

# System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin Q2 2026 Meeting Agenda

Date: Monday, April 27, 2026  
Time: 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM  
Location: Osthoff Resort and Spa,  
Villa Gottfried Room

Recorder: John Thompson,  
IFLS Library System

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

## 1. Welcome & Preliminary Business

- a. Call to Order
- b. Quorum Determination (Thompson)
- c. Proxy Announcements
- d. Introductions / Welcome Guests (Heser)
- e. Approval of the Agenda
- f. Approval of [Minutes from February 9, 2026](#) (Heser)
- g. [Treasurer's Report](#) (Anderson)
- h. LD&L Report (Gay/Conway)

## 2. Discussion Topic

### The Science of Reading and the Role of Public Libraries

- a. Open roundtable discussion on the science of reading and its impact on public library programs, collections and services. Ben Miller from DPI will facilitate.
- b. Attachments
  - a. [A Model Representing the Reading Process](#).
  - b. [Reading in the balance: Exploring the role of public library in the 'science of reading'](#).

## 3. New Business

- a. Statewide Experience Pass Platform (Ohs)
- b. Potential statewide delivery changes (Schultz)

## 4. Old Business

- a. SRLAAW Bylaws workgroup update (Heser)
- b. Plans for discussion topic on change management (Heser)

## 6. Partner & Affiliated Organization Reports

- a. COLAND
- b. [DPI](#)
- c. [Recollection Wisconsin](#)
- d. [WiLS](#)
- e. [WLA](#)
- f. [WPLC](#)

## 5. Member Engagement

- a. Member Roundtable

## 7. Closing

- a. Next Meeting: August 14, 9:30 am – 11:30 am at Marathon County Public Library
- b. Adjournment

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

# **System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) Q1 2026 Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Time:** 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
**Location:** **South Central Library System**  
**Recorder:** Brittany Larson, Bridges Library System

## **1. Welcome & Preliminary Business**

### **a. Call to Order**

### **b. Quorum Determination**

#### **Members Present:**

Steve Hesper, Chair (MCFLS), Leah Giordano, Vice Chair (Marathon County PL), Kristen Anderson, Treasurer (WRLS), Karin Adams (Manitowoc PL), Nick Demske (Racine PL), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Tana Elias (Madison PL), Darryl Eschete (Oshkosh), Bruce Gay (Waukesha PL), Riti Grover (Monarch), Sue Heskin (Superior PL), Brittany Larson (Bridges), Jessie Lee-Jones (Platteville PL), Angela Noel (SWLS), Steve Ohs (PPLS), Colleen Rortvedt (Appleton PL), Becky Scherer (MCLS), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS), Clairellyn Sommersmith (Winnefox), John Thompson (IFLS), Sarah Townsend (Kenosha), Tracy Vreeke, (NFLS), Dawn Wacek (La Crosse)

#### **Excused:**

Garrett Erickson (Sheboygan PL), Joan Johnson (Milwaukee) Nancy Kerr (LEPMPL), Shannon Schultz (SCLS)

#### **Affiliated Members/Guests:**

Ben Miller (DPI), Teresa Schmidt (DPI), Elizabeth Tomev (DPI), Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Sara Gold WiLS/WPLC, Kara Sullivan (WLA), Ellen Kupfer (COLAND) Sarah Cournoyer (Beaver Dam PL), Brittney Hornung (MCFLS)

### **c. Proxy Announcements:**

### **d. Introductions/Welcome Guests**

### **e. Approval of the Agenda**

Steve Ohs motioned, Riti Grover seconds

**f. Approval of the Minutes of October 28, 2025 Meeting**

Sara Sugden motions, Tracy Vreeke seconds

**g. Treasurer's Report**

Joan Johnson motions, Bradly Shipps seconds

**h. LD&L Report**

## 2. Discussion Topic

### Safety and Security Practices

Open roundtable discussion on the type of safety and security practices being implemented in libraries, and how they are being funded. How are these practices evolving given recent events?

Shared:

Nick Demske

Tana Elias

Joan Johnson- uses perspective for incident tracking, started using Vocera Smartbadge walkie-talkie badge that is hands free

Dawn Wacek- no daytime shelter in lacrosse; contract security; PIT- patron incident tracking system;

Chat comment "We have seen an uptick. Some due to citywide issues, some very much because our space is so reduced due to our remodel."

"I also serve on our city unsheltered team with community policing, mayor, emergency management, county social services-that relationship building is very helpful too."

Darryl Eschete- safety and security workgroup, patron behavior policy

Chat comment "We have seen a decrease, but some of it is definitely related to the Oshkosh PD creating a special precinct downtown that exists to serve the social needs of the homeless. They co-office with County social workers. Doing great work."

Sue Heskin "In last 2 years we've seen a decrease in incidents as well as severity of incidents. We think it's due to better coordinated response by social services and law enforcement in our community. Our social worker is involved in those continuum of care discussions and informs staff of the new resources."

Colleen Rortvedt- Appleton PL,  
Sarah Townsend- Kenosha PL  
Sarah Sugden- Brown County PL

\*leah left at 1:28pm- Tracy serves as proxy  
\*Steve Ohs left 1:55pm

Ice in libraries?  
\*discussion of ICE best practices ensued\*

### 3. New Business

#### a. **Voices 4 Libraries and SRLAAW funding support**

Tracy Vreeke- sponsor 2 SRLAAW attendees COSLA Voices 4 Libraries

Cost about \$1,200-\$1,400 per person (lodging, flight, per diem food)

Joan Johnson motioned to fund 2 SRLAAW attendees to COSLA, Shannon Shultz seconded the motion.

Angela Noel asked for this to be added to the Fall agenda yearly.

#### b. **Library/Municipal Administrative Procedures Training Unit**

Steve Ohs-

Teresa Schmidt- in talks with UW

### 4. Old Business

#### a. **Report from the Nominations Committee**

Tracy Vreeke-change bylaws to reflect two-year term for all officers

Officers agreed to serve another term

Clairellyn Sommersmith motioned to accept the nominations as presented by the nominations committee, Becky Scherer second.

#### b. **SRLAAW Bylaws workgroup update**

Steve Hesar- direct line of communication between libraries and affiliated groups. Calling out advocacy, a safe space for difficult content,

Discussion on minutes- length and public facing

Expectations of the meetings

#### c. **Discussion topic survey results**

### 5. Partner & Affiliated Organization Reports

**a. COLAND**

Ellen Kupfer- Subcommittee information: Broadband and network development programming, libraries in correctional facilities, Tribal libraries

**b. DPI**

Ben Miller and Beth Tomav-GPR funding, LSTA grant to state allocation table- \$3000 increase in funding

**c. Recollection Wisconsin**

Kristen Whitson- Digital Public Library of America transition in leadership and structure

**d. WiLS**

Jennifer Chamberlain- Amazon Business Prime Account- free of charge for public libraries part of the Coop members (contact Sara Gould for more info)

**e. WLA**

Kara Sullivan- All events are included on the report,

**f. WPLC**

Steve Ohs- 10.3 million checkouts in 2025, statewide digital book club "Wisconsin Reads"

**6. Member Engagement**

**a. Member Roundtable**

June 4<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm open house 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for NLS- dropped the federated

**7. Closing**

**a. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 27, 2026 3:30 – 5:30** at the WAPL Conference site

**b. Adjournment**

John Thompson motioned, Angela Noel seconded

# SRLAAW

---

## Treasurer Report

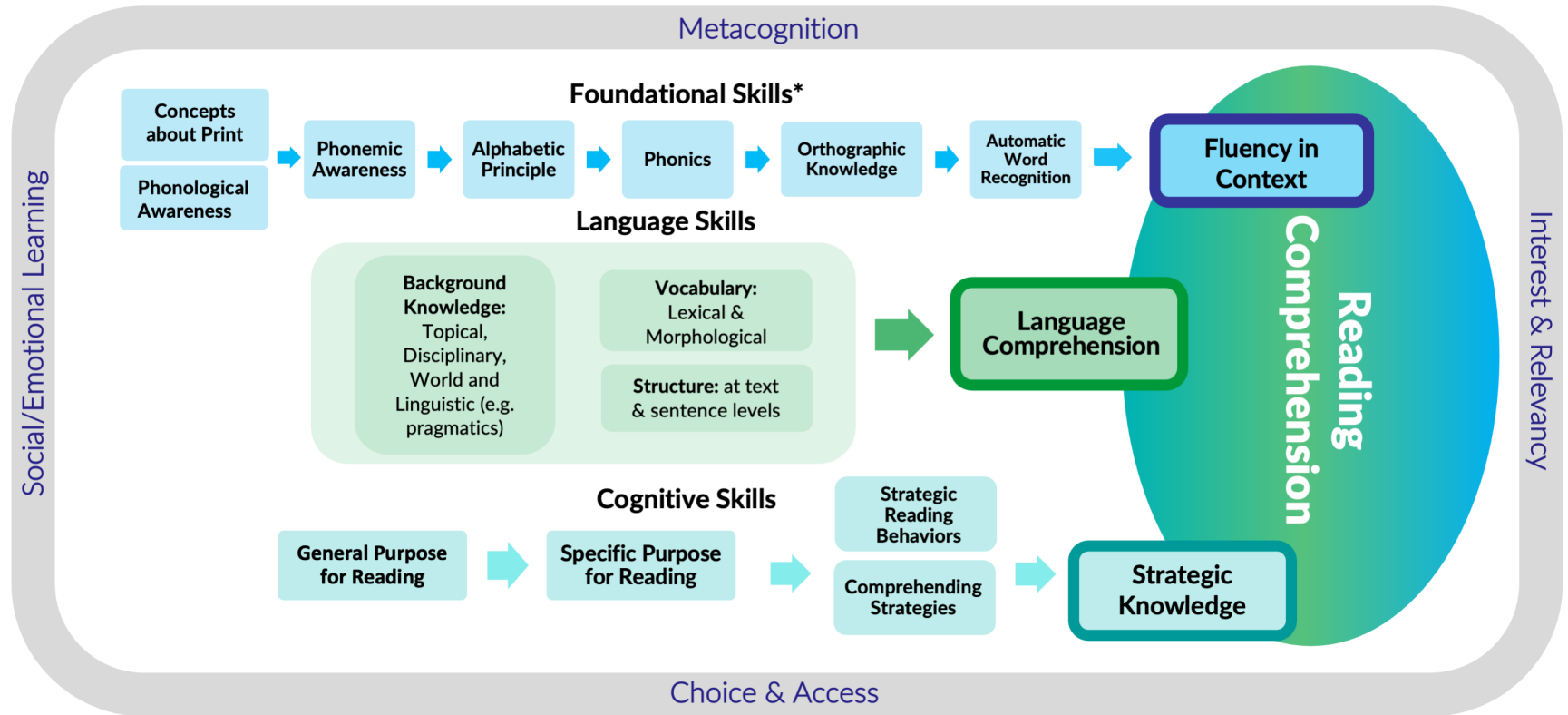
April 2026

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	274.48		
Expenditure: NFLS advocacy travel		505.31	
Expenditure: MCFLS advocacy postcard printing		2177.03	
2026 interest income	46.37		
Membership dues	1700.00		
Funds as of April 21, 2026			\$6647.91

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen Anderson  
SRLAAW Treasurer

# A Model Representing the Reading Process



\* Sequential and Overlapping Skills

Adapted from Farrall, M. (2012). *Reading assessment: Linking language, literacy, and cognition*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons; McKenna, M. & Stahl, K. (2009). *Assessment for reading instruction*. New York, NY: Guilford.

# Reading in the balance: Exploring the role of public library in the ‘science of reading’

[webjunction.org/news/webjunction/reading-in-the-balance.html](https://webjunction.org/news/webjunction/reading-in-the-balance.html)

WebJunction with members of the 2022-2024 ALSC Research Committee

March 26, 2024

WebJunction with members of the 2022-2024 ALSC Research Committee / **26 March 2024**



*Summer Reading Club, by [Province of British Columbia](#),  
[CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 Deed](#)*

Learning to read is neither an innate nor simple process, and recently there has been [increased scrutiny](#) on whether schools are effectively preparing children to learn to read. Colloquially referred to as “the reading wars,” this scrutiny has led to the development of a reading-instruction approach based on some research-based theories and principles that are collectively referred to as the ‘science of reading.’ This curricular approach, already implemented in [37 states](#), has resulted in a remapping of reading instruction and teacher training. So, what does this mean for public libraries and your efforts to support the families in your communities?

Public libraries have long provided families with access to the information and materials they both need and want, with the goal of building a lifelong love of reading. You may have noticed that, in the last few years, parents and caregivers in your communities are seeking information about the science of reading. Perhaps they have questions about what this approach means for their child. And they want to find books and media that fit within this approach to support their children on their reading journey. If you have built strong relationships with the families in your community, they can bring their questions to you. This is why it is a good idea for you to be aware of and understand these literacy-related trends and topics so that you can support these families from an informed perspective.

## What does the science of reading refer to?

---

The [International Literacy Association](#) defines the science of reading as “A convergence of accumulated and evolving findings from research regarding reading processes and reading instruction (pedagogy) and how the two are implemented across contexts that interactively bridge cultural, social, biological, psychological, linguistic, and historical bases of learning.” The science of reading asserts that pairing language comprehension—decoding words by sounding them out (phonics)—with word recognition—sometimes called whole language—can be helpful for students learning to read. *Library Journal* points out that “Effective literacy instruction therefore supports children understanding the connection between the sounds of spoken language and written language as well as immersive experiences with quality texts.” There are dozens of sources you can explore to continue to learn more about this topic. Here are a few to get you started:

- The Reading League, “[Science of reading: Defining guide](#)”
- Reading Rockets article, “[Introduction to the science of reading](#)”
- Article from [Scholastic Inc.](#), “[What the science of reading says about our brains](#)”
- [edWeb.net webinars](#), especially during [Science of Reading Week](#) March 25-28, 2024
- The [Ohio Library Council](#) offers science of reading resources for libraries
- Academic articles that critique and explore the science of reading
- “[Critical issues in the science of reading: Striving for a wide-angle view in research](#)”
- “[Stories grounded in decades of research: What we truly know about the teaching of reading](#)”
- “[The science of reading: Supports, critiques, and questions](#)”
- *School Library Journal* article “[Love it or hate it, the Science of Reading gains traction in schools](#)”
- [Association for Library Service to Children](#) (ALSC) resources
- Blog post by the Early & Family Literacy Committee, “[Every Child Ready to Read and the science of reading](#)”
- Blog post by Dr. Tess Prendergast, “[The science of reading: A primer for children’s library staff](#)”
- [Learning to Read at School, Loving to Read at the Library](#), Colorado State Library webinar recording with Jess Hesselberg
- [#PLA2024 The Science of Reading](#), ALSC blog summary of PLA preconference session, *Public Libraries and Schools: Everything You Need to Know about the Science of Reading*



*[Students participate in SPARK](#) (Students Progress and Achieve with Reading Kits), courtesy Cecil County Public Library*

It's also important to note that the [pressure on teachers](#) is higher than ever, with widespread implementation of the science of reading approach in classrooms across the country. Your library can help to support teachers by deepening your understanding of reading instruction and the science of reading, and providing reading materials for children and families that, again, balance reading support with reading interest.

Finally, diverse texts play a crucial role in your efforts as a public librarian. Because you are not bound by a curriculum, you can incorporate culturally responsive and representational texts in your reader's advisory and collection management. [Students of color](#) and [English language learners](#) can and are benefitting from science of reading approaches in schools and will be well served by your attention to the inclusiveness and diversity of the library's collections.

## **How to guide families**

---

Remember, you don't have to become a reading teacher. The best part of the public library experience for children and families is that there are no curricular expectations nor academic standards. Children can come in and read anything they want, based solely on what they are interested in. And you can help them find those materials and also guide the families you interact with, to provide balance with what is being communicated at school around reading approaches.

There are several resources for you to develop ways to support the families in your community by providing relevant and meaningful information and materials to help them no matter where their children are in their reading journeys. A *School Library Journal* article on [ending the reading wars](#) provides personal insight into the need for a balanced approach to literacy instruction and offers “Eight tips for educators” intended to support librarians as they, in turn, support and guide families and emerging readers. These tips include focusing on making the library welcoming and encouraging for all readers; supporting children as they make their own choices of what to read; providing diverse and representative collections; and sharing your own reading experiences with children, as well as light ways to infuse some literacy instruction into your interactions with young readers.

## Recommendations for libraries

---

The Research Committee of ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children) has crafted an annotated bibliography of resources related to the science of reading that will be shared via [ALSC blog posts](#) later this spring. Drawn from that bibliography, here are some recommendations for librarians:

1. Look for and read a variety of opinions and approaches to literacy instruction. Reach out to teachers at nearby schools to learn more and understand what is taking place in their classrooms related to the science of reading. This will help you guide families and curate your collection to meet these community needs and priorities.
2. Engage in conversations with the families who come into your library to understand what they are looking for; look for how your reader’s advisory and reference skills can be useful to provide both relevant and interesting reading materials. In this way, you can balance meeting educational needs with building a love of reading.
3. Look for partners who can help you with this work, such as early childhood learning centers and elementary schools, with whom you can build resources and recommendations for your community. You might even consider creating a booklist for families that helps them identify specific titles for their children.
4. Share strategies with families for how to support reading development in their everyday lives. Encourage them to point out environmental print—signs, posters, banners that appear in their communities and offer opportunities to practice letter recognition. Incorporate songs and music into daily routines such as bathtime and meals to build an understanding of the sounds of words and syllables. There are lots of small activities that can contribute to helping children be ready to learn to read, even at an early age.

Libraries remain a great place to foster literacy development and help community members stay informed about the newest trends and topics in reading science. By starting with the resources shared here, you can be prepared to support families of emerging readers and continue the

important work of promoting literacy in your community.

*Thank you to the members of the 2022-2024 [ALSC Research Committee](#) for contributions to this article: Alexandra Bell, Dr. Kathleen Campana, Dr. Grace Enriquez, Tanya M. DiMaggio, Lissette Gonzalez, Dr. Miriam Martinez, Dr. J. Elizabeth Mills, Kaitlin A. Rotella, Tricia Wehrenberg.*



Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

# DPI Report to SRLAAW – April 2026

- 2027-2029 Biennial Budget
- Voices for Libraries
- National Library Week
- Teen Internship Selected Libraries
- System Annual Reports
- Recollection WI
- DPI Website
- Wisconsin Newspapers

---

## 2027-2029 Biennial Budget

The Bureau of Libraries has heard requests from library stakeholders around the need for potential biennial budget asks around public library facilities and public library workforce development funding. The Recollection WI governing board are also considering requesting an increase in their appropriation. Staff are investigating and will share developments with LD&L.

The DPI budget timeline remains consistent with prior cycles. An agency budget in Fall 2026.

## Voices for Libraries

COSLA reported a successful Voices for Libraries event. As a result, Dear Appropriator letters for sustained IMLS funding received slightly more support than in previous years in the House and Senate. Initial talks are already taking place with ALA to attempt to combine the two national library advocacy events next Spring.

## National Library Week

National Library Week was celebrated April 19-25, 2026. This year's theme was "Find Your Joy." The Bureau visited the following libraries over the week: Coon Valley, La Crosse County, Nekoosa, Marathon Public Library -Rothschild Branch, Rhinelander District Library, Walter E Olson Memorial Library, Forest County Potawatomi Cultural Center and Library, Powers Memorial Library, Waterford Public Library, and the North Shore Public Library.

Page 2

## **Teen Internship Selected Libraries**

Eight Wisconsin Public Libraries were selected to participate in the 2026 Wisconsin Teen Internship program, which provides LSTA funding up to \$2500 to libraries to allow them to offer a paid, mentored internship to teen aged students (ages 16-19) representing the voices of their communities. One of the core components of the internship is for the interns to create and implement their own Connected Learning Project. These Connected Learning Projects are largely determined by the interns' own perspectives, interests, and experiences. Connected Learning is learning that is grounded in personal relevance, meaningful relationships, civic engagement, and a sense of purpose. These projects give the intern the opportunity to find their place in the community by allowing them to exercise their agency and their voice to connect, create, and share.

Congratulations to: Alma Public Library, Hustisford Public Library, Iron Ridge Public Library, Oak Creek Public Library, Phillips Public Library, Spooner Memorial Library, Sun Prairie Public Library, and Turtle Lake Public Library.

The Teen Internship is supported by the [Institute of Museums and Library Services](#) with [Library Services and Technology Act](#) (LSTA) funding and is conditioned upon the availability of government funds which may be limited for any reason including, but not limited to, congressional, legislative, gubernatorial, or administrative action.

## **System Annual Reports**

Board-approved System Annual Reports were submitted and approved by the DPI. Successful review of these reports triggered the release of the final 25% of FY26 Public Library System Aid.

## **Recollection WI**

DPLA [recently announced they will be moving their cultural heritage work to the Cleveland Public Library](#). Recollection Wisconsin leadership is following these developments closely and remains engaged in national-level conversations alongside peer hubs and state library leaders. As this process continues, Recollection Wisconsin remains well positioned to sustain access to Wisconsin's digital cultural heritage through its own statewide and regional partnerships and infrastructure, ensuring continuity for content partners regardless of outcomes at the national level.

## **DPI Website**

As part of [the Department of Public Instruction's strategic plan](#) and commitment to modernizing and improving the agency and in preparation for the forthcoming [Title II ADA digital accessibility deadline](#), our department is currently undertaking a major update to our external website ([dpi.wi.gov](http://dpi.wi.gov)) While this deadline has been delayed for an additional year, making the website and other content shared from the DPI accessible remains a priority.

## Page 3

Over the next several months, you will notice changes to portions of our website, including updates to information and various resources. During this transition, some resources or information may be temporarily unavailable on our website or relocated as we review, revise, and remediate content to meet accessibility standards.

These improvements are part of our commitment to making our website and materials more usable for you and fully accessible to all. We understand how important these resources are to your work, and ensuring they are accessible to everyone is our primary focus during this effort.

Please contact Ben Miller or Beth Tomev if you are unable to locate a resource you need or have questions about information that may have been moved or temporarily unavailable during this update.

### **Wisconsin Newspapers**

Bureau of Libraries staff often get questions as to which Wisconsin newspapers are available and what years of coverage are available online. While BadgerLink doesn't provide access to all Wisconsin newspapers, [this title list](#) shows currently available titles in order by Wisconsin city, along with the years of coverage, and a link to the BadgerLink resource where the title is located. Upon clicking the link in column G, the resource homepage will open (some users will be prompted to log in through the BadgerLink website first).

Each newspaper resource looks a little different, but has similar steps to searching for and within a newspaper title. This ~15 minute [training video](#) illustrates how to locate the newspaper and search to find articles and obituaries in each resource. There are also timestamps available with [this video when viewing on YouTube](#) (select to see more in the description) to jump to the resource you would like to hear about and hone in on the exact information you need.

Share the [Newspaper Resource Guide](#) with your library users looking for national and Wisconsin newspapers, current and historical coverage.

## Recollection Wisconsin Updates for SRLAAW

*April 2026*

### **Nominations Open in May for Seats on the Steering Committee**

Next month, the [Recollection Wisconsin Steering Committee](#) will be seeking nominations to fill four vacant seats. The Committee helps shape the priorities and future directions of the Recollection Wisconsin statewide digital consortium.

The Committee is made up of digital collections managers and users representing a broad range of cultural heritage organizations throughout Wisconsin. It is an excellent opportunity to help guide the bright future of Recollection Wisconsin and to connect with others in a wide variety of Wisconsin organizations, large and small, who are creating and tending to digital collections. It's also a great way to connect to regional and national communities of practice.

Three-year Committee terms will begin this fall. There are 3-5 virtual meetings a year and one in person with the Recollection Wisconsin Governing Board in September or October.

To submit a nomination, please [fill out this form](#). Nominations will be accepted through **July 1st**. Please contact Recollection Wisconsin at [info@recollectionwisconsin.org](mailto:info@recollectionwisconsin.org) with any questions.

### **Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative**

The [Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative \(RWDI\)](#) connects libraries, archives, and cultural organizations across the state with graduate student interns to digitize local history collections. Through these partnerships, RWDI helps ensure that photographs, yearbooks, published histories, and archival materials documenting Wisconsin communities are preserved and shared online for anyone to explore.

We're thrilled to welcome our summer 2026 participants!

Katie Kulie (UW-Madison iSchool) joins [Northcentral Technical College](#) in Wausau, working under the guidance of library services technician, Matthew Cavenaile, with support from Learning Commons manager, Matt Hoenecke. Katie's digitization project will focus on materials that document NTC's history and their vocational education programs including photos, course catalogs and outreach materials.

Hazel Johnson (UW-Madison iSchool) joins the [Gateway Technical College](#) team in Kenosha, working with Racine campus librarian, Rachel Rohlf, and Kenosha campus

librarian, Paige Barreto. Hazel's digitization project will also focus on materials that document GTC's history and their vocational education programs including photos and other materials that showcase various vocational programs over the years.

Sophia Auron (UW-Madison iSchool) will be working with [Middleton Public Library](#) deputy director, Katharine Clark, with support from [Wisconsin Library Association \(WLA\)](#) executive director, Kara Sullivan, to digitize materials from the WLA archives collection including outreach materials, conference programs, newsletters and older membership directories.

In the coming months, you'll get an inside look at all three projects and hear directly from participants. We're thrilled to partner with these host sites to bring their remarkable collections into Recollection Wisconsin. For more information about the Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative, visit <https://recollectionwisconsin.org/rwdi> or contact [vicki@wils.org](mailto:vicki@wils.org).

### **CONTENTdm Accessibility Conformance Reports**

To help our content partners demonstrate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we are gathering the information they need, including Accessibility Conformance Reports.

We are happy to share those reports for OCLC's CONTENTdm, one focused on [end-user accessibility](#) and another focused on [Administration Portal accessibility](#) for those who manage CONTENTdm collections.

We will continue to gather and share this information as it becomes available and continue the work to make the Recollection Wisconsin website as accessible as possible to all users.

### **Digital Public Library of America**

After a period of transition and planning, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) and Cleveland Public Library (CPL) formally announced a partnership in March 2026 to chart a new vision for the national digital collection. CPL is expected to begin managing the DPLA digital archive in summer 2026. Four foundations (Sloan, Mellon, MacArthur, and Ford) have contributed \$3.25 million toward the expansion, and CPL and DPLA plan to share additional details at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in June 2026.

InfoDocket

Recollection Wisconsin leadership has been closely engaged in national-level conversations throughout this transition process, alongside peer hubs and state library

leaders. Recollection Wisconsin remains well positioned to sustain access to Wisconsin's digital cultural heritage through its own statewide and regional partnerships and infrastructure, ensuring continuity for content partners as this new chapter takes shape.

### **New in Recollection Wisconsin**

In May, we will welcome three new collections and two new content partners to Recollection Wisconsin, bringing with them a wealth of community history to the state's trove.

**Jacobsens Museum**, on Washington Island in Door County, houses exhibits and artifacts collected by Danish immigrant Jens Jacobsen, along with his own crafts. [The museum's digital collection](#) focuses on the earliest items displayed by Jacobsen, including wooden models of ships, wooden decorative 'scroll work,' museum visitor books, schoolbooks, drawings, photographs, and letters.

**America's Black Holocaust Museum** in Milwaukee was founded in 1988 by one of the only known survivors of a lynching in the U.S., Dr. James Cameron. The museum builds public awareness of the harmful legacies of slavery and Jim Crow in America and promotes racial repair, reconciliation, and healing. [Their digital collection](#) shares letters, journals, news articles, photographs, and postcards documenting history in Bronzeville, including the Beckum-Stapleton Little League.

**Fond du Lac Public Library** contributes two small but mighty collections to Recollection Wisconsin. Browse [city directories](#) ranging from 1857 to 1905 and [plat books and atlases](#) from 1893 to 1956 to explore the rich history of Fond du Lac.

---

### ***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). We look forward to working with you!*

# WiLS Report to SRLAAW

*April 2026*

.....

## Cooperative purchasing

### Amazon Business Prime for WiLS Coop Participants

WiLS launched a vendor partnership with Amazon Business on April 16th. Public libraries who have a Cooperative Purchasing Membership are eligible to receive a free Amazon Business Prime Membership that renews annually.

In addition to Amazon's fast and free shipping with Business Prime, benefits include:

- 30% - 45% discounts on new releases and preorders
- Free downloadable MARC records
- [Library Hub](#) landing page with library collections and resources

#### Resource Links

Presentation:

[Webinar Recording](#)

[Webinar Slides](#)

Amazon Account Team for WiLS members:

[Account and Books Support by Library](#)

The Cooperative Purchasing Program is an add-on to WiLS membership with an annual fee of \$199 for public libraries. Library systems participating in Cooperative Purchasing are eligible to register for Amazon Business Prime accounts and the activation process is shared below.

#### Activation Steps:

1. Click on [this link](#)
2. Login to your Amazon Business account
3. Enter this code: [4GVWL](#)
4. Activate Business Prime \$0 (or "switch" to a \$0 and receive a prorated refund)

This information has been shared widely with individual libraries. If you have questions supporting your member libraries through WiLS Cooperative Purchasing, please reach out to the coop team at [coop@wils.org](mailto:coop@wils.org)

---

## Consulting

**City Library Collective Annual Report** - The [CLC's 2025 Annual Report](#) showcases the strength of this network of 13 mid-size city libraries. Their recent shared project is focusing on comparing peer data to create more compelling data stories and enhance advocacy and decision-making. Feel free to reach out to your nearby participating library to learn more about this project!

---

## Digital Projects

### Culture Keepers Gathering 2026

WiLS, in cooperation with the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the UW-Madison Information School, Nicolet Library System, and the Culture Keepers Collective, will convene the Culture Keepers Gathering, bringing together Indigenous librarians, archivists, museum curators, and cultural heritage workers from Wisconsin's Tribal Nations. The 2026 gathering will be held **May 13–15** in Lac du Flambeau, with programming that will draw on the expertise and collections of the [Gikendaasowigamig Ben Guthrie Lac du Flambeau Public Library](#) and the [George W. Brown, Jr. Ojibwe Museum & Cultural Center](#). Participants will have the opportunity to share resources, strengthen relationships, and build community with a growing network of practitioners. The gathering is organized in partnership with the [Culture Keepers Collective](#), an ongoing community of practice that provides space and support for Native cultural workers in digital stewardship, curation, and preservation.

The 2026 gathering is made possible through the generous support of the UW-Madison Information School, WiLS, Nicolet Library System, UW-Madison Division of the Arts, UW-Madison Office of Tribal Relations, Infobase, Sam Bonsey, Wisconsin Library Association, FactCite, Marquette University Raynor Library, Washington State University CDSC, OCLC/WebJunction, Steven Bonsey, Sora (OverDrive), Carol Francescani, and W. Edwin Bonsey.

## Ideas to Action

### The WiLS 2026 Ideas to Action Fund Application Period is Open

The [WiLS Ideas to Action Fund](#) application period is open through June 1st and we can't wait to hear the amazing ideas you'd like to turn into action for your own community.

The Ideas to Action Fund provides grants of up to \$5,000 to project proposals that foster partnerships and collaborations among WiLS members and with community partners, support innovative and exploratory new work, and seed the development of processes, methods, or resources that can be used by other WiLS members. Since 2018, we've awarded over \$250,000 to 64 Wisconsin libraries and cultural organizations.

You could be next! Read more about the review process, eligibility, and components of strong proposals [on the WiLS website](#) or [submit your proposal](#).

---

## Learning Opportunities

### **WiLSWorld Shorts: Building Successful Student Internships: Lessons from the Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative**

*Friday, June 12th at 1:00 pm CT | [Register to attend](#) or [read more on the WiLS blog](#)*

Join us for this one-hour panel exploring what makes internship programs truly work, from both student and host organization perspectives. Hear directly from graduate student interns and site supervisors who participated in the [Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative](#), a collaborative program that pairs Wisconsin graduate students with libraries, museums, and archives to digitize and share local history collections. Panelists will share real-world experiences, practical insights, and lessons learned, offering strategies for creating meaningful, hands-on internships that benefit both learners and organizations.

---

## Miscellaneous

**WiLS Community Survey** - We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took the time to complete our biennial survey! With a 50% jump in respondents, we've gathered a goldmine of feedback. This rich content will directly shape the future of WiLS services as we work to better support our community.



## **WLA Update for SRLAAW**

April 27, 2026

### **Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI)**

We have developed a draft Memorandum of Understanding with the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative \(SLI\)](#) that establishes a formal partnership designed to expand sustainability resources and professional development opportunities for WLA members.

Under the proposed agreement, all WLA members will have access to a one-time, 12-month SLI membership at no cost, along with ongoing access to SLI communications and resources. Members will also receive discounted participation in the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP), including 20% individual discounts and 25% cohort discounts for groups of five or more libraries.

In return, WLA will support statewide promotion of SLI through communications and conference engagement, including hosting SLI programming and presence at the WLA Conference.

This partnership represents a high-value, low-cost member benefit that aligns with growing interest in sustainability across library types. Members of the Sustainability SIG will work on building out a page on the WLA website. We will be issuing a press release shortly.

### **E-Books Legislation Process**

WLA would like to explore e-books legislation modeled on recent efforts in Illinois and Connecticut, with a focus on framing the issue through a consumer protection lens.

[Illinois's proposed approach](#) (Digital Library Protection Act) centers on prohibiting restrictive licensing practices that interfere with how libraries lend and manage digital materials. Connecticut successfully enacted similar legislation in 2025, demonstrating that this policy approach is viable.

In Wisconsin, Stat. 100.18 (Deceptive Trade Practices Act) provides a potential legal foundation for addressing unfair or restrictive e-book licensing practices. Initial review suggests that Wisconsin law aligns conceptually with Illinois's consumer protection framework, though there are important distinctions, including Wisconsin's requirement to demonstrate actual harm in order to bring a claim.

At this stage, here are the possible next steps:

- Evaluate how Illinois and Connecticut models could be adapted to Wisconsin statute and legal structure
- Assess the role of existing consumer protection law as a foundation for legislation
- Host a listening session at WLA Conference to hear feedback.

- Recruit stakeholders for a working group to start meeting in 2027. The working group could include a member from each of these groups: LD&L Committee, WiLS, DPI, WPLC, SRLAAW, Systems Director, WEMTA, WAAL, and COLAND.
- Engage stakeholders and identify legislative champions, recognizing that successful efforts in other states have required bipartisan support, coalition-building, and sustained education and communications
- Developing a long-term advocacy strategy, understanding that this type of legislation often involves multiple phases, revisions, and negotiations

## **2026 WLA Foundation Scholarships**

The Wisconsin Library Association Foundation (WLAF) offers a variety of scholarships that support library science students and fund continuing education opportunities for library staff. The application process is now open, and will close on June 15, 2026. You must be a member of WLA to apply.

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS**

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

### **WLA FOUNDATION LIBRARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

- Library Education Scholarship
- Sally Davis Scholarship
- Vida Cummins Stanton Scholarship
- Diversity Scholarship

[Download the Scholarship flyer to share.](#)

To apply, visit <https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/scholarships-grants> and click through the scholarship you are interested in applying for.

## **WLA Events and Deadline Roundup**

WAAL Proposals DUE on April 30<sup>th</sup>

Submit here: <https://forms.gle/LCEUr85FQvSKYRvQ8>

WLA Conference Proposals DUE May 8<sup>th</sup>

Submit here: <https://rebrand.ly/jgqptqi>

Scholarship Applications DUE June 15<sup>th</sup>

Submit here: <https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/scholarships-grants>

- [WLA on the Road at Eagle River: May 18 from 10am-2pm](#)
- WAAL Conference at Raynor Library in Milwaukee August 3-4
- WLA on the Road at New London Public Library on September 25 from 1-4pm

- WLA on the Road at Beaver Dam Library on September 29 from 9am-3pm
- WLA Conference at Madison Marriott West on October 20-23
- WLA on the Road at Kenosha Public Library on November 18
- Performer’s Showcase: December 8

### Recruitment for WLA Leadership in 2027

Please encourage your staff to consider one of these roles in 2027.



WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## *Leadership Positions 2027*

### *Elected 3 year terms*

#### **WLA BOARD**

Vice President, WISL Liaison, YSS Liaison and  
ALA Councilor

#### **WAPL BOARD**

Vice Chair and 2 Directors-at-Large

#### **WAAL BOARD**

Vice Chair and Secretary

#### **AWSL**

Vice Chair and Secretary

#### **TSS**

Vice Chair and Secretary

#### **WISL**

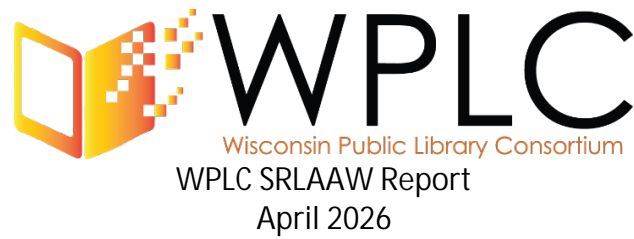
Vice Chair, Secretary, 1st Year Director and  
Member-at-Large

#### **YSS**

Vice Chair, 2 Directors-at-Large

#### **OSRT**

Vice Chair, Secretary



### *Wisconsin Reads!*

This year, the WPLC Digital Library Marketing Committee tried something new - a statewide digital book club, featuring the 2023 WLA Literary Award winner for fiction, [Still True](#) by [Maggie Ginsberg](#).

The Committee connected with the author, worked with OverDrive to obtain unlimited simultaneous use licenses for the title in both ebook and digital audiobook formats, and created resources - including marketing materials and a discussion guide - to support the program.

Due to an enthusiastic response from the WPLC and the author herself, the program put a lot of copies of the book (almost 20,000 of them!) in the hands of readers across the state.

In addition, a virtual author interview and Q&A event was held on Wednesday, March 4th, 2026. The Committee has recently asked for community feedback about the program and will soon determine if and when another round of Wisconsin Reads will happen.

### *Annual Membership Meeting and Feedback Session*

The WPLC Board hosted its annual membership meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to those who attended. If you were unable to join the meeting, you can [watch the recording here](#). Slides from the meeting can be [viewed here](#).

Additionally, a feedback session was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several representatives from the WPLC governing bodies joined to answer membership questions and listen to their feedback.

### *Data Use Toolkit*

Public libraries are rich with data—and when used effectively, that data can tell powerful stories, guide smart decisions, and strengthen community impact. That's why we're excited to introduce a new resource for libraries across Wisconsin: the [WPLC Data Toolkit](#).

Designed with both beginners and experienced data users in mind, this toolkit provides practical guidance to help libraries make better use of the information they already collect. Whether you're just starting your data journey or refining established practices, the toolkit offers clear frameworks, examples, and strategies to support your work.

The WPLC Data Use Toolkit is built to help libraries:

- Collect, analyze, and share data responsibly
- Demonstrate impact through clear and compelling data visualizations
- Make informed, evidence-based decisions
- Strengthen community engagement, advocacy, and strategic planning

By focusing on real-world applications, the toolkit empowers library staff to turn raw data into meaningful insights that benefit their communities.