

System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin

2025 Q4 Meeting Agenda

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Time: 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Location: Salons F&G, Madison Marriott
West (WLA Conference Site)

Recorder: Marla Sepnafski,
Wisconsin Valley Library Service

Virtual Link: [[Join the meeting](#)]

1. Welcome & Preliminary Business

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. Call to Order | e. Approval of the Agenda |
| b. Quorum Determination | f. Approval of Minutes from August 8, 2025 (Heser) |
| c. Proxy Announcements | g. Treasurer's Report (Anderson) |
| d. Introductions / Welcome Guests (Heser) | h. LD&L Report (Gay/Conway) |

2. Discussion Topic

Baker & Taylor Makes Plans to Cease Operations

- a. Background: [American Libraries article](#) (Marshall Breeding)
- b. Open roundtable discussion on B&T alternatives, changes to ordering workflows and impact on staff and patrons.

3. New Business

- a. Appointment of nominations committee
- b. Discussion on SRLAAW meeting length
- c. Ideas for future discussion topics

4. Old Business

- a. Review of SRLAAW distribution list
- b. IMLS Postcard campaign

6. Partner & Affiliated Organization Reports

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| a. COLAND | d. WiLS |
| b. DPI | e. WLA |
| c. Recollection Wisconsin | f. WPLC |

5. Member Engagement

- a. Member Roundtable

7. Closing

- a. Next Meeting: Monday, February 9, 2026, at SCLS Offices
- b. Adjournment

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

System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) Q3 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, August 8, 2025
Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM
Recorder: Clairellyn Sommersmith, Winnefox Library System

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:32am by Chair Steve Heser.

2. Quorum Determination

Members Present - Steve Heser, Chair (MCFLS), Leah Giordano, Vice Chair (Marathon County PL), Kristen Anderson, Treasurer (WRLS), Karin Adams (Manitowoc PL), Sarah Townsend (Kenosha PL), Nick Demske (Racine PL), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Garrett Erickson (Sheboygan PL), Bruce Gay (Waukesha PL), Dawn Wacek (La Crosse PL), Riti Grover (Monarch), Sue Heskin (Superior PL), Joan Johnson (Milwaukee), Jessie Lee-Jones (Platteville PL), Brittany Larson (Bridges), Angela Noel (SWLS), Steve Ohs (PPLS), Collen Rortvedt (Appleton PL), Becky Scherer (MCLS), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS), Bradley Shipps (OWLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), Sarah Sugden (BCL), Tracy Vreeke, (NFLS)

Excused: Tana Elias (Madison PL), Darryl Eschete (Oshkosh), Nancy Kerr (LEPMPL), Shannon Schultz (SCLS), John Thompson (IFLS)

Affiliated Members/Guests – Ben Miller (DPI), Beth Tomev (DPI), Chris Baker (DPI), Teresa Schmidt (DPI), Jennifer Chamberlain (WILS), Ellen Kupfer (COLAND), Steve Conway Kristen Whitson (Recollection Wisconsin) Deb Marett (MCFLS), Brittany Hornung (MCFLS), Katelyn Killian (Marathon County PL)

3. Proxy Announcements

Vreeke (NFLS) is proxy for Thompson (IFLS)

4. Introductions/Welcome Guests (Heser)

Heser began by thanking Giordano for hosting and Sepnafski for providing the food.

5. Approval of the Agenda (Heser)

Motion by Ohs, second by Shipps. Motion passes.

6. Approval of the Minutes from April 30, 2025 (Heser)

Minutes were corrected include Shipps serving as proxy for Vreeke who was not present. Motion by Ohs, seconded by Sepnafski. Motion passes.

7. Treasurer's Report (Anderson)

The report balance was \$6,964.34, with the invoice from MCFLS for the printing of the postcards on next month's statement.

There was discussion about potential future costs for SRLAAW, which would include more travel with ALA to Washington DC and more advocacy work. Once there was clarity on what SRLAAW member fees might be used for in the future and the cost was deemed reasonable a motion was introduced.

Ohs made the motion to resume SRLAAW member fees for 2026. The fees would be \$100 per year per organization (both system and resource library). Vreeke seconded. Motion passes.

Invoices will be sent out at the beginning of the year.

8. WLA Advocacy Fees for 2026

Fees were included in the packet (1% of state aid funds for each system) and Tom Klement from Wisconsin Library Association will be billing.

Sarah Sugden arrived at this time

9. LD&L

Libraries Transform Posters - Gay reported that new legislators are being approached to pose for their posters

2026-2027 Biennial Budget – Conway spoke highly of the LD&L committee and their work. He went on to discuss the process of getting the increase in System State Aid and funding for Auto-Graphics during this budget cycle. Both Assemblymen Kurtz and Hurd were recognized for their support of the libraries coming from the House. Mary Felzkowski continues to be a champion for libraries from the Senate. Conway continues to be optimistic about future budget cycles. In addition to the \$3 million base increase for System State Aid over two years, the funding for Recollection Wisconsin will also be funding in the next biennial.

Larson recognized all the individuals who attend Library Legislative Day and the important work they do in building the relationship between legislators and library supporters.

Postcard Campaign The postcard campaign is going well and speaks to SRLAAW and Wisconsin libraries' developing relationship legislators at the Federal level beyond the already established relationship at the state level. Postcards will go out in two groups. The majority will be mailed in the middle of the month with a second smaller mailing at the end of August.

10. Member Round Table

Workforce development at your libraries

Sugden and Vreeke shared information about [JobPod](#) a collaboration between NFLS, Brown County Library, the Department of Workforce Development, and the Bay Area Workforce Development. In 2025, JobPod expanded beyond NFLS borders and continues to be developed in areas across the state. JobPod is a great service to advertise to legislators who are interested in libraries' ability to provide economic growth in community and work with local businesses. JobPod is a testament to libraries partnering abilities and ability to be a resource to many.

Johnson and Rortvedt also highlighted how their libraries are serving job seekers in their communities.

11. SRLAAW Representative to the Public Library Standards

Miller stated the desire to have broad representation on the Public Library Standards steering committee. There will be a representative from COLAND, and he is looking for a representative from SRLAAW. The committee will meet formally and consistently throughout the year, while work groups will also be established and will be less formal and meet in shorter, more intense time frames.

Sommersmith made the motion and Sugden seconded to invite Nick Demske to be the representative from SRLAAW on the Public Library Standards steering committee. The motion is subject to Demske's acceptance. Motion passes.

There was additional interest among system directors in serving on the committee along with general interest in serving on work groups. The deadline for this committee is September 2026.

12. IMLS Update and Campaign Report

Miller reported that the Bureau of Libraries staffing is funded through September 2026 and as the office is cautiously optimistic it hopes to have a six-month grant period starting in January. Any decision, however, will be made following October when it is seen if IMLS is funded in the next federal budget. The current recommendation from the Senate is to restore funding, however, the House does not meet until September.

Miller was recently interviewed for an article in the Isthmus regarding the threat to IMLS. The letter to the editor from COLAND will be published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

13. **Agenda Reorganization**

Heser proposed the agenda reorganization to move the reports from affiliated organizations toward the end of the agenda and have themed round table discussion moved up in the agenda.

Elchert made the motion and Sugden seconded the motion. Motion passes.

There was additional discussion about lengthening the meeting to give more time for discussion. It was decided the next meeting on October 28 will run from 12-3, which lunch provided by Vreeke.

14. **Affiliated Organization Reports:**

- a. **COLAND** – Ellen Kupfer will continue COLAND's goals include monitoring library services in prisons and jails and reaching out and learning more about Tribal Libraries. The next meeting will be on September 12 at Beloit College.
- b. **DPI** – Miller reviewed highlights from his report, including the reorganization, intention to hire a Manager of Library Technology Services, and working with Channel Crawford, Assistant State Superintendent for the Division of School and Library Operations.
- c. **Recollection Wisconsin**- Whitson celebrated the renewal of Recollection Wisconsin funding and highlighted the upcoming Think Tank about newspaper digitization and hosting. The Think Tank will be in Milwaukee on September 23.
- d. **WILS** – Chamberlain presented for liaison Schultz who was absent. Chamberlain called attention to the Small Library Strategic Planning Cohort, which just had the biggest capstone to date and is looking for participants in the new cycle. Additionally, WILS is looking for volunteers to serve on their Purchasing Advisory Committee.
- e. **WLA** – Currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the new WLA Executive Director with intention to have a new director in place for the fall conference.

- f. **WPLC** – The board approved a charge for the Communications Committee and is working on values to go along with the recently established mission and vision. The delivery budget for 2026 was passed

15. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 28th at 12:00 p.m., in Salons F&G at the Madison Marriott West

16. Adjournment – 12:00pm

Motion by Ohs and seconded by Sugden. Motion passes.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Clairellyn Sommersmith, Winnefox

SRLAAW

Treasurer's Report

October 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	225.12		
Expenditure: NFLS advocacy travel		505.31	
Expenditure: MCFLS advocacy postcard printing		2177.03	
Funds as of October 21, 2025			\$4852.18

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen Anderson
SRLAAW Treasurer

Recollection Wisconsin Updates for SRLAAW

October 2025

Recollection Wisconsin Joint Meeting

The [Governing Board and Steering Committee of Recollection Wisconsin](#) met at UW-Milwaukee on September 22, 2025, for their annual joint meeting. This year, we revisited Recollection Wisconsin priorities, brainstormed how to make governance more effective and representative, enjoyed each other's company, and dreamed about what the future of digital cultural heritage holds in Wisconsin. Many thanks to everyone who attended!

Recollection Wisconsin Governance

At the Recollection Wisconsin Joint Meeting held on September 22, 2025, we were pleased to welcome Ann Hanlon (UW–Milwaukee) as the next Chair of the Governing Board and Nyama Reed as the Chair of the Steering Committee. We also welcomed three new members to the Steering Committee: Ellen Rohr, Vice President, Menomonee Falls Historical Society; Coordinator for the Maude Shunk Local History Room, Menomonee Falls Public Library; Holly De Ruyter, Independent Filmmaker and History Producer, PBS Wisconsin; and Kristen Leffelman, Southeast Outreach Coordinator, Wisconsin Historical Society. Thank you for your continued dedication to Recollection Wisconsin!

Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative

This digitization internship program kicks off again in the Spring 2026 semester. While we're still interviewing interested students and host sites, there are a few gaps we're particularly interested in filling in the coming year:

- Graduate school students in archives or history programs who can either travel to or live in rural northern Wisconsin to serve libraries and historical societies north of Wausau, and
- Host sites (libraries, archives, historical societies, museums) that have not yet participated in Recollection Wisconsin and have collections organized and ready to digitize.

Applications for the Spring 2026 semester are closed, but we'll continue to take applications for Summer 2026 and beyond. Please direct interested students and host sites to the [RWDI program website](#) or contact Project Coordinator Vicki Tobias at vicki@wils.org.

Digital Public Library of America

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is still in the midst of a transition to a new institutional home, and the direction of that process continues to evolve. Recollection Wisconsin's project staff and a representative of the Governing Board will attend the

[DPLA Summit](#) in Philadelphia in late October, where participating hubs will gather to discuss the transition, share input, and consider how and when to engage in shaping the process. We will continue to keep this group informed as developments unfold. In parallel, state librarians, including Wisconsin State Librarian Ben Miller, are also engaged in conversations about the transition at the national level.

New in Recollection Wisconsin

We are excited to welcome three new content partners to Recollection Wisconsin in November!

- The Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design [Guido Brink collection](#) contains ephemera concerning the life and artwork of Midwest artist and educator Guido Peter Brink (1913-2002) in addition to the art collection endowed to the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design from his estate.
- The Sun Prairie Historical Library & Museum [digital collection](#) shares manuscripts that document the history of Sun Prairie and surrounding areas. This includes petitions, directories and telephone books, a scrapbook of the Sun Prairie 20th Century Club, and more.
- The Tomah Area Historical Society and Museum [Frank O. King Collection](#) features a selection of original cartoons, sketches, correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia from Frank O. King, the creator of the comic strip *Gasoline Alley*. This digital collection offers insight into King's creative process and the cultural impact of his work.

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. We look forward to working with you!

WiLS Report to SRLAAW

October 2025

Cooperative purchasing

Print Solutions for Libraries

With the announcement of Baker & Taylor's closure, we know our members are scrambling to find alternative vendors for print materials. Sara Gold shared information with the System Directors at their last meeting; here is a follow-up from that conversation.

The good news is that the WiLS Cooperative Purchasing team has established partnerships with trusted, reliable library suppliers who provide similar services to B&T, as well as discounts to WiLS Cooperative Purchasing program participants. See this [blog post](#) for more information on these vendors. The WiLS team is currently exploring other potential partnerships with Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Stay tuned!

As your libraries explore options, here are some helpful avenues to consider:

- Reach out to [local independent bookstores in WI](#) or use [this directory](#).
- Reach out to [other book distributors](#)
 - Note: the correct URL for APG Distribution is: <https://apg-sales.com/>
 - Many of these distributors are excellent sources for children's, independent press titles and genre titles.
 - Check on APG, NBN, Bulk Books (for system purchases)
- Reach out directly to publishers
 - [Penguin Random House](#) * sells direct to libraries
 - [Hachette](#)
 - [Harper Collins](#)
 - [Simon and Schuster](#)
 - [Macmillan](#)
- Marc Records for titles purchased from Independent Booksellers, Amazon or Barnes & Noble can be purchased from [Mitinet](#), a WI vendor that offers enhanced MARC Records.

WiLS is in your corner, and we will continue to bring new solutions forward as we are able.

Consulting

Small Library Strategic Planning Cohort is underway! We offer a cohort learning and hands-on strategic planning opportunity that helps libraries in small communities (5,000 people or fewer) learn about their community's needs and aspirations, and use them to craft strategic directions for the next 3-5 years. This year's participating libraries join the almost 40 communities in

Wisconsin that have already participated in the cohort. If your system provided a scholarship for a member library, or simply promoted this experience in your system communications, thank you!

Barrett Memorial Library in Williams Bay (PLLS)
Brewer Public Library in Richland Center (SWLS)
Waupaca Area Library (OWLS)
Brigham Memorial Library in Sharon (PLLS)
Plainfield Public Library (Winnefox)

Consortium management

City Library Collective

The CLC is collaboratively developing a data tool to support stronger city library storytelling, utilizing a platform customized to the collective's needs. Case use examples will be created in 2026 for broader sharing and inspiration.

Digital Projects

Newspaper Think Tank

WiLS, as project managers for both the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) and Recollection Wisconsin, helped coordinate and facilitate a *Newspaper Think Tank* on September 23rd in Milwaukee. This convening brought together a number of people who are invested in providing improved access to historical Wisconsin newspapers, entities included multiple library systems, DPI, universities, public libraries, and the Wisconsin Historical Society. A more thorough, public report-out will be coming in the form of a white paper in the coming months, but other outcomes and next steps from the day include:

- People had the chance to talk openly and candidly about their current challenges and frustrations around the gap in a centralized historical newspaper digitization, preservation, and access infrastructure.
- Recollection Wisconsin was able to utilize the brain trust in the room to discuss considerations and questions that needed to be addressed if RW were to pursue the idea of a “bridge” solution while WHS gets its house in order to take on the centralized platform role eventually.
- For now, the think tank conveners have created a mailing list where attendees can ask questions and share ideas, and we are working collaboratively to update the All Things Newspapers document, which the WPLC committee maintains on its website.

Ideas to Action

Presenting the 2025 Ideas to Action Fund Awardees!

We are very excited to share the awardees for this year's [Ideas to Action Fund](#)! The WiLS Board and staff had very hard decisions to make, sifting through a record-breaking 64 proposals from libraries and cultural organizations. We are honored that we can continue to invest in our members' work and that the interest from our community grows year after year.

And the nine 2025 Ideas to Action Fund awardees are....

- **Ashland High School Library and Makerspace**, Anishinaabe Handcraft Literacy
- **Burlington Public Library**, Compassion Kits @ Your Library
- **Chilton Elementary and Middle School Library**, UNPLUG and CONNECT - Screen Free Week
- **America's Black Holocaust Museum**, Expanding Access to Black History: Digitizing the Beckum-Stapleton Little League and ABHM Archival Collections
- **Edgerton Public Library**, Monthly A1C and Blood Pressure Testing
- **Ho-Chunk Nation Museum and Cultural Center**, Walls for Community Art Shows
- **Prairie Lakes Library System**, Passport Packs: Check Out the World
- **Racine Public Library**, Racine Participatory Defense Hub
- **Ridgeland Area Library**, Read, Paint, Quilt: A Celebration of Local Art

We are so excited to see this work come to life! Read more about each project [on the WiLS blog](#). You, too, could be awarded up to \$5000 for your next project through the WiLS Ideas to Action Fund; just look for the next application period to open in April 2026.

Learning Opportunities

WiLS at the WLA 2025 Annual Conference

October 28-31 | Middleton, WI

Stop by and say hello! WiLS will be in the exhibit hall of the upcoming WLA Annual Conference, ready to share all the time- and money-saving goodies we have available to our community. You can also visit our [virtual booth turned movie theater](#) to see what we're offering up. WiLS staff will also be facilitating and presenting these sessions in collaboration with members in the conference center. We'd love to see you among the attendees!

Notable Reports Panel: Recent Library Trends, Data, and Discoveries

Wednesday, October 29th at 11:00 am CT in Salon D

Join WiLSians Sara Gold and Andi Coffin as they facilitate this panel summary and discussion of library and related reports you don't have time to read. Panelists include Renee Anhalt of Madison Area Technical College Libraries, Kristina Gómez of Milwaukee Public Library, and Kayla Mathson of Independence Public Library.

Notable Books (and More) Marathon

Wednesday, October 29th at 1:15 pm CT in Salon G&H

This four librarian panel will highlight titles from the current WLA Literary Award Committee's Outstanding List, the ALA Notable List, and other awards. Panelists include WiLS' Sara Gold, Jean Anderson of South Central Library System, Amy Lutzke, and Sarah Read of Oshkosh Public Library.

Navigating Intellectual Freedom Challenges Together

Thursday, October 30th at 10:45 am CT in Salon A

Join the WLA Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group for an in-depth, collaborative discussion on current intellectual freedom challenges facing Wisconsin with WiLSian Sara Gold and Christinna Swearingen of Rusk County Community Library.

Library Data Classroom: Taking Data Learning into the Real World

Thursday, October 30th at 4:00 pm CT in Salon G&H

Drawing on the experiences of WiLS Data Classroom cohort participants, this presentation will focus on how to bridge the gap between data learning and data-driven decision-making in libraries. This presentation features WiLS Data Analyst Kim Kiesewetter and Data Classroom participants Karen Hansen of Manitowoc Public Library, Monica LaVold of Friday Memorial Library, and Joleen Sterk of Menomonie Public Library.

All Hands on Deck: Implementing Change as a Group

Friday, October 31st at 9:15 am CT in Salon G&H

Change can be scary, but a big change while still maintaining day-to-day library functions might be the scariest! Meet staff from the WISPALS Consortium and learn about their year-long journey to implementing a new Integrated Library System. This panel includes WiLS staffer Melody Clark with WISPALS members Alyssa Gromowski of Lakeshore College and Rachel Rohlf of Gateway Technical College.

WiLSWorld Shorts: The People Are The Power

Friday, December 5th at 1:00 pm CT | [Register to attend](#)

For more than seven years, the WiLS Staff Development Group has been working one-on-one with staff and in coordination with one another for the sole purpose of making sure WiLS employees know they are valued. While some of our projects have been larger scale endeavors, like incorporating a flexible-hour work week or expanding employment benefits, we've also created a substantial toolkit of easier-to-implement efforts that have built a workplace culture of trust and respect. Join Jennifer Chamberlain, Melody Clark, and Andi Coffin as they share the practical strategies and actions WiLS has taken to care for employees.

WiLS 2026 Membership Meeting

Friday, February 27th at 10:00 am CT

Save the date for our next Membership Meeting to learn what our members and our staff have been up to – and what's ahead! Registration will open in January.



WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Update for SRLAAW – October 2025

WLA and WAAL Annual Conference

Many thanks for your support of the WLA and WAAL conference! From promoting this event within your systems, providing scholarships to cover registration costs, and sponsoring conference events, your assistance helps ensure our success. A big thank you to those systems who have donated baskets for the WLA Foundation Raffle. Your donation will help the foundation continue to fulfill its mission of supporting libraries and library workers.

Advocacy for Wisconsin Libraries

- 2026 Library Legislative Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2026. The morning briefing will take place at the Park Hotel. There will be Save-the-Date flyers at the registration table. Please feel free to take them to distribute to your libraries.
- Representative Randy Udell (D-Fitchburg, AD-47) reached out to WLA for feedback on draft legislation related to library material challenges. Rep. Udell's district includes the Stoughton Public Library. The current bill is largely a redraft of 2023 Assembly Bill 783 which makes it harder to challenge books in Wisconsin's public and school libraries. Only local residents or parents who have read the material — and who can gather signatures from at least 5% of local voters — can file a formal complaint to remove or restrict a book. The current preliminary bill eliminates the signatures requirement and replaces it with a limit of one item per complaint. According to Steve Conway the bill is not likely to go anywhere this session. We met with Rep Udell on October 22 to talk through the bill and talk more about what WLA does as an organization.

Intellectual Freedom Survey (see infographic)

The 2025 WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Survey was open for two weeks (October 6 to October 20). The survey had 343 responses; a 25% increase compared to the previous year. Similar to 2024, we received great participation from across the state, with a representative sample from each region of Wisconsin.

The vast majority of respondents felt they had the support of their community (85.4%), their library's administration (85.4%), and their board (82.5%). Compared to 2024, there was an increase in respondents who felt positive about the future of intellectual freedom in Wisconsin. This year, over half of all respondents agreed that intellectual freedom will be supported in Wisconsin's libraries (56.1%), a 10 percent increase when compared with 2024.

The political climate has also affected library workers across the state. This year, the majority of respondents (79.6%) stated that the political climate affected how they feel about their job, a similar rate to 2024 (73.4%). However, only about one in three (37.3%) respondents agreed that the political climate affected their ability to do their job, a slight increase from 2024 (35%).

When asked where the impacts of the political climate were felt, the three largest areas reported were the budget (74.60%), collection development (69.05%), and displays (68.25%). Notable impacts were also felt in relationships with patrons (62.70%), programming (53.17%), policies (49.21%), marketing (45.24%).

There was a decrease in reported formal local challenges compared with 2024. Only 36 respondents (10.9%) reported that they experienced a formal local challenge. Most of the challenges experienced were material challenges (28), but respondents also noted challenges to programs (3) and displays (6). Readiness to address challenges remained high in 2025, as the majority of respondents (80.5%) felt confident that their library is prepared to handle a formal challenge (80.5%) or complaints from community members (82.4%). However, participants experienced informal challenges, including community pushback (35.6%), complaints from parents or school stakeholders (29.2%), or pressure from elected officials (12.2%) and their administration/board (12.2%).

Leadership Development Institute 2025-2026

LDI kicked off its orientation on October 15. There are 17 participants who will meet virtually and in-person from now until their graduation in June. Session topics include Emotional Intelligence, Collaborative Decision Making, Relational Networking, Advocacy, Crisis Communication and Project Management.

The meeting dates are as follows:

- November 13, 2025 (in-person in Madison)
- December 3, 2025 (virtual)
- January 7, 2026 (virtual)
- January 21, 2026 (virtual)
- February 18, 2026 (virtual)
- March 18, 2025 (in-person at Platteville Public Library)
- April 15, 2026 (virtual)
- May 6, 2026 (virtual)
- May 20, 2026 (virtual)
- June 3, 2026 (in person at Portage County Library)

Awards & Honors, Library Hall of Fame

Congratulations to the 2025 Library Awards & Honors recipients for their outstanding contributions to libraries and librarianship!

- **WLA/Demco® Librarian of the Year:** Alison Loewen, Youth Services Librarian, Mead Public Library

- **Library of the Year:** Appleton Public Library
- **Paralibrarian of the Year:** Jennifer Melchi, Burlington Public Library
- **Special Service Award:** Teri DeVoe, Associate Deputy Director, IMLS
- **Muriel Fuller Award:** Jamie Matczak, Education Consultant, Wisconsin Valley Library Service
- **WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Award:** Jone Davis, Library Media Specialist, Northland Pines School District
- **2025 Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame**
 - Steve Platteter (April 24, 1961-February 27, 2025)
 - Marge Loch-Wouters
 - Michael Gelhausen

Bios featuring the award winners have been posted to the WLA website and will be featured on our social media channels. Press releases were also drafted for each recipient and shared with the individuals and their supervisors/nominators. Press releases also went to Wisconsin State Journal, ALA, WPR and PBS Wisconsin.

WLA Elections

There are several leadership positions still in need of candidates for the 2026 WLA election:

- WLA Board Secretary
- SSCS Rep
- WLAF Director at Large
- WAPL Division Vice Chair/Chair Elect
- SSCS Division Vice Chair/Chair Elect
- YSS Division Chair Elect

You must be a WLA member in good standing to run for an elected position. Ballots will go out in November. Please encourage leaders within your system to consider running for one of these positions – or consider nominating yourself! To submit a nomination, contact Nominating Committee Chair Rachel Arndt at rachel.arndt27@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

- Southwest Library Conference November 6, 2025 in Dodgeville, WI
- ALA Chapter Advocacy Workshop December 12-14 in Rosemount, IL
- Library Legislative Day, February 10, 2026 at Park Hotel in Madison
- WAPL Conference April 27-29, 2026 at the Osthoff Resort
- WLA Fall Conference October 20-23, 2026 at Madison Marriott West

Respectfully submitted,
Kara Sullivan
WLA Executive Director

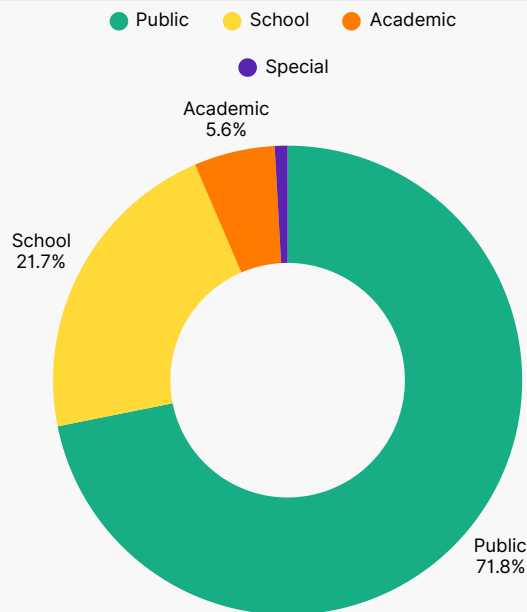
2025 WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Survey: At a Glance

Total Respondents

343

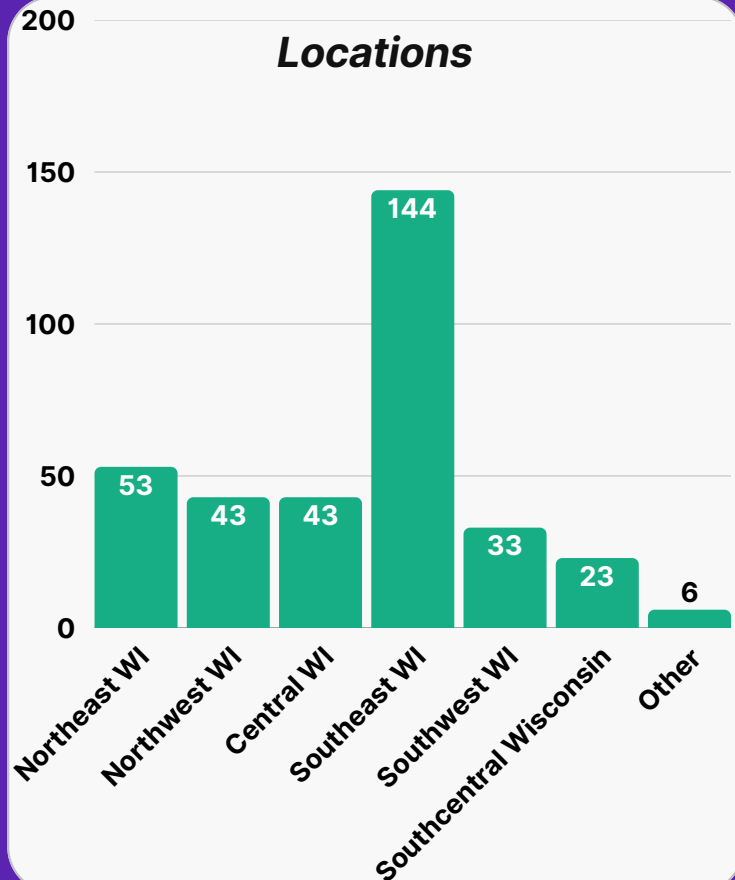
Number of WLA Members

166



Library Types

Locations



I feel supported by my:

Community

85.4%

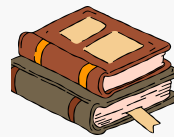
Administration

85.4%

Board

82.5%

56%



feel optimistic that intellectual freedom will be supported in Wisconsin's libraries in the future.

80%



feel confident that their library is prepared to handle a formal challenge.

Top situations encountered by respondents:

Community Pushback

36%

Informal Complaints from Parents/Stakeholders

29%

Pressure from Administration or Board

12%

Pressure from Elected Officials

12%

Formal Local Challenges

11%

FOIA Requests

9%