

# Library Services and Technology Act

## LSTA Grant Abstracts for Wisconsin 2007

### Statewide Delivery Services

#### *Northern Waters Library Service 07-110 Delivery Service Project \$15,000*

Delivery continues to be a highly valued and highly praised element of the NWLS service program. A combination of federal, state, county and local library funds support the continuation of this program. The number of interlibrary loans continues to grow and delivery is the means that transports these items throughout our 8,343 square mile service area and to the rest of the state. Patrons expect and deserve to receive materials in a timely manner while library staff require a delivery method that takes the least amount of time as the volume of business grows.

The statewide Delivery Service Study Committee and the LSTA Advisory Committee have authorized this non-competitive LSTA category for NWLS delivery because the NWLS service area is not included in the statewide delivery backbone. It is essential for a statewide delivery service to have all public libraries included. If an area such as NWLS did not participate, the additional work of using the U.S. Postal Service would be required for those libraries sending interlibrary loans to and from our area.

#### *South Central Library System 07-112 Delivery Services \$60,000*

South Central Library System (SCLS) provides the intersystem (also known as backbone) connection of the statewide delivery service. South Central Library System will use the grant funds to underwrite the increasing vehicle operating costs due to higher fuel and maintenance costs.

### Public Library System Technology Projects

#### *Arrowhead Library System 07-114 ALS Technology Consulting and Troubleshooting \$10,100*

The purpose of this project will be to provide technical consulting and troubleshooting for the seven member libraries of the Arrowhead Library System (ALS). Each library will use consultants/technicians of their choice and ALS will reimburse them for the technical services up to a maximum of \$6,000 each, with the ALS system providing funds from the State Aid funds for technology services above the maximum \$10,100 allowed in the LSTA grant.

#### *Eastern Shores Library System 07-116 Wide Area Network Access 2007 \$11,900*

Eastern Shores Library System (ESLS) and Manitowoc-Calumet Library System (MCLS) have been providing wide area network (WAN) access to their member libraries since 1998. Each member library in the two systems has a TEACH circuit into the BadgerNet Converged Network, connecting to networking equipment in the ESLS offices in Sheboygan. The ESLS office connects via TEACH / BCN to WiscNet, the system's network services provider. ESLS has 5MB of transport to WiscNet, and 10MB for WAN traffic. The support for the network services are shared by ESLS and MCLS, 2/3 and 1/3 respectively.

This LSTA grant will provide funding for Eastern Shores Library System's share of the total telecommunications costs from TEACH. The grant will also pay for part of the cost of the system's member library's TEACH line to the BadgerNet WAN.

#### *Indianhead Federated Library System 07-118 IFLS Technology Projects \$36,000*

The Indianhead Federated Library System (IFLS) is a geographically large system spread across 10 counties in west central Wisconsin. Our membership is made up of 53 mostly small public libraries and 4 county library services.

IFLS will use its 2007 System Technology grant for the following projects:

Support of the IFLS Wide Area Network (WAN): IFLS has established a Wide Area Network for Internet access and data transmission by libraries in shared systems. 51 member libraries are connected to the WAN. We are requesting funding for the high-speed BadgerNet lines used as the backbone of our WAN.

The routers connecting 50 member libraries to our WAN are between 5 and 7 years old. We plan to fund ½ of the cost of new routers and cables through this grant. We plan to fund ½ of the cost of a new router for the Cadott Community Library, which was connected to the WAN in 2006, in order to join the MORE shared automated system. Currently the library is using an IFLS owned router.

Maintaining IFLS and Member Library Websites: To assist 41 member libraries with the costs of maintaining their websites, we are requesting funding for renewing their website domain names. Funding would also support the three website domain names IFLS uses.

Developing Electronic Services: IFLS would continue to maintain its membership in the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium and its electronic book projects with funding from this grant.

IFLS would continue its participation in the second year of the state-wide virtual reference demonstration project called AskAway with funding from this grant.

**Kenosha Public Library 07-120**  
***KCLS Systemwide Resources and Services \$9,200***

The Kenosha Public Library is applying for this 2007 LSTA Library System Technology Project Grant on behalf of the Kenosha County Library System (KCLS). This is a non-competitive grant category and KCLS is eligible to receive \$9,200.00 in funds, if approved. This grant application is to purchase systemwide services and resources.

The following services and resources are to be purchased with the grant money:

- Ask?Away Reference Service — Online reference service available on our website for users from home 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The 2006 cost for this service was \$1,500.
- WPLC Membership and eBooks through NetLibrary — WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) is a statewide group of fifteen library systems that looks at new and innovative services and works to get good value from buying for a large group of libraries. NetLibrary eBooks are included in the \$2,000 annual fee. These eBooks are available to all Kenosha County residents from the web and are also listed in the Kenosha Katalog.
- OverDrive Digital Books — the annual subscription to OverDrive digital books is available to all Kenosha Public Library and Community Library card holders from our websites. The 2006 cost for this resource was \$2,504.
- Syndetics Subscription — This annual subscription is for the product Kenosha uses with our web catalog to view the cover art and summary information of library materials. This annual subscription was \$2,368 in 2006.
- Training Costs associated with a new Integrated Library System (ILS) — The remainder of the grant monies will be used to pay some of the training expenses associated with a new ILS that will be implemented by the end of April 2007.

**Lakeshores Library System 07-122**  
***2007 Lakeshores Technology Projects \$15,300***

Lakeshores Library System seeks funds to maintain and enhance its wide area network. This will include maintain maintenance contracts on a router and firewall and technician assistance. There will also be some equipment purchase and replacement, as needed, particularly for our laptop lab. Internet circuits are also funded from this grant. Lakeshores will also use these funds to provide digital audio books to the population of the two counties in Lakeshores. If sufficient funds are available as well as interest among the members, we will attempt to provide a wireless application in our network. And, again if funds are sufficient, we may attempt to purchase additional bandwidth.

**Manitowoc-Calumet Library System 07-124**  
***TI Lines and Data Line Level of Service for Manitowoc-Calumet Libraries \$8,900***

This project will help the Manitowoc-Calumet Library System (MCLS) and its six member libraries to continue to participate in a high-speed, wide area network that is supported cooperatively by MCLS and the Eastern Shores Library System. In addition, a small portion of the grant will be used to help fund additional bandwidth purchased through WISCNET to speed WAN operations, which were severely impacted by the implementation of the new BadgerNet Converged Network (BCN).

LSTA funds will be used to pay for T1 lines for Manitowoc-Calumet's six member libraries at the TEACH-subsidized annual rate of \$1,200 per library. The grant will also pay for a portion of MCLS' share of the costs of bandwidth, both on the WAN and going out to the ISP. These costs will absorb the remaining \$1,700 of the \$ 8,900 allocated to MCLS in this noncompetitive grant. Under a contract with the Eastern Shores system, MCLS will use local funds to pay for central site costs, administration, technical support, and the MCLS share of WiseNet email and Internet service.

The wide area network supported in part by this grant provides the telecommunications backbone for shared automation systems in both Manitowoc-Calumet and Eastern Shores. Within MCLS, all six member libraries currently participate in a shared Dynix system through the Manitowoc-Calumet Libraries Automated Resource Sharing Consortium (LARS). MCLS and all of its member libraries have Web pages which are hosted on the network's central site server. All of the library OPACs are available over the network, and all six libraries use the network for Internet access. (Even though Internet access is enabled by the wide area network, use of LSTA funds for T1 telecommunications lines as proposed in this project does not trigger Children's Internet Protection Act filtering requirements for participating libraries.)

As a small public library system that does not have a designated technology position on its staff, Manitowoc-Calumet has been challenged to meet the technology needs of its member libraries. Providing high-speed, reliable telecommunications through the Eastern Shores/MCLS wide area network is one way for MCLS to offer a valuable and much-needed service without adding costly personnel. MCLS member libraries have repeatedly confirmed that they want the System to continue to maintain the network as a system service. By paying for the T1 lines, which represent a substantial portion of network costs, this grant will help assure that Manitowoc-Calumet libraries and their users continue to have ready and reliable telecommunications to support resource sharing, communication, Internet access, and other activities.

**Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System 07-126**  
*MWFLS Technology Projects, 2007 \$18,400*

1. Providing adequate bandwidth for the MWFLS WAN: \$14,644 will be used to purchase ITp or WAN bandwidth for the MWFLS WAN. It will not be used to purchase Internet service.

2. Downloadable audiobooks, WPLC Overdrive subscription: \$3,756 will be used for MWFLS's share to participate in the WPLC Overdrive subscription.

**Milwaukee County Federated Library System 07-128**  
*System Technology Projects \$39,700*

MCFLS plans to utilize the 2007 Library System Technology Project funds toward the purchase of two additional software products from Innovative Interfaces, Innovative eCommerce and Spell Check for Web OPAC. We also plan to use the funds for the purchase of an Email Server. Any additional funds will be used to help supplement the cost for a likely needed upgrade of Internet bandwidth in 2007.

**Nicolet Federated Library System 07-130**  
*NFLS Technology Project 2007—Gale Database Support \$30,300*

NFLS, in cooperation with the Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS), purchases five Gale databases to supplement BadgerLink databases. This project will provide part of the financial support for the NFLS portion of the total Gale database cost. OWLS is the contracting agency, and NFLS provides funding to OWLS for the NFLS portion of the Gale databases. Access to the Gale databases is available to all users of the OWLSnet integrated library system, as well as to all users of the Brown County integrated library system. Access to the databases is made available to all the libraries of both systems, as well as to users who log in to the Brown County Library or OWLSnet InfoSoup websites from home.

**Northern Waters Library Service 07-132**  
*NWLS Technology Expansion Project \$25,400*

These technology funds will allow NWLS to continue a basic level of technology support for libraries through:

- Participation in the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium e-books and OverDrive programs
- Renew the on-line genealogy database Ancestry Library Edition
- Renew the Chilton's on-line database
- Renew the antiques on-line database Price-It!
- Provide access to WorldCat for member libraries

Member libraries were involved in the development of this application. Elements of this project were discussed at the System Directors meetings held on March 15, June 7, June 8, and August 15.

**Outagamie Waupaca Library System 07-134**  
*Support for Online Databases \$14,500*

Since 2000 the Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) and the Nicolet Federated Library System (NFLS) have provided their member libraries and patrons with access to five Gale online databases: General Reference Center, Business and Company Resource Center, Biography Resource Center, Literature Resource Center, and Health and Wellness Resource Center. In 2006, Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest from ProQuest were added. OWLS also provides Learning Express Library and the Post Crescent from Newsbank to its members.

Because of limited system funding it is difficult to pay for all of these subscriptions. In addition, member libraries would like to have other database products added to the menu of choices, e.g., auto repair manuals. OWLS regularly evaluates the use of its online database subscriptions and makes adjustments to licensing arrangements in order to optimize the benefit it receives from limited resources.

**South Central Library System 07-136**  
*SCLS Technology Projects, 2007 \$44,200*

I. netLibrary collection development

To continue to develop our netLibrary collection, we will use \$5000 of the LSTA funds to purchase a collection of technology titles.

II. In-house library staff technology training

We will be using \$3600 of LSTA funds to buy 2-4 hours of in-house training for each of our libraries.

III. Patron Technology Training

\$9,500 of the LSTA funds will be provided to SCLS libraries to train patrons on the use of the internet and other technology. Training for non-English speakers will be encouraged.

IV. Gadget Training

We will use \$2800 of LSTA funds to purchase a stable of gadgets (smartphones, portable video/audio players, etc.) and any necessary cellular services to train library staff on how consumers are using these gadgets. We will also develop a curriculum that library staff can use to teach patrons about these gadgets.

V. Game console/games

Libraries around the country have started to host “game nights” where teens and others are invited into the library to play videogames or participate in videogame contests. With \$600 of our LSTA funds, we will create a portable game package for our member libraries to borrow. It will include a game console, a few games, and accessories.

VI. Digitization of a local county history title

\$1700 of the LSTA funds will be used to digitize a county history title from Adams County. After this title is completed, we will have digitized one title per SCLS county.

VII. RFID investigation and implementation

SCLS is in the process of investigating RFID technology with its member libraries. In 2007, we would like to use \$2000 for education, investigation, and as possible seed money for RFID implementation within the system.

VIII. Sun Server administration training

We will use \$10,000 of the LSTA funds for Sun server training for 1-2 SCLS Automation employees.

IX. Storage array upgrade

The external disk array for the LINK ILS will be expanded to full capacity by adding six 73GB disks. We will use \$6000 of LSTA funds to pay for this upgrade.

X. Server administration LAN upgrade

We will use \$3000 to upgrade parts of the LINK computer room LAN to full Gigabit Ethernet.

**Southwest Wisconsin Library System 07-138**  
*BCN Access—T-1 data lines \$14,900*

In 2006, the Southwest Wisconsin Library System (SWLS) and 23 of its member libraries migrated from the old BadgerNet infrastructure to the new BadgerNet Converged Network (BCN). Funding from this project will pay for the bandwidth from BCN necessary for SWLS to operate a Wide Area Network (WAN) for its member libraries. Funding will also be provided to the 23 member libraries with T-1 lines to further subsidize the costs of those lines. Each of the 23 member libraries will receive approximately \$400. These subsidies are critical in promoting participation of the member libraries in the BCN. The use of the LSTA grant for “telecommunications, (including (TEACH line))” is allowed under the System Technology grant category under the Internet Access component.

**Waukesha County Federated Library System 07-140**  
*Electronic Newsletters for Marketing, Overdrive Collection \$18,400*

This proposal will address two needs that our member libraries have identified. The first need is marketing library service. This part of the project will purchase an online newsletter service which will allow the libraries to either have a personalized or cooperative service that will allow library users to sign up for newsletters according to their preferences. The newsletters will promote both books and library services and have connections to the library's catalog to allow users to place holds on materials.

The second need is for more content for the Overdrive Audio Collection that the Waukesha County Federated Library System shares with most of the other library systems in Wisconsin. This collection contains downloadable audio titles that users can listen to on their mp3 players or burn to CD. Currently an average of 11-12 books per day are checked out and downloaded by Waukesha County users in their homes. The libraries will also receive an mp3 player for their staff and the public to train with.

**Winding Rivers Library System 07-142**  
*WAN Development and Maintenance 2007 \$23,800*

The WAN Development and Maintenance project addresses issues relating to Shared Automation Systems, by providing support for the central site capabilities of WRLSWEB, our shared technology network, which delivers library automation services to member libraries, the resource library, and WRLS staff. The majority of the grant funds will be used to enhance the central site databases and cover the licenses that provide access to these resources for sharing among member libraries. There will also be funds expended for training of staff to optimize use of information technology capabilities, and a small amount used for supplies related to training and database support. Finally, about 4.2% will be used to upgrade central site hardware. Twenty-nine of our thirty-four public libraries will be fully participating in WRLSWEB by the end of 2007, and one library will be using the network for Internet services. Thus, by the end of this grant cycle over 88% of our members will be dependent on the WRLSWEB network for the provision of information technology services. This makes the stability and dependability of the network vitally important.

Specific steps in the project will include:

- 1) Contract with La Crosse Public Library (LPL) for training (\$5,275) and technical support (\$9,525) services for Winding Rivers and member library staff
- 2) Contract with LPL for database enhancement services and maintenance of hardware and software licenses for the central site infrastructure (\$6,000)
- 3) Contract with LPL for the provision of training and database supplies needed to fulfill obligations encompassed by one (1) and two (2) above (\$2,000)
- 4) Assist with the upgrade of central site telecommunications hardware (\$1,000)

**Winnefox Library System 07-144**  
*Winnefox Technology \$20,200*

The grant funds will be used to help pay for several features on our WALS automated catalog/circ system and to support ongoing digitization projects of member libraries.

API custom reports and training: Winnefox has purchased software called Applications Programming Interface that is used with the Sirsi/Dynix Unicorn software for doing database modifications and reports. We need additional training and some time with a consultant to be able to use the software more effectively.

Sirsi/Dynix Director Station product: This is a not-yet-purchased Sirsi/Dynix module that can be sued for producing a variety of reports not available via the company's API product.

Digitization projects: Oshkosh Public Library and Winnefox are currently sharing OCLC ContentDM licensing costs. The license will be increased to support the digitization of content from other Winnefox libraries.

**Wisconsin Valley Library Service 07-146**  
*Databases, Wireless Tech, and a Server \$28,800*

There are three parts to this grant. A portion of this grant will enable Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) area public libraries to start implementing wireless technology in their buildings. The grant will provide the wireless appliance and its installation in a secure environment. Custom installations will be available for those libraries that need it and may require the library to contribute to a portion of those costs. The wireless installation will support personal computing devices that people bring into the building. Those computing devices will need to have a wireless access card in them and the patrons will need to

know how to use them. Now that the BCN has been installed in the libraries, it is realistic to move forward with wireless installations.

The second part of the grant will help cover the cost of purchasing a server for a reporting piece of software for the shared system. The shared system, V-Cat, uses SirsiDynix Horizon and there is a very sophisticated reporting module that can be purchased for generating a vast array of reports for the members. This software requires a separate server. While this software is currently optional, will be a required piece of Horizon when the next upgrade is installed. The upgrade will go much smoother if the server and software is already purchased, installed, and running.

The third part of the grant will cover the cost of subscribing to a legal database and an antiques database. WVLS staff has looked at these 2 databases and a few librarians in the area have looked at them. There has not been a long enough opportunity to determine how popular these databases will be with area patrons, thus we would like to subscribe to them for a year to have a thorough testing of them in the libraries.

## Shared Automated Library Systems

### *Arrowhead Library System 07-148*

#### *Arrowhead Shared System Final Phase \$60,000*

This is the second in a two-part project to bring all seven public libraries in the Arrowhead Library System into the first shared automation system. The first phase was started in 2006 with an LSTA grant that allowed three of the seven libraries, Beloit, Hedberg (Janesville) and Edgerton public libraries to join in a shared system. The Innovative System was chosen after much consideration, debate and study. Linda Miller was the ALS consultant to guide the library directors and ALS staff through the purchase phase of the project.

The 2007 project will bring Eager Free (Evansville), Clinton, Orfordville, and Milton public libraries into the shared automation system. Arrowhead is the last system in the state to have a shared automation system. The LSTA grant will provide the start-up costs for the four small libraries to join the three members already in the system. Each of the small libraries to join in 2007 have a stand-alone Follett System with an online catalog.

### *Indianhead Federated Library System 07-150*

#### *Expanding MORE \$30,000*

The Indianhead Federated Library System (IFLS) is a geographically large system spread across 10 counties in west central Wisconsin. Our membership is made up of 53 mostly small public libraries and 4 county library services. Forty-one of our member libraries are in communities of less than 3,000.

In 2001 the IFLS Board of Trustees adopted the goal that the system will provide leadership in identifying new technologies and implementing them so all member libraries benefit. Shared automation information systems are one step towards achieving this goal.

There are 38 members plus IFLS in the MORE Shared Automation System. While libraries not in shared systems have expressed interest in joining a shared system, costs have been a major drawback.

IFLS is submitting this LSTA grant application on behalf of the Phillips Public Library and the (Stanley) D.R. Moon Memorial Library so the libraries can join MORE.

The Phillips Public Library will be the second library in Price County to join MORE. The library's current service population is 9,173. They will be replacing a stand-alone system when they join MORE. The library building is accessible and they have adaptive software and hardware for one of their computers.

The D.R. Moon Memorial Library in Stanley will be the third library in Chippewa County to join MORE. The library's current service population is 4,462. They will be replacing a stand-alone system when they join MORE. The library building is accessible and they have adaptive software and hardware for one of their computers.

### *Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System 07-152*

#### *Mid-Wisconsin Shared Automation Project 2007 \$65,000*

This proposal is the final stage of the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System Shared Automation project. It is divided into two distinct areas:

1. Addition of Lowell Public Library to the shared automation system.

2. Final phase of merging four existing consortia in Mid-Wisconsin and Lakeshores Library System into one shared integrated library information system (ILS). (Although more than 40 libraries will be involved only the eleven libraries that have not received prior LSTA funding are included in this request).

Major activities for this grant include:

First area:

1. Purchase and install adaptive workstation hardware/software.
2. Barcode Lowell Public Library's collection.
3. Add Lowell's collection to the existing database.
4. Add Lowell's patrons to the existing database.

Second area:

1. Purchase and install adaptive workstation hardware/software for eligible participating libraries.
2. Continue merging process including:  
Final extraction of patron records, charges, holds, and bills  
Load patron files and circulation data  
Execute full system back-up and load off-line transactions  
On site vendor consultation during go-live process  
Purchase Director's Station hardware and software  
Installation of Director's Station  
Training on serials, acquisitions, and outreach  
Training on Director's Station

*Northern Waters Library Service 07-154  
NWLS Merlin Expansion Project \$43,734*

The purpose of this application is to provide the necessary start-up costs for 4 additional libraries to join the Merlin Consortium, the NWLS shared automated circulation system. Grant funds will be used for start-up costs including software and hardware. As required, all libraries have at least one computer workstation that is adapted for use by persons with disabilities. Therefore, this project is planned in full compliance with the DLTC's LSTA Information and Guidelines for Wisconsin 2007.

The following libraries are participating in this application for implementation in 2007:

1. Shell Lake Public Library -- service population 3,352
2. Spooner Memorial Library -- service population 13,409
3. Lac Courte Oreilles College Community Library -- service population 2,150
4. Winchester Public Library -- service population 493.

In addition, these libraries serve several times their populations because of tourist use of NWLS libraries which is encouraged and welcomed.

The Merlin system is unique because the OPAC includes the holdings of all member libraries. Each NWLS library collection is fully scoped on the OPAC which is Z39.50 compliant.

Merlin was implemented after a thorough planning process, support from several grants (LSTA and foundation), plus a loan and grant from the Rural Development Association, a federal agency supporting the growth and vitality of rural areas. The NWLS Merlin Team, made up of the network administrator, database manager and circulation manager is responsible for the implementation of this project. Libraries receiving this LSTA funding participate in the evaluation of the project. Our challenge is to continue to ensure that the Merlin system adds new members with the goal of eventually having 100% of NWLS libraries circulating their materials and sharing resources via this efficient and up-to-date method.

This project is another step toward fulfillment of the NWLS Technology Plan and moves us closer to realizing the vision of the state's technology plan: Access for anyone, From anywhere, At any time.

*Waukesha County Federated Library System 07-156  
Menomonee Falls Shared Automation \$35,000*

This project will enable the Menomonee Falls Public Library to join the Café shared automation system, which is operated by the Waukesha Public Library. The Menomonee Falls Public Library currently uses the Innovative Interfaces software and would be migrating to the SIRSI Unicorn software. The Café shared automation group consists of 14 of the 16 Waukesha County Federated Library System member libraries. The Café system will then have a combined collection of over 1.2 million

items. The funds from this grant will assist Menomonee Falls in the start up costs associated with joining the shared automation system

The service population for the Menomonee Falls Public Library is 34,150 and will bring the service population of the Café shared system to 328,276. It will further allow access to Menomonee Falls residents to 1.2 million items throughout Waukesha County and facilitate resource sharing among almost all Waukesha County Libraries.

**Winding Rivers Library System 07-158**  
***WRLSWEB Expansion 2007 \$30,000***

The LSTA Guidelines for 2007 state that, with the Shared Integrated Library Information Systems category, “Funds will assist public library systems in adding libraries to existing shared systems.” Consequently the first type of eligible request is “Grants to enable public libraries to join an existing shared integrated system.” The WRLSWEB Expansion 2007 project consists of precisely this objective. Winding Rivers Library System coordinated the development of a shared automation consortium in 1998-99, bringing together the Black River Falls Public Library, Taylor Memorial Library, La Crosse Public Library, and WRLS. Libraries in Coon Valley and Wonewoc joined in 2000; libraries in Ettrick, Galesville, Kendall, Mauston, and Viroqua joined in 2002; libraries in La Farge, Necedah, Ontario, Sparta, and Wilton joined in 2003; libraries in Arcadia, Elroy, Hillsboro, New Lisbon, Trempealeau, and Westby joined in 2004; libraries in Blair, Norwalk, and La Crosse County joined in 2005; and libraries in Alma, Cashton, Mondovi, and Tomah are joining in 2006. All of these efforts were supported with LSTA grants.

WRLSWEB is designed to serve the information technology needs of public libraries throughout Buffalo, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties in west central Wisconsin. Except for La Crosse County, the area is predominantly rural with the majority of the public libraries in communities with fewer than 1,600 people. The sharing of resources is a crucial matter for regional library users. The desire to foster cooperative ventures to accomplish this sharing is a hallmark of this region. Therefore, the WRLSWEB Expansion 2007 project is designed to 1) enhance the availability of materials and resources for local library users through a collaborative venture and 2) move the consortium towards the ultimate goal of having all interested public libraries in this seven county region participating in the shared technology network. This project will allow the libraries Independence and Strum to be participating members in WRLSWEB by the end of the first quarter 2008. The project is seeking the maximum \$15,000 each for Independence and Strum Public Libraries.

Funds from this grant will be administered by Winding Rivers Library System but will be utilized exclusively to provide hardware, software, and membership eligibility for the local libraries. None of the requested funds will be used to enhance capabilities or infrastructure at the central site which is founded on the Dynix Horizon platform. Grant funds will be devoted to the following categories of expenditure:

- Initial and first year participation fees;
- Peripheral hardware such as barcode readers, uninterruptible power supplies, adaptive equipment for ADA stations, and furniture to accommodate stations;
- Software needed to assure network security and ADA compliance;
- Conversion supplies (such as item barcodes and protectors)

Technical support for installation and training will be provided to the participating libraries through consortium contracts by staff from the Technical Services department of La Crosse Public Library and Winding Rivers. These same staff will also provide guidance in performing the conversion process, though the primary responsibility for conversion will rest with the local library.

By the end of this project, thirty (88.2%) of the thirty-four libraries in Winding Rivers will be full members of WRLSWEB. The remaining four libraries, for an array of reasons, have declined offers to participate for the foreseeable future. They are aware that, while grant funds will likely not be available after 2007, there will always be opportunities to join WRLSWEB if their desire or situation changes.

**Wisconsin Valley Library Service 07-160**  
***Growing V-Cat with Crandon Public Library \$12,691***

The Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) proposes to add Crandon Public Library to its shared library automation system - V-Cat. Crandon PL has decided that with the help of this grant, they will be able to join V-Cat and sustain continued membership. This grant will help Crandon PL by providing a significant portion of the initial costs.

Crandon PL is already a member of the WVLS wide area network. By joining V-Cat, Crandon PL will increase the size of its public access catalog by over 30 times and its patrons will be able to access the catalog from any PC that can access the Internet. Crandon PL patrons will be able to place holds on items owned in 22 WVLS area public libraries without the need for

an additional patron card and without the need to access multiple catalogs. Patrons from the other 21 libraries will also be able to place holds on Crandon PL items on the same basis. Crandon PL, as well as the current V-Cat member libraries, will be able to reduce the number of WISCAT interloans they need to create, thus saving time at all locations.

Crandon PL already has a public workstation which can be used by patrons with disabilities. Providing this workstation was a part of an earlier WVLS LSTA grant and was a small step toward helping Crandon PL take advantage of LSTA funds for joining V-Cat.

As soon as the grant is approved, the V-Cat staff will go to Crandon and train the Crandon PL staff to add their collection to V-Cat. Crandon PL already has V-Cat barcodes on their items, so they just need to match the items to the records on V-Cat. That is still a significant project and will take a serious time commitment on the part of Crandon PL. V-Cat staff will also train Crandon PL staff in all other aspects of using V-Cat. The Crandon PL staff will also be expected to designate a staff person to represent the library at the bimonthly meetings of the V-Cat Council.

## Digitization

### **Barneveld Public Library 07-162**

*Digitization—Barneveld Local History \$5,879*

The Barneveld Public Library will work with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center to digitize the following local history materials that are owned by the library:

1. Weehaukaja: A history of the Village of Barneveld and the Town of Brigham, volume 1
2. Weehaukaja: A history of the Village of Barneveld and the Town of Brigham, volume 2
3. Maahs scrapbooks (5) — personal scrapbooks donated by Ethel (Maahs) Davis containing Barneveld news, death, birth and marriage clippings from the Dodgeville Chronicle and Wisconsin State Journal from the 1930's to 2003.
4. Hanson scrapbooks (2) — personal scrapbooks donated by Drs. Martha and Robert Hanson containing very well documented news clippings related to the Barneveld tornado.
5. newspaper — Register Friend, Barneveld, WI, dated Friday 8/2/1901, Register volume XVIII, no 10., Friend volume XIII, no. 10
6. 17X22 1984 Barneveld tornado damage photos (2)
7. 17X22 aerial photo of the village of Barneveld, 1960
8. 22X30 map of the Village of Barneveld, 1940
9. Video — tornado video produced by WISC-TV
10. Photographs — black & white and color pictures from the early 1900's to the present.
11. Village of Barneveld record of public meetings, 1906-1948
12. Village of Barneveld record of public meetings, 1948-1992

The digitization project will provide better access to students, genealogists, historians, businesses and anyone interested in learning more about the history of Barneveld. It will also give the materials in this underutilized collection a wider audience via Internet access, and will help preserve information contained in materials that are fast becoming too fragile to be used directly by patrons. In addition, this project will help to protect the physical items from loss due to natural disaster or theft. The metadata created by library staff will provide users easy access to the information and will meet the requirements of the UWDC guidelines. The digitized resources will be promoted through the media, library programs, and the following websites: the Wisconsin Collection Center, the Barneveld Public Library, and the Iowa County Historical Society. To date, no other Iowa County agencies have applied for this grant.

### **Dwight Foster Public Library 07-164**

*Historical Fort Atkinson Documents \$4,198*

The Dwight Foster Public Library will work with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center to digitize the listed historical documents. This project will make available several historical documents that regularly provide information to residents of Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin and beyond. The documents are unique and are regularly used in the library and at the Hoard Museum to answer questions. Digitizing the materials will make them more accessible to users interested in genealogy and the history of Fort Atkinson, give the materials a wider audience, and help preserve them for future use. The items we propose to have digitized are:

- Loraine Niedecker : an original biography / by Jane Shaw Knox
- Happy 150th Birthday, Fort Atkinson
- Plat Book of Jefferson County - 1899
- 1900 Jefferson County Directory
- 1905 Jefferson County Directory

- 1908 Jefferson County Directory
- 1915 Fort Atkinson City Directory
- 1923 Fort Atkinson City Directory
- 1938 Fort Atkinson City Directory
- How Will We Know It's Us Without Our Past?: Fort Atkinson's Architectural Heritage. Jefferson County Planning Department
- Jefferson County Wisconsin and Its People: A Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress and Achievement. John Henry Ott, Ph.D., Supervising Editor
- Historic Main Street Fort Atkinson photograph collection (owned by the Hoard Historical Museum)

#### **Kiel Public Library 07-166**

##### *Downtown Street Scenes in Kiel, 1860 to 1970 \$3,000*

"Big Streets in a Little City" is an affectionate reference to the official City of Kiel slogan, "the little city that does big things." Our project is intended to offer the public, via cyberspace, a taste of the hundreds of historic photographs in the Kiel Public Library Heritage Collection by focusing - in this initial project - on images of downtown Kiel from the mid 1800s to the late 20th Century. We propose to digitize 600 photographs and slides depicting commerce, recreation, cultural events, and other day-to-day activities of the men, women, and children who lived, worked, and played in the same neighborhoods that continue to thrive, albeit in different ways, in the 21st Century. The images, taken together, tell a fascinating story of the evolution of the downtown area of a small, rural Wisconsin city through two World Wars, a Depression, a thriving post-WWII business climate, a well-coordinated Centennial celebration (in 1954), and other economic, political, and social changes.

Most of the photographs are housed in the Edwin J Majkrzak Historical Research Center located in the library's main reading room. An estimated 250 additional images are on 3x5 slides and thus not easily accessible to patrons and researchers. Receiving a 2007 LSTA Digitization grant would enable us to make both types of images available to a much wider audience in a form that is easy to navigate and accessible to anyone with Internet access. We anticipate this project to be of great interest to a variety of individuals: scholars, students, local genealogists, and anyone curious about small-town life in the past two centuries. This project, like all local history projects, has the potential to rekindle memories, inspire the sharing of stories, and celebrate the achievements of people who, far too often, go unnoticed and under-appreciated. It also would assure that the images in the Big Streets in a Little City LSTA Digitization Project will be archived, preserved and available to researchers for years to come.

#### **Madison Public Library 07-168**

##### *Historic City Directories from Wisconsin's State Capital \$5,731*

Madison Public Library will work with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center to digitize the following historical items from the Madison area:

Standard Historical Atlas of Dane County, Wisconsin: Containing Maps of Villages, Cities and Townships Together with Replats of the County, Maps of State, United States and World, 1911, 101 pp.

Madison City Directory, 1900-1901, 514 pp. Madison City Directory, 1902, 588 pp.

Madison City Directory, 1904, 544 pp. Madison City Directory, 1907, 672 pp.

Madison City Directory, 1909, 698 pp. Madison City Directory, 1911, 704 pp.

Digital versions of these works will be accessible through the UW Digital Collections Center web site, the Madison Public Library web site and be available for the Wisconsin Heritage Online project. The project will preserve fragile works for users to enjoy now and in the future, and further a new digital collection that was recently established. The library will promote the digitized books through the media, their web site, programs, and state, county, and local historical and genealogical societies.

#### **Manitowoc Public Library 07-170**

##### *Oral History Digitization \$4,770*

Manitowoc Public Library (MPL) has been working for a number of years on creating an electronic collection of materials to document the history of Manitowoc. One component of this collection that has not been digitized are oral histories. Oral histories provide a verbal snapshot of people's memories of their own history in their own words. This type of history adds a personal touch to the local history of a community. The Library has a collection of 45 interviews that were conducted around 1976 with Manitowoc County citizens discussing various aspects of the history of the County. These interviews are on cassette tapes only and the condition of the collection is not good. By digitizing this collection and creating metadata to describe the specific topics covered, new generations of people will be able to explore this collection and gain a personal glimpse into what life was like in the early days of Manitowoc County.

*Elisha D. Smith Public Library 07-172*  
*Digital Historical Collection \$3,512*

Under the guidance of the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center the Menasha Public Library staff will launch an inaugural digitized collection of essential Menasha local histories and photographs. The initial works include:

1. 300 unique photographs of early Menasha residents, residences and businesses.
2. A Graphic history of Menasha titled, "Booming City of Menasha: Its Trade, Industries, Inducements, to Capitalists, and Pre-Eminence as a Manufacturing, Residence, and Educational City," 1882. [physical condition: sensitive]. [39 pages].
3. The Charter of the City of Menasha, Bill No. 244S, introduced by Senator George W. Pratt 1891. [84 legal legal-size pages].
4. A History of Menasha titled, "City of Menasha," from The History of Winnebago County, 1908 by Publius Lawson. [201 pages].
5. Menasha High school yearbooks from the following years: 1916 [20 pages: inaugural edition], 1917 [68 pages], 1919 [62 pages], 1920 [80 pages], 1923 [134 pages], 1924 [125 pages], and 1925 [209 pages], [all: physical condition: sensitive]. [698 pages all issues].
6. A Menasha history titled, "Centennial Memories: A Brief History of Menasha, Wisconsin, 1853-1953," by James M.Auer. [Includes supplemental 'additional' memories - fourteen pages]. [35 pages].

Our digitized historical collection will join the UWDC/State of Wisconsin Collection to:

1. Preserve vulnerable Menasha historical information for next generations.
2. Enrich the overall collection for entrepreneurs, genealogists, local/remote researchers and Wisconsin history enthusiasts.
3. Improve our understanding of the digitization process for further collection additions.

Patrons will gain access to the Menasha portion of the greater digital collection through our homepage, Winnefox Library System links, and the UWDC site. Our collaborative efforts will vastly improve ease of use to popular local histories and photographs.

*Slinger Community Library 07-174*  
*Schleisingsville to Slinger, 125 Years \$3,260*

Through this project the Slinger Community Library (SCL) can begin participation in not only digitization, but also being the main resource for local history in the community. Currently, a resident of the Slinger assumes responsibility as the "historian" in the Village. The library receives many requests via phone, mail and e-mail for historical information and the library is restricted in how it can meet those information needs. There are two ways: borrow the two books through ILL or come to the library and look through the two binders with photographs.

The receipt of this grant would allow the library to have a "virtual history room" and train two staff members to create descriptive metadata headings. These headings will give users the ability to search digitized images from Slinger's history from any location and any time of day. Increasing accessibility to these resources is an opportunity the library would like to make a reality. This project will introduce digitization to Slinger.

The SCL would partner with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center (UWDCC) for digitization of the materials and hope they would be included in the Wisconsin Heritage Online Project (WHO). The expertise from the staff at this organization will be essential for the success of this project.

*Winnefox Library System 07-176*  
*Fond du Lac and Green Lake County \$5,136*

This Winnefox Library System grant is planned to supplement a 2005 Fond du Lac LSTA digital grant, while expanding the scope to include another county's collection. Green Lake County, an adjacent WLS county, is included with Berlin, Princeton and Green Lake County city/county directories, histories and atlases. A total of eighteen items have been selected based on current in-library use, fragility, lack of access, and interest to county as well as city residents. Their publication dates range from 1858 to 1923. The complete list of titles selected for digitization is provided on pages 8 and 9 of this grant.

The grant will serve to demonstrate the benefits of both digitization and partnerships between larger and smaller libraries and multi-county collaboration within the Winnefox Library System. In early 2006, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac and Neenah librarians participated in a panel discussion to describe our LSTA digital projects and part of the workshop included a discussion about other Winnefox libraries considering such a grant for 2007. Discussions continued among library directors and staff via email, phone calls, conference calls, and individual and group meetings. The discussions, selection of materials, grant-writing and project administration are being coordinated by the Oshkosh Public Library as the resource library for the system. The project manager will be the head of reference from Oshkosh Public Library; she served as project manager for the 2005 Oshkosh digital grant, has supervised other digital projects and served on the planning committee for Wisconsin Heritage Online.

Consensus was reached on WLS grant goals: to select materials to serve multiple audiences, to select maps and histories with a county focus if available, and to work with interested libraries of different sizes and digital expertise within two counties.

Four items were digitized in a 2005 Fond du Lac Public Library LSTA grant: the earliest city directory, the earliest county directory, a county history and a city photo book. With this new grant, we will increase the items available in the Early Fond du Lac County People and Places collection on the UWDC website in a very logical way. In selecting more directories to digitize, we will create a “snapshot” of Fond du Lac inhabitants in succeeding decades: 1860s, 1870s (only county-wide directory of the 70s), 1880s and 1890s. Also logically, additional resources were chosen to enhance the photo book collection. In 2005, one photo-book was digitized. Two illustrated books on Fond du Lac from 1904 and 1912 would complete the set of books available from that era. The 1912 edition has a number of instances in which photos from the 1870’s are put next to photos from 1912 for comparison, which increases its value. The Souvenir Album was chosen because it is filled with identified pictures of many of the early county citizens.

Berlin was founded prior to 1850 and had an early population boom (by 1870 more than half of its current population) so it has city directories as early as 1858, county plat books from 1875 and an 1860 history. While sections of the 1860 history have been posted online on Wisconsin Local History Network ([www.wlhn.org](http://www.wlhn.org)), the book in its entirety has not been digitized. These city directories and plat books serve to identify and locate residents of Berlin and Green Lake County with greater precision than early censuses, and at times when no census is available. The Markesan Public Library Director also participated in grant discussions and specifically requested that Berlin P.L. include the above-mentioned county directories. The Princeton Public Library has chosen the only existing early history of Princeton, *The Industrial Review of Princeton, 1897*, which contains a village map. This item serves as an excellent example of the kind of ephemera which may be hidden in the collections of other small, rural libraries and historical societies.

### *Winnefox Library System 07-178 Oshkosh, Omro, and Rural Winnebago County \$5,111*

This project is planned to supplement the 2005 Oshkosh and Winnebago County Atlases and Histories Collection, which digitized county-wide histories and plat books, plus an early City of Oshkosh history and an 1895 city atlas. This time the Oshkosh and Omro Public Libraries are working together to extend coverage to Omro and nearby rural sections of the county, with 8 books, several manuscripts, 55 photos and postcards, and 7 additional maps. Three of the maps will be lent by the Oshkosh Public Museum, with the success of the earlier project greatly contributing to their willingness to lend these rare items. All the maps are oversized wall maps, which did not fit the announced parameters for digitizing in 2005. The eight rural Winnebago County histories range in size from just a few pages to 248, and cover their focus areas in more detail than the overall county histories indexed in the last grant. Together these items complement the county-wide and City of Oshkosh histories and atlases digitized two years ago. A complete lists of the items and the reasons they were selected is included on pages 8 and 9 of this proposal.

As the resource library for the Winnefox Library System and as the largest public library in Winnebago County, Oshkosh Public Library fields many questions about the history of the rural areas which are included in our official service population. Omro, 8 miles to the west, is also asked about those villages on the Fox River which have since faded away. As coverage of these areas will help both libraries, Omro Public Library asked to add unique items in its possession to the grant as well. While Omro is covered in county-wide histories such as those digitized in the previous grant, no compiled history has ever been published on the city and civil town. The Library and the Omro Historical Society have worked together to select memoirs, manuscripts, and photos which will be of wide interest.

There are a variety of users for these resources. Local history researchers, including casual one-time users, hobbyists, serious researchers and scholars, are among the largest user groups. Other users include students and educators, genealogists and authors, interested in prominent citizens, local business owners, local businesses and industries, farmers, or other people who lived in rural areas, or in the growth of the urban areas and the changing land use patterns.

We predict high use based on the current use of the print versions of these resources. Both libraries have an ever-increasing demand for reference assistance from online users, who contact us via our website comment forms, AskAway chat and email contacts, and feedback forms for our obituary indexes and other digital projects.

Careful and thorough examination of collections in order to select materials of greatest benefit to our target audience also fits with Oshkosh Public Library’s planning goals. There are vision, mission, strategic planning, core values, and annual strategic goals planning documents, all of which address digitization and the library’s role in the community.

Collaboration between our public libraries and UW-Madison will provide our library with unique opportunities. Our images will be of high quality, our metadata will be based on standards and best practices, and quality control will be based on standards and guidelines.

This grant would also fill two of the objectives of Oshkosh Public Library's 2005 grant:

- Winnefox Library System staff will be aware of Oshkosh Public Library project as model for the system and OPL expertise that would be available to assist them.
- After attending workshop(s), Winnefox Library System staff will be better able to evaluate their own collections for possible future digital projects.

## Department of Corrections Library Services

### *Department of Corrections 07-200*

#### *Coordination of DOC and DHFS Institution Library Services \$15,000*

This grant application seeks LSTA funds in the amount of \$15,000 to partially cover the salary of the DOC Library Services Coordinator position and certain position related costs: travel, training materials, professional books and subscriptions, and training and workshops for institution librarians. The Departments of Corrections (DOC) and Health and Family Services (DHFS) will fund \$97,356 (DOC \$63,281; DHFS \$34,075) towards the Coordinator's salary and fringe, and the Department of Corrections will absorb position related office overhead costs of approximately \$260.

The position of Institution Library Services Coordinator was established in 1985 in the Department of Health and Social Services. In 1989 the Coordinator position was transferred to Corrections from the Department of Health and Social Services and is now administratively placed within Corrections' Division of Adult Institutions (DAI). When Corrections and Health and Social Services became separate agencies in 1990, an inter-agency agreement was drawn up confirming the unchanged nature of the Coordinator's job responsibilities and continued services to institutions in both departments.

The Library Services Coordinator has responsibility for planning, developing, coordinating, and evaluating all library services in DOC and DHFS institutions. The position reviews current policies and practices, develops and recommends alternative policies and programs to department heads, division administrators, institution wardens and directors, and the institution librarians. The Coordinator administers library grants and acts as consultant on all aspects of library planning and management, facilitates management decisions, and serves as liaison person with outside organizations and agencies on library related issues. Following the Spring 2003 structural reorganization of the Department of Corrections, the responsibility for coordination of education technology was moved to the Library Services Coordinator position.

The position seeks to accomplish both long- and short-term objectives, some of which are outlined in Section IV of this application. Most functions are of a continuous nature, but responsibilities and work assignments change as specific objectives are achieved and new needs arise. (See also attached position description).

## Literacy

### *Brown County Library 07-202*

#### *Promote Parenting Skills and Child Development \$28,258*

Through this grant project, Brown County Library will support the goals of Brown County's broad-based "Community Partnership for Children" by establishing Young Family Centers (YFCs) at three library locations.

Initiated in 2005, the Community Partnership for Children (CPC) is a coalition of individuals, non-profit organizations and government agencies whose mission is "to provide all parents in Brown County with the tools they need from the time their babies are born, so every child can enter school ready to learn and grow." The coalition is establishing a coordinated, prevention-focused system of family services in Brown County to ensure that no child "falls through the cracks."

The CPC is based on nationally recognized "best practices." One model is the "Healthy Families Partnership" of Hampton, Virginia, which has established well-used "Young Family Centers" (YFCs) in all of their public library locations as a key strategy to enhance parenting skills and optimal child development throughout their community.

This grant project would launch similar centers in Green Bay. Although Brown County Library's YFCs will be open to everyone, this grant project will allow us to target these populations: children age 0-3 and their families; teenage parents and their children; families who live in poverty; families who use a language other than English in their homes; and childcare providers who care for children from these families. The three Brown County Library locations chosen for this grant proposal are in neighborhoods with the highest concentrations of minority populations and low-income families.

The centers would provide: books, video, and audio materials focusing on parenting skills, child development, family literacy, and early education; age-appropriate equipment, furnishings and developmental toys; signage that uses multiple languages and visual cues to help customers "self-navigate"; and display space for community information. All of these improvements would

be integrated with each library's existing collections and physical layout to create a welcoming, comfortable, child-friendly space.

The first months of the grant project would focus on gathering input from targeted parent and caregiver groups to help select library materials and choose a local name for the centers. After the centers are set up in the fall, publicity would target these same groups, through channels provided by the many organizations participating in the CPC. Examples of promotion include: information packets presented to parents of newborns at all four county hospitals; presentations to teen parents at a major annual workshop; "sample" parenting books placed in local neighborhood resource centers (with bookplates referring readers to the larger YFC collections); special events planned with and for the targeted audiences to bring them into the centers; and tie-ins with the (also new) local initiative for a 2-1-1 community information and referral system.

**Dane County Library Service 07-204**  
***Family Connections Literacy Project \$12,162***

This grant will address the literacy needs of at risk children and their mothers who are incarcerated at the Taycheedah Correctional Institute. This project is a collaboration between Dane County Library Service, Family Connections of Wisconsin and Taycheedah Correctional Institute. Family Connections of Wisconsin's mission is "To provide opportunities to maintain and strengthen family relationships affected by incarceration.". To do this, Family Connections of Wisconsin organizes regular monthly visits between incarcerated parents and their children who live in the Dane County area. The Family Connections Literacy project will enrich the monthly visits between children and incarcerated Taycheedah mothers by providing a literacy component in which mothers are video taped reading books for their children. This project will also offer video taping to mothers who are unwilling to have their child see them in a prison environment or whose children are unable to make the trip from the Dane County area.

The Family Connections Literacy Project will also promote reading by offering parents and children the opportunity to share books in a parent/child book club. Duplicate copies of high interest books in both English and Spanish will be kept at the Taycheedah Correctional Institute Library and made available to children participating in the project. Children and their mothers will have the opportunity to enjoyed shared literacy experiences so important to parent/child bonding.

To incorporate a writing activity into this project, mothers and children will also have the opportunity to create scrapbooks, which will document their visits. Scrapbooks will contain writing, poetry, and pictures of the children with their mothers. Children can take the scrapbooks home as a memento of time spent with their mothers. The scrapbooks will work as a motivation for parents and children to both sharpen their literacy skills.

This project also encourages both incarcerated mothers and their children to use their respective public/institutional libraries to develop their literacy skills. This project will provide high interest parenting, book club, and GED materials for the Taycheedah library. Children participating in this project will go on a local public library tour which will allow the opportunity to sign up for a library card. Participating children will also have the opportunity to participate in the Dane County Library Service Summer Reading Program, which will allow children to keep their reading skills up over the summer and earn a small prize.

This grant will allow incarcerated mothers and children to connect through books and literacy. Participating mothers will sharpen their literacy skills as well as bond with their children over shared reading experiences. Research has shown that the impact of parental imprisonment are lessened when a child has regular contact with their parent. This project will benefit the children of the incarcerated by providing them with parent contact and the enriching benefit of a parentally driven literacy experience.

**Indianhead Federated Library System 07-206**  
***Serving Inmates and their Families \$16,020***

It is estimated that 70 percent of jail inmates nationwide are also parents. Families with an incarcerated parent face numerous stressors, including financial hardship, the challenge of maintaining family ties, and often a lack of education (Wright and Seymour, 2000). In west-central Wisconsin, five county jails (Barron, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk and St. Croix) are working with county agencies to provide various parenting, literacy, and family literacy programs for their inmates. The Indianhead Federated Library System (IFLS), along with 14 public libraries, will collaborate with these jails and the agencies that provide parenting and literacy classes to inmates to increase access to resources and support family literacy efforts.

IFLS will supplement five jail libraries with materials about parenting, with special attention to the needs of those who do not speak English or who have low literacy levels. IFLS staff will also work with literacy providers to provide jails with GED, HSED (High School Equivalence Diploma), basic literacy and family literacy materials that will complement existing collections.

Public library staff from the five counties will visit parenting classes held in the jail once during each series of classes to provide information about library services and family literacy. To help them prepare, IFLS will organize a workshop to discuss working with inmates and, more generally, how to promote library use and family literacy activities to special populations.

In addition, IFLS and jail staff will work together to provide a more welcoming and stimulating environment for children and their caregivers who are visiting family members in jail. Staff will purchase furniture, books, and toys that will fit the needs and space requirements of the four county jails that permit children to visit.

This project will help strengthen and maintain family ties for families with inmate parents, while also meeting the information and literacy needs of inmates and their families.

#### **Kenosha Public Library 07-208**

##### ***Early Literacy: Babies and Beyond \$11,505***

Kenosha Public Library is applying for this grant on behalf of the Kenosha County Library System, for which Kenosha Public Library (KPL) acts as an administrative and fiscal agent. Kenosha County Library System (KCLS) is a single-county library system comprised of two multi-branch public libraries. The Kenosha Public Library is located in the city of Kenosha and consists of four branches and a Bookmobile, while Community Library serves the western part of the county with libraries in Salem, Twin Lakes and Silver Lake.

This literacy grant will benefit low literacy, low-income parents and teen parents of children under the age of three. To meet the goals and objectives of this project, the Kenosha Public Library will partner with two agencies. Our first partner, Kenosha Unified School District's Reuther High School Infant/Child Learning Laboratory, is a district program for all high school teen parents and their children age two weeks to three years. According to the Wisconsin Division of Health and Family Services, 72 teens in Kenosha County, age 17 and younger gave birth in 2004, with 22% of those teen parents being African-American. Our second partner, the Kenosha Community Health Center (KCHC) provides medical and dental services to low-income and uninsured residents of Kenosha County, with services focusing on prenatal care. Of the 121 babies born to the KCHC clients in 2005, 95% were born to undocumented Hispanics.

Kenosha Public Library staff and partnering agencies will achieve the objectives of this project by educating parents on the importance of early literacy by giving parents, who may be unsure of their own literacy skills, the needed skills to take an active role in their child's literacy development. KPL staff that has been trained in the Motherread/Fatheread program through a previous LSTA grant will present a session of eight classes to teen parents at the Reuther Infant Lab, which will open up the world of children's books to these teens and provide ways the teens can use books with their children. The project administrator will work closely with the staff at the KCHC in distributing Baby Bundles to the parents of newborns by attending various educational classes scheduled at the KCHC throughout the year. These Baby Bundles, which will also be distributed to the teen parents, will consist of The Brain Game (English/Spanish) educational resource, supplies for a simple activity, Books for Babies, a KPL booklist featuring age appropriate board books and picture books both in English and bilingual Spanish/English and a Time For Rhymes handout. Booklists and promotional materials to support this project will be developed in Spanish, as necessary, to reflect the needs of the community. In order to make programming for children under three more inviting and accessible for young children, portable child height tables will be purchased to be used for program activities in KPL libraries and at offsite locations. In addition, staff from the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families will speak to library staff on brain development to foster a better understanding of child development among staff. Finally, English language, and bilingual board books and picture books for young children will be purchased, as well as print and visual format materials on the topics of teen parenting and child development.

The project administrator and library staff will market the infant and toddler storytime programs that are already scheduled and presented at KPL to the target audience and encourage the new moms to attend. Library staff will also promote the collections of English language, and bilingual board books and picture books, which will circulate from our system libraries and encourage parents to visit their local library, acquire library cards and check out these materials. Through a previous LSTA grant, the KCLS library card application is available in Spanish.

#### **Lakeshores Library System 07-210**

##### ***Library and Literacy Resources for Spanish Speakers \$34,000***

The Spanish speaking population in the Lakeshores Library System and Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System service area has grown significantly from the 1990 census to the 2000 census. In Lakeshores, Racine County has had the number of Spanish speaking residents increase 66%, while the Hispanic population in Walworth County has increased 304%. Mid-Wisconsin's Dodge County has seen an increase in Spanish speakers of 140%, Jefferson County's Latino population has increased 161% and Washington County's has increased 128%. The "Library and Literacy Services for Spanish Speakers" project will provide the Spanish speaking youth, families, and adults at the 42 member libraries in the two systems with programming, materials, and enhanced library services. In 2003, Lakeshores Library System and Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System agreed to

collaborate to share services provided by each system. These services include continuing education coordination and consulting for youth services and special needs. This project strengthens the previously funded LSTA grants promoting library services to Spanish speakers received by Lakeshores Library System in 2000, 2002, 2003, and 2004 and supports the grant funded in 2005 that provided additional materials and programs for Spanish speakers in both library systems.

The member libraries of Lakeshores and Mid-Wisconsin, the Racine Literacy Council, and the Walworth County Literacy Council look forward to promoting library services to Spanish speakers in our communities.

“Library and Literacy Services for Spanish Speakers” includes the following components:

1. Translate member library card applications, policies, and brochures.
2. Offer conversational Spanish classes for library staff.
3. Hire a bilingual Storywagon series performer for summer library programs in 2007.
4. Sponsor a workshop on library outreach to Spanish speakers.
5. Purchase professional collection materials to benefit member libraries and their Spanish speaking patrons.
6. Offer mini-grants to member libraries to purchase Spanish language, bilingual, and ESL materials in a variety of formats.
7. Market services to Spanish speakers through the member libraries, literacy councils, and community agencies.
8. Sponsor a family program at each library receiving mini-grants during Hispanic Heritage month.

This is a great opportunity for Lakeshores Library System and Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System member libraries to promote library services to Spanish speaker in their individual communities.

**Milwaukee Public Library 07-212**  
*Ready to Read with Books2Go \$70,880*

The Ready to Read with Books2Go project was developed in 2005 as an enhancement to the Books2Go program. The Books2Go program has been in existence since 2000 and was originally funded for the first three years with LSTA funds. Currently the Books2Go program is funded with private donor grants. Books2Go reaches children from birth to age 5 through their child care providers. Child care providers are signed up for the Books2Go Program and receive a special library card for their center. Each center receives a visit from the Books2Go Outreach Coordinator who explains the many benefits of the library to the provider. The Outreach Coordinator drops off a backpack filled with books checked out to the center on their new card and makes arrangements for their first story time at a library. The Ready to Read program enhances the Books2Go program by providing in-depth training for child care providers on ways to develop pre-literacy skills in children. Ready to Read also provides training to parents on ways they can improve the reading readiness skills in their children. In 2005 Ready to Read started as a pilot program focusing on 18 child care centers (15 English speaking and 3 bilingual Spanish). Ready to Read is based on research developed by the Public Library Association and Association for Library Service to Children on the six skills children need before they enter school so they are prepared to learn to read. This program has a strong emphasis on brain development and incorporating fun, easy and educational activities that will make a considerable difference in the lives of children. The program continued in 2006 and was expanded and refined.

In 2007 the program will be offered to 20 new child care centers. Each center will receive bi-monthly visits from Books2Go’s Literacy Instructor and information about library programs. At those visits, the Literacy Instructor will present age-appropriate story times for the children and model for providers ways to interact with the children using stories, songs, rhymes, etc. The Literacy Instructor will explain to the child care providers what they are doing, reinforcing the training the providers received in a three hour class on the six skills. The training will focus on infant brain development and how parents and providers can support and enhance their child’s pre-literacy skills. Each child care center in the intensive outreach program will agree to attend the training session specifically designed for providers. The sessions will focus on the six skills for developing pre-literacy skills: narrative skills, letter knowledge, print awareness, enriched vocabulary, print motivation, and phonological awareness. The centers will agree to encourage parents to attend the parent session on the six pre-literacy skills. In return, the centers will receive the bi-monthly story time visits, monthly pick up and drop off of library materials and a free book each month. These books will be specifically chosen by children’s librarians to support the skills targeted in the story times and training sessions. Because the city of Milwaukee has more than 2,300 child care centers, there is an overwhelming need for services such as ours and it is imperative that the program continue.

The 2007 grant proposal includes two new components. Because of the program’s intensive nature, we can only accommodate 20 child care centers in each 12 month cycle. Demand for modeling story times at child care sites is high. We look to be able to offer at least one story time at child care sites whose providers have attended our “Ready to Read: Six Skills for Early Literacy Workshop.” This will enable our Literacy Instructors to reinforce the information presented at the training and give providers tips to incorporate the six skills into daily lessons. We seek to develop three new workshops that provide an in-depth look at ways to foster the development of the six skills as a child reaches developmental milestones.

**Northern Waters Library Service 07-214**  
**NWLS Early Literacy Project \$19,525**

The NWLS Early Childhood Literacy Project will improve literacy system-wide by providing mini-grants to member libraries to develop a customized program based on local needs. Local programs must meet one of the first three needs on pages 8 and 9 of the Library Services and Technology Act Information and Guidelines for Wisconsin, 2007. These are:

1. Promote early literacy by targeting children under the age of three, their parents and/or their caregivers. The projects target groups who—  
are teens, use a language other than English in their homes, live in poverty, are incarcerated, or day care providers who care for children of these targeted parent groups.
2. Initiate infant or toddler story programs if appropriate marketing to at least one of the targeted groups is included. Programs may include other non-targeted children. Funds can be used to purchase specialized furniture, play equipment, and resources designed especially for use by children under the age of three.
3. Collaborate with other organizations in assisting the targeted parent groups and/or day care providers become more familiar with the importance of infant brain development and/or appropriate learning activities. Projects can include nutritional information.

To address early literacy needs, libraries may apply for \$600 mini-grants to create new or enhance existing literacy efforts in their communities. Libraries must work with a local partner such as a daycare center, school, free healthcare clinic, or other group that serves the targeted population. Libraries may submit joint mini-grant applications to develop regional programs if they and their partners believe it is the most effective way to serve that population; each library in a joint application is eligible for \$600.

Local projects must be approved in advance by NWLS and follow LSTA grant guidelines. Each library's application must:  
identify a target population and program focus  
name the local partner  
include a project summary

In addition, libraries must:

- collaborate with a community partner to plan, market, implement, and evaluate grant activities
- attend a grant-related workshop
- offer at least one program/event in collaboration with community partners
- use at least 50% of funds for publicity, programming, supplies or furniture and no more than 50% for materials
- follow the grant timeline
- include a plan to continue to serve the target population after the grant period ends

NWLS will:

- offer mini-grants to member libraries to meet the literacy needs of their communities
- approve mini-grant proposals
- sponsor a workshop on infant brain development for grant participants
- write a sample press release to publicize the project
- submit grant evaluations
- serve as the fiscal agent

**Racine Public Library 07-216**  
**Every Child Ready to Read \$4,379**

The Racine Public Library (RPL) will promote and demonstrate the role of public libraries in improving literacy and reading skills in educationally at-risk children ages 0-4 by establishing the Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) early literacy program in the library's service area and by becoming a source of early literacy training to these children and their caregivers and teachers.

The ECRR program, sponsored by ALSC Early Literacy Initiative, provides children under the age of 4 with reading readiness skills and promotes the importance of early literacy skills to their parents, caregivers, and teachers. Through workshops that address the needs of Early Talkers (birth to 2), Talkers (2-3 years) and Pre-readers (4-5 years) participants will be taught how to develop critical pre-reading skills in children so that they may enter school ready to learn to read. RPL will provide training to children's librarians in the Lakeshores Library System on how to integrate the ECRR methods into story programs and on how to implement training workshops for outreach purposes. After the initial librarian training, RPL will conduct training workshops with teachers and caregivers, and story programs for parents and children 0-4 years. The workshops and story programs will target those organizations that currently serve the low-income, minority youth and their families, a segment of the population that traditionally lacks the needed skills to succeed in school. These include Headstart, high school child care and teen parenting classes, ESL family literacy groups, pre-kindergarten and 4-year-old kindergarten classes, local day-care

providers, community shelters, and parenting classes at correctional facilities. RPL will continue to build on its already established relationships with many of these community organizations and will continue to conduct their established story times with a new emphasis on the ECRR methods and information. The Rotary Readers van, which provides mobile service to over 30 day cares and preschools throughout the county, will also begin to promote the ECRR program through story times.

### **South Central Library System 07-218**

#### ***Family Literacy Strengthens Communities \$38,500***

Families who read together succeed together. Research shows that parents persist in family literacy programs longer than in other types of adult literacy programs and that those who remain in family literacy programs have increased opportunities to learn. (Pennsylvania Dept. of Ed.). In addition, parents' attitudes towards education improve and their perception of the value of education improves when they participate in family literacy programs (NFER study). The impact of family literacy programs for children is tremendous: children's achievement in school improves, they attend school more regularly and are more likely to complete their educations and they are even healthier (Ohio Literacy Center study). Society as a whole benefits from family literacy programs: there are fewer nutritional and health problems, there is less joblessness and welfare dependency, there are fewer teen parents and there is even less home and community violence (Ohio Literacy Center study).

The 19 participating libraries in the South Central Library System's (SCLS) 2007 family literacy grant, Families Together, will address family literacy needs by learning techniques for providing family literacy programs and services, working with community partners to market and present new programs and gaining an understanding of the generational issues some families face in breaking the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. The 2007 grant will:

1. Bring the renowned Bridges Out of Poverty workshop to SCLS libraries and partner organizations.
2. Introduce methods for modeling reading behaviors for parents, adults and caregivers.
3. Introduce new techniques for working with children and parents who have lived in generational poverty or who speak English as a second language.
4. Introduce new methods of evaluating family literacy programs.

Family literacy programs work for children, adults and society. These programs also work for public libraries and their partners, whose shared goals include improving literacy skills of all members of their communities. Families Together will help libraries and their partners reach more families and will be a giant step towards helping children improve their lives.

### **Spooner Memorial Library 07-220**

#### ***The Library and WIC Promote Early Literacy Skills \$11,085***

In order to meet the rising educational, literate, social and socioeconomic needs of the birth to three children belonging to the 250 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) families of Washburn County, the Spooner Memorial Library and Washburn County WIC program have formed a cooperative partnership to create and implement the 2007 LSTA Read to Me Grant.

The purpose of the Read to Me grant is to provide the birth to three children of WIC families with the opportunity to receive library services, including access to books and programming, to improve their parenting skills and encourage them to become regular library users. The library and WIC have worked together on a previous LSTA grant in 2005 and have already formed a solid working relationship. WIC works exclusively with low-income families with birth to preschool children providing nutritional education along with food subsidies. Since they already have ongoing contact with the clientele this grant is trying to reach, Spooner Memorial Library will market library services and programs through the WIC office.

WIC staff meet monthly one on one with their clients to help them meet the nutritional needs of pregnant mothers, infants and children. During our grant year WIC staff will also promote library services and improving parenting skills. An off site collection of a series of parenting skills DVDs will be provided for the WIC agency to circulate among their families. These DVDs will be housed and owned by WIC. Other parenting information in the form of brochures will be distributed. Displays featuring library services will be featured in the WIC office during the grant year and a coupon for a free tote bag will be given to all WIC parents of birth to three children. The coupon must be redeemed at the library where WIC parents will be welcomed and encouraged to enroll themselves and their children in birth to three programming.

The library will improve and update our collection to better accommodate birth to three children and their parents. This will include increasing board and picture books, books on CDs, along with parenting skill magazines and instructional DVD series and books on baby signing. Spooner Library will also work to make the library more welcoming to parents with young children by adding a diaper changing station to the rest room, a privacy screen in the preschool area for breastfeeding mothers, and a rug on the floor of the preschool area to better accommodate toddlers and infants not yet walking

**Winding Rivers Library System 07-222**  
***Motheread/Fatheread Connects Families \$6,299***

In response to a need for positive programs to give inmates in the La Crosse County Jail hope for the future, and a way to stay connected with their children and families, the Winding Rivers Library System proposes to introduce the Motheread/Fatheread family literacy program in the La Crosse County Women's Jail. This is a nationally acclaimed family literacy program which uses outstanding children's books to assist parents to improve their literacy skills, help their children to become better readers and thinkers, and improve family communications.

During each Motheread/Fatheread class, adults read and study a particular children's book, selected to explore the stages of early childhood development. They get to know the characters and life themes in the books, and examine those themes in their own lives. Then they practice techniques for reading aloud and sharing the book with a child. They are encouraged to think about questions they can ask their child after they have read the book together. Though the inmates will not be able to read together with their children while they are in the La Crosse County Jail, they will receive a "storysharing" sheet developed for each book, to use in communicating with their children by mail, by telephone, or during their non-contact visits. In every class, parents also read a small piece of adult literature and work on their own reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Two area librarians, certified Motheread/Fatheread instructors, will conduct three sets of classes in the Women's Jail; they will be joined by an instructor from the Learning Together Family Literacy program, which serves the area, for several sessions. This will give inmates the opportunity to form a personal connection with the literacy organization, so they may feel more comfortable seeking the program's services, after their release. The inmates will also receive information about the family and youth programs offered through the La Crosse County Library's five branches, so they can encourage the providers caring for their children to visit the library, and then bring their own children to the library, after their release.

Additionally, the Motheread/Fatheread program will be demonstrated at two area WIC (Women, Infants and Children) sites. The WIC program provides nutritious foods and referrals to health and nutrition services, to families who meet eligible income guidelines. Following the demonstration sessions, two sets of three classes introducing the Motheread/Fatheread program in a library setting will be offered. Families who attend all three classes in a series will receive a book from the Motheread/Fatheread curriculum to take home. Recognizing that it is not easy for many families, due to time constraints and work schedules, to make a commitment to an extended series of classes, the shorter series will introduce the recommended books and activities connected with the Motheread/Fatheread program, and serve to help them become comfortable in the library.

## Disabilities

**Burlington Public Library 07-224**  
***Offering Seniors the World at Their Library \$10,140***

Seniors over the age of 65 made up more than 12% of the population of Racine County in 2005, while people over 55 make up more than 22%, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. The Burlington Public Library currently serves seniors in four residences in the area by taking programs to the residences, along with deposit collections of materials including large print books and periodicals, videos, DVDs, and audiobooks. Most of these residents are either low-income or have physical or mental disabilities that require an assisted living arrangement.

Monthly programs at the facilities have allowed library staff to develop rapport with residents, and build a following of people who enjoy library programs and feel comfortable requesting materials.

However, the amount of materials delivered to the residences is a small portion of what is available at the library. While we gladly deliver materials requested, many library users agree the real joy of visiting the library is in browsing the many items and services available and finding new interests serendipitously. Additionally, professionals serving seniors cite a need for them to interact with others in order to remain mentally alert.

The Burlington Public Library would like to serve seniors in the community by providing monthly programs at the library which would provide a chance for the seniors to interact socially, browse the library collection, view specially displayed materials and work individually with staff members to investigate the diverse materials and services available, including instruction in using the online catalog and requesting materials online. Additionally, we would like to increase and improve our collections of materials to serve seniors in order to make the library more welcoming and more useful for them. While we would welcome all seniors to participate, we would count on the seniors living in these four residences to provide a core start-up audience for the program.

Additionally, materials purchased for providing programs would be used at the library and then made available to nursing homes and residences in the area and throughout the state. Program directors at the residences have attended our programs and learned how to use the materials for those who cannot leave their facilities. Large print, audio and video materials would serve the homes and residences as part of our monthly deposit collections, after being highlighted at the program at the library.

An LSTA grant in 2005, Services to Seniors; Expanding their World through the Library, allowed the library to install a handicapped accessible door and door opener to allow seniors and those with limited mobility to be able to enter the facility easily and without the help of others.

Our previous grant allowed us to develop a strong rapport with seniors living in residences in our area. This project would invite those seniors, as well as all seniors in our community, into the library to use all the resources available. The rapport already established would allow such outings to be non-threatening to less adventurous residents. We hope to welcome these and other seniors in the community into the library to enrich their lives with a full range of materials and services.

#### **Eastern Shores Library System 07-226**

*ESLS=Extending the Services of Libraries to Seniors \$17,590*

This project will assist the public libraries in Sheboygan and Ozaukee in providing services to seniors and others with accessibility needs. Eleven of the thirteen public libraries and the bookmobile are participating in the project.

Our 2005 grant provided assistance to those who were able to use the libraries by providing walkers, wheelchairs, and special lighting. This grant targets those who are unable to use the library and have to rely on home delivery by family or volunteers or who live in a group situation. We are also specifically targeting individuals who are hospice clients, their families, and the hospice service providers.

“The goal of hospice care is palliative (seeking to improve patient comfort and to lessen pain and other symptoms of illness) rather than curative. It also emphasizes home care rather than institutional care, addresses the psychological, social, spiritual, and physical needs of the patient, and provides supportive services to the family. Volunteers are a unique component in hospice care. Hospice care is provided by an interdisciplinary team of professionals including nurses, physicians, social workers, counselors (bereavement, spiritual, dietary, and other), nursing assistants, volunteers and therapists.” (Wisconsin Hospices and Patients, 2004 — p. 6)

“One of the best-kept secrets libraries have is home-delivery service. Many professionals who responded to interviews were not aware that many public libraries offered this service. Interviewees commented that libraries need to advertise this service more openly. One interviewee recommended that public libraries maintain a good collection of books and videos on CD and CD-ROM programs. Many people with severe disabilities would welcome materials that they could use on their adapted computers at home.” (Adults with Special Needs: A Resource and Planning guide for Wisconsin’s Public Libraries, p. 48)

Planning for our project began during a workshop on special needs planning facilitated by Barb Huntington, DLTCL Special Needs Consultant. The librarians recognized the following:

- \* They would like to begin/expand delivery to homebound individuals and those who reside in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.
- \* Boxes, carrying bags, and additional appropriate materials are necessary to offer this service.
- \* They need to know more about the hospice providers in the two counties—who they are, who they serve, and how libraries can be of service to their clients and families. In addition to personal contacts, this would include informative workshops.
- \* They need to publicize the services they already offer, as well as any new services that they would be able to start/expand with grant funds.

This project will help the member libraries provide increased service to the identified groups.

#### **Indianhead Federated Library System 07-228**

*Serving People with Hearing Loss \$13,615*

Hearing loss affects 28 million people in the United States--about 10 percent of the population, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Twenty five percent of people over the age of 65 have lost some hearing. This can make participation in library programs and meetings difficult, and poses challenges for reference and circulation interactions as well.

To better serve people with hearing loss, 17 libraries in the Indianhead Federated Library System (see below) will purchase equipment to amplify programs, meetings, and one-on-one communication. Librarians will work to plan programs and publicize with area agencies that serve people with hearing loss, including schools, senior centers, assisted living facilities, and

senior housing.

Staff from participating libraries will have the opportunity to attend a workshop to learn more about reaching out to people who have hearing loss and creating deaf-friendly environments in their libraries.

Participants include:

Fall Creek and Plum City will receive PocketTalkers

Altoona, Augusta, Bloomer, Boyceville, Cameron, Colfax, Ellsworth, Hammond, Menomonie, Milltown, Ogema, Somerset, Spring Valley and Woodville will receive microphones and sound systems.

Clear Lake will receive a LOOP system.

### **South Central Library System 07-230**

*Digital Books for Everyone \$31,238*

The Bureau for the Blind, an agency of the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, reported in September 2003 that as many as 200,000 Wisconsin residents are blind or visually impaired. Historically, the Regional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped throughout the country have been tasked with providing library services and materials to these persons. Since 1980, recorded cassettes have been the primary medium used to deliver books to print-handicapped users — those persons who are either visually impaired or unable to hold a printed book.

With the arrival of digital books, new and exciting opportunities to serve print-handicapped users in new ways are developing. While the Library of Congress's National Library Service for the Blind And Physically Handicapped (NLS) has begun planning for such services, implementation is years away and the quantity of resources will be limited, with only 2,000 titles produced annually. Yet the users of the Wisconsin Regional Library (RL) are ready now and eager for newer materials. In August 2006, the RL had 724 holds on titles that were on-order by RL and in processing by the NLS.

Here in Wisconsin, the opportunity exists to provide print-handicapped persons with new digital books now in the same way that users of public libraries throughout Wisconsin have been using them for the past year. The Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC), serving 15 of the 17 (soon to be 16 of the 17, all but SWLS) library systems in the state and their member libraries, already offers access to a collection of digital audiobooks — resources that print-handicapped patrons could also use.

The infrastructure for this project is already in place due to the fact that the WPLC spent more than a year planning, evaluating, implementing, and testing the digital audiobook service. The service has been live since August 2005. Digital Books for Everyone builds on that work. WPLC representatives, the RL staff, RL patrons, and the South Central Library System have been planning for the expansion of the service to print-handicapped users for much of 2006. Specific needs have been identified which will be addressed through this project. The collection will be expanded to address the needs and interests of the print-handicapped. The collection will be increased to provide sufficient quantity to handle the use by RL's 15,000 registered users, even those living outside of the public library systems participating in WPLC. The print-handicapped users will be informed of the service, provided trained in using it, and supported through technical assistance. The Regional Library, library systems, and public libraries will work together on all of these activities, strengthening existing relationships and building new ones — working together to equalize the library services offered to residents of Wisconsin.

South Central Library System serves as the fiscal agent for WPLC, will serve as the Project Administrator of this project, and has the second highest number of RL users living in its service area.

### **Southwest Wisconsin Library System 07-232**

*Serving Seniors with Special Needs in Southwest Wisconsin \$15,925*

“Reaching Out, Looking In: Serving Seniors With Special Needs in Southwest Wisconsin”

An estimated 7918 people will turn 60 each day in 2006, or about 330 people turning 60 years old each hour, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Baby boomers are changing the face of retirement—even what it means to be a “senior citizen”.

Funds from the 2007 LSTA grant project, “Reaching Out, Looking In: Serving Seniors With Special Needs in Southwest Wisconsin”, will allow participating libraries to:

- Create and build partnerships with agencies who serve seniors with special needs
- Create an outreach program to provide services to seniors who have a barrier to visiting the physical library
- Train staff in techniques for serving seniors with special needs
- Provide new library materials in formats appropriate for wide range of seniors

Funding of this program will assure that libraries will have the means to become more responsive to the needs of seniors in their communities.

**Waukesha County Federated Library System 07-234**  
***Serving Seniors with Vision Loss \$14,140***

This project is designed to promote the role of public libraries in Waukesha County in meeting the information needs of older adults—particularly those who have vision loss. It addresses the need to increase—and make more accessible—library services to seniors with special needs in response to the increasing senior population in Waukesha County.

Waukesha County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. The “aging” of Waukesha County’s population is also taking place at a rapid pace and the need for public libraries to address this growth is apparent. The U.S. Census Bureau’s 2005 American Community Survey estimates the number of individuals 65 years and older in Waukesha County to be 45,897. Extrapolations of national data indicate that the number of older adults in Waukesha County with low vision may be between 9,000 - 9,600.

During a March, 2004, planning session conducted by Barb Huntington, Special Needs Consultant with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction’s Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning, representatives of public libraries in Waukesha County identified serving the aging population as the most pressing special needs issue facing libraries in the next three years. Subsequent LSTA grants funded WCFLS projects to increase member libraries’ holdings of materials for seniors and their caregivers and offer Internet classes for older adults with hearing loss.

In July 2006, special needs representatives of member libraries indicated a need for a workshop on technology for older adults with vision loss, with a focus on how to download electronic books and how to use the players that are replacing compact disc and tape players. They recommended the workshop include information on the adaptive computer technology already in the libraries as well as information on the new digital player the National Library for the Blind is going to be introducing next year. Committee members also indicated that the workshop should be given at each library to maximize the number of seniors in their communities who would be able to attend the workshop. Staff of the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind will be involved in the planning and presentation of the workshops and agencies such as the Badger Association of the Blind have been invited to participate in the project.

This grant project has 3 goals: 1) to increase member libraries’ services to seniors with vision loss by providing member libraries the opportunity to offer a public workshop on emerging technologies to adults 65+ who have vision loss; 2) to increase library staff responsiveness and sensitivity in serving older adults with vision loss by offering a continuing education opportunity to member libraries; and 3) to publicize public libraries as resources for life-long learning for seniors with special needs by conducting a marketing campaign.

The curriculum of both the staff and public workshops will be shared with member libraries for future programming. Information gathered in the surveys administered at both workshops will be used in technology and special needs planning. A summary will be generated on the development and distribution of public relations materials and marketing activities of the System’s special needs librarian in order to model future special needs marketing projects by member libraries.