**

The Wisconsin Library Association Foundation (WLAF) offers a variety of scholarships that support library science students and continuing education opportunities for library staff. The 2025 application process is open now through June 15.

#### **WLAF Library Education Scholarships**

- Library Education Scholarship
- Sally Davis Scholarship (for UW-Madison iSchool)
- Vida Cummins Stanton Scholarship (for UW-Milwaukee School of Information Studies)
- Diversity Scholarship

#### **WLAF Continuing Education Scholarships**

*(You must be a WLA member in good standing to be eligible to apply for a Continuing Education Scholarship.)*

- George Bauer Memorial Fund Continuing Education Scholarship
- Gloria Hoegh Memorial Fund Education for Rural Librarians Scholarship

Visit the [Scholarships page](#) on the WLA website for more information. Please download and share our [scholarship flyer](#) with those who may have interest.

### **WLA on the Road**

The inaugural WLA on the Road event at the Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) Library was a success. Attendees enjoyed a presentation on optimizing your LinkedIn profile, a tour of the WCTC Library, and time to network. Thanks to our generous sponsors, this event was free to attend. We hope to keep costs down for the three additional events planned for this year so they will also be free. Thank you to Karol Kennedy and the Bridges Library System team for helping to host this first event. [Click here](#) to view the event photos.

Future “WLA on the Road” event sites in the works include the Platteville Public Library and the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River. Watch the WLA website for updates.

### **Leadership Development Institute**

The WLA Leadership Development Institute committee is hard at work planning for our next cohort which will run from October 2025 through June 2026. The new cohort will attend three in-person sessions and approximately nine virtual sessions over the 8-month period. New features include in-depth supervisor communications and a leadership book club for both current participants and LDI alumni.

The application process will open this summer. Please keep this opportunity for professional and personal growth in mind for yourself, your staff, and your member libraries.

### **Call for Proposals: Present at the 2025 WLA Annual Conference**

The WLA Programming Committee is now accepting proposals for presentations, panels, and workshops for the next annual conference, to be held October 28-31, 2025, at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, WI. This year’s conference theme is “Be the Change.”

Both WLA members and non-members are welcome to apply. Breakout sessions will run 60 minutes in length, with a maximum of four presenters and one moderator. Presenters may be part of up to two breakout sessions. Only proposals for in-person sessions will be considered. Submit your proposal using the online form linked here: <https://forms.gle/Vd68vDSG989yc4ns7> by 5:00 p.m. CST on Friday, May 9. Learn more by visiting the conference webpage: [2025 WLA Annual Conference](#).

### ***Invitation to Share Your Conference Story***

You all have distinct reasons for becoming part of WLA and attending the annual conference. The conference committee is inviting you to share your stories. How has the annual conference inspired or changed you? What is a moment from a past conference that stuck with you? A session that changed how you work? A connection that made an impact? Please share your story to help others see why this conference is truly special. Share your quick testimonial here <https://forms.gle/1WGGXxL361cA14pD7>

### **WLA Leadership Opportunities**

We are looking for volunteers to fill some open seats on the Awards & Honors, Leadership, and Nominating committees. Log in to our website and go to For Members/[2025 Volunteer Opportunities](#) for more details. Please consider volunteering for one of these opportunities or encourage a team member or colleague to do so.

### **Upcoming Events-at-a-Glance**

- YSS webinar on puppetry: 3:00 p.m., May 6
- Technical Services Section (TSS) virtual meetings at 11:00 am: June 17, August 19, October 21, December 16.
- Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group Meeting: May 19, 11:30 am
- 2025 WLA Annual Conference: October 28 - October 31, 2025 (Middleton)
- 2025 Virtual Performers Showcase – date is TBA.

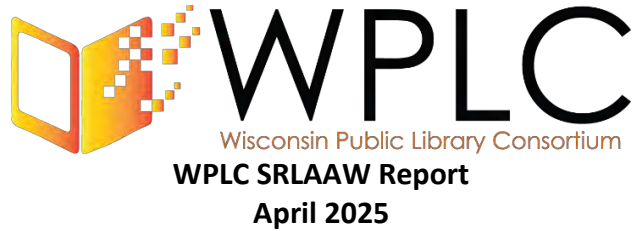
**Thank You**

On a personal note, this will be my last report for SRLAAW. I have accepted the position of Director of the Dubuque County Library District and will be relocating back to my home state of Iowa in early May. This is a great professional opportunity for me, but more importantly, this move will bring me closer to my father and allow me to help with his care more easily.

It has been a real pleasure working with all of you. I wish the Wisconsin library community much success in the future!

With appreciation,

Laura Sauser  
WLA Executive Director



### ***WPLC Annual Membership Meeting Recording***

The WPLC held its annual membership meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The slides from the meeting and recording are available if you missed it:

- [The April 4th Annual Meeting Recording](#)
- [The April 4th Annual Meeting Slides](#)

Highlights from the meeting include a review of 2024, the WPLC's new strategic plan, an update on the Data Dashboard, and a Delivery workgroup update.

### ***WPLC Strategic Plan***

The WPLC Board finalized its [strategic plan](#). The planning team identified three main goal areas and several objectives within each Goal. The first Goal is for the WPLC to focus on its strengths. The second goal is Clear, Purposeful Communication. And finally, goal three is sustaining the WPLC. Several activities have been identified for year one, and the WPLC is working now to activate the plan.

### ***WPLC Call to Action Campaign via Libby***

The WPLC Board has agreed to create and launch a Call to Action (CTA) campaign through Libby that will reach Wisconsin's Digital Library users. Using the information from the [Speak Up for Wisconsin Libraries](#) website created by SRLAAW, the campaign is anticipated to launch the first full week of May, pending WPLC Board approval, and will be visible on Libby's home page.

### ***WPLC Data Dashboard Access Extended***

Thanks to additional support from the DPI, the WPLC Data Dashboard access has been extended until June 30, 2025. All library staff are encouraged to utilize this free tool – please share with your member libraries. The dashboard includes over 35 data points from the Annual Report, as well as some customized calculations. All public library service data (as reported to DPI) from 2015-2023 is available in a visualized format that allows for peer library comparisons. In addition, the dashboard offers cohort options based on library locale and resident population size for optional benchmarking options when examining library data. 2024 annual report data will be included when available.

To access the dashboard, visit the WPLC website at: <https://wplc.info/dashboard>. (Please note this webpage is unlisted on the WPLC website so you will not be able to navigate to it from the main page.) No login credentials are needed!

**Have you used the dashboard?** We are looking for examples of ways library professionals used the dashboard during the pilot period. Did you use it to help write a report? Did you learn anything new from having access to the dashboard? Did it help you make a decision? If so, please share your stories with Kim Kiesewetter, [kim@wils.org](mailto:kim@wils.org).