Reflecting on Wisconsin's Public Library Standards

Reimagining a Stronger Future Together

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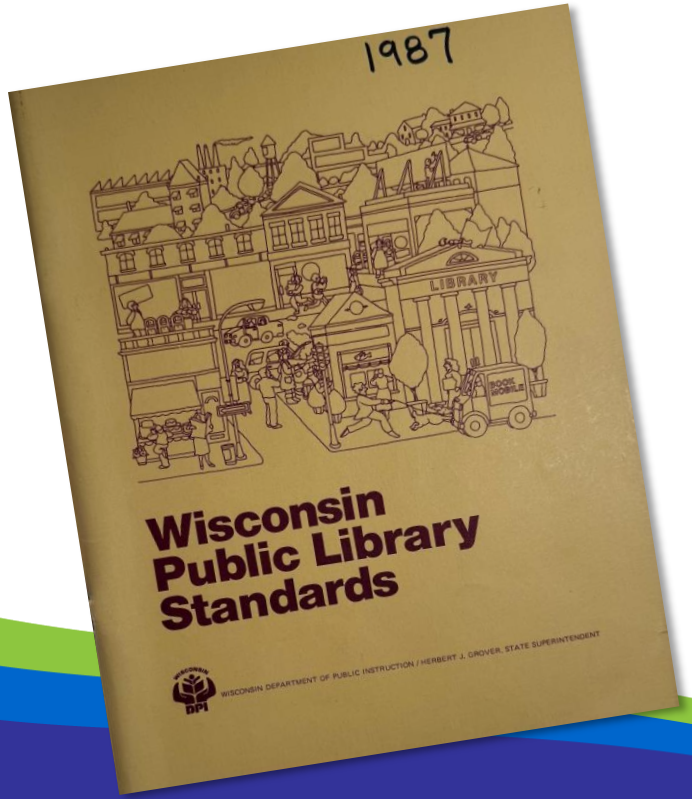
INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

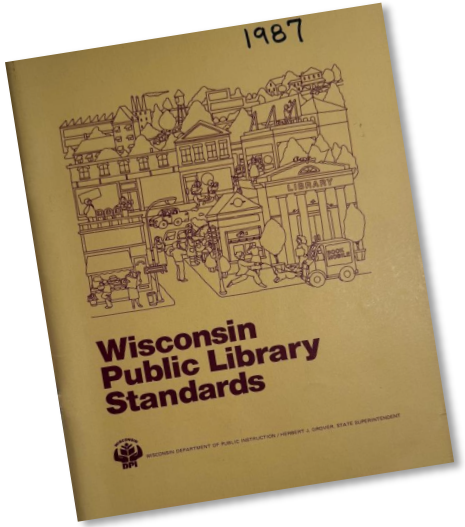
Consulting services of the Library Services Team are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services

History of WI Public Library Standards



- 1974: *Wisconsin Public Library System Standards* published by the Division for Library Services
- *Wisconsin Public Library Standards* : 1st edition in 1987
- 9 chapters plus appendices, 76 pages
- Focus on "library role descriptions"
- Further editions in 1994, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2018

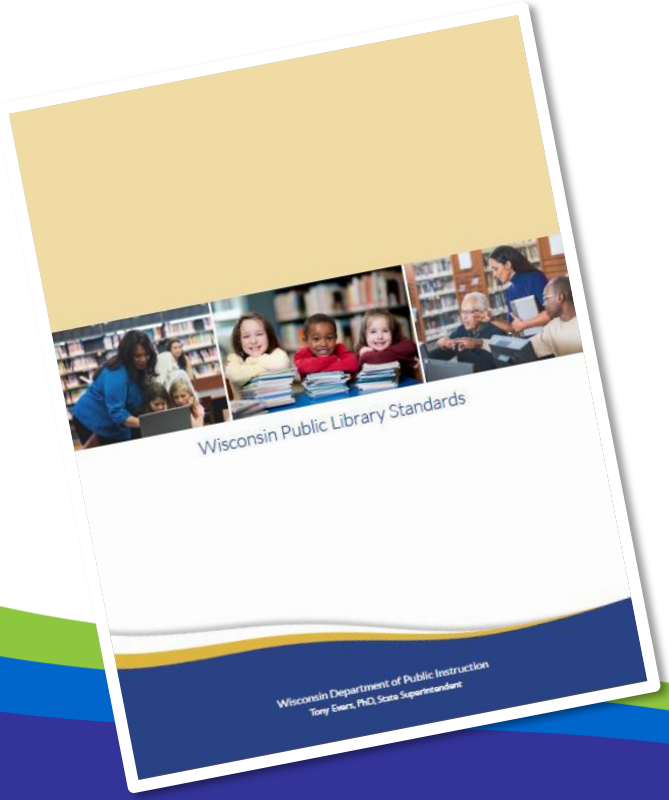
WI Public Library Standards, 1st Edition



- **Percentile Measures for Library Services:**
  40th through 90th
- **7 population bands:**
  Less than 2000 through ***50,000 and over***
- **Quantitative data for:**

Volumes held	Audio recordings held
Volumes added per year	Audio recordings / 1,000 pop.
Volumes held per capita	Video recordings held
Periodical titles received	Turnover rate (circ / items held)
Periodical titles / 1,000 pop.	Circulation per capita
Hours open	Staff (FTE per 1,000 pop.)

WI Public Library Standards, 6th ed., 2018



- **Aligned with Chapter 43**
- **Committee-focused development**
  - Steering group;
  - Governance and administration;
  - Collections, resources, and services;
  - Access, facilities, and technology
- **Very little on youth services or inclusive services**
- **Introduction of "Tier" structure for both qualitative and quantitative standards**
- **Advisory/voluntary only –** How does DPI use them?

dpi.wi.gov/libraries/public-libraries/planning-evaluation

2018 Standards vs. 2023 AR Data

Total Hours/week - central location

Less than 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 2,999	3,000 to 4,999	5,000 to 6,499	6500 to 8,999	9,000 to 12,999	13,000 to 18,999	19,000 to 34,999	35,000 to 69,999	70,000 to 99,999	100,000 and over
4.0%	-3.3%	3.8%	2.5%	-3.3%	-3.8%	-6.0%	-3.9%	-5.0%	-3.2%	-7.9%	-11.5%
-3.4%	-8.6%	7.5%	-2.2%	-6.0%	-5.6%	-8.6%	-1.5%	-4.8%	-3.3%	-4.8%	-13.1%
-8.3%	1.0%	3.0%	-3.6%	-9.4%	-2.7%	-7.9%	-4.4%	-4.6%	-4.1%	-4.9%	-3.8%

Print volumes held per capita, extended population

Less than 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 2,999	3,000 to 4,999	5,000 to 6,499	6500 to 8,999	9,000 to 12,999	13,000 to 18,999	19,000 to 34,999	35,000 to 69,999	70,000 to 99,999	100,000 and over
15.5%	-9.2%	-3.1%	-25.9%	-18.8%	-13.3%	-15.7%	10.4%	0.4%	-1.7%	-9.3%	-27.6%
9.0%	-17.3%	-11.0%	-21.1%	-9.3%	-0.9%	-11.7%	17.9%	11.9%	-0.2%	-14.8%	-12.5%
42.9%	-2.5%	-14.0%	-22.3%	-30.9%	-6.7%	-8.6%	22.8%	10.9%	2.1%	-7.0%	0.9%

Audio per capita, extended population

Less than 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 2,999	3,000 to 4,999	5,000 to 6,499	6500 to 8,999	9,000 to 12,999	13,000 to 18,999	19,000 to 34,999	35,000 to 69,999	70,000 to 99,999	100,000 and over
-57.6%	-33.2%	-7.6%	-35.6%	-32.1%	-15.6%	-25.2%	11.0%	-14.3%	11.5%	1.1%	-13.8%
-59.9%	-46.5%	-24.1%	-27.0%	-28.1%	-23.8%	-32.4%	0.3%	-14.0%	-15.3%	-21.1%	-30.4%
-19.3%	-26.1%	-15.0%	-22.7%	-24.1%	-7.5%	-34.7%	9.2%	-12.1%	3.5%	13.4%	-24.7%

Video per capita, extended population

Less than 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 2,999	3,000 to 4,999	5,000 to 6,499	6500 to 8,999	9,000 to 12,999	13,000 to 18,999	19,000 to 34,999	35,000 to 69,999	70,000 to 99,999	100,000 and over
52.6%	22.2%	18.1%	-6.4%	-6.2%	-0.5%	-7.3%	42.4%	-1.0%	16.2%	-10.8%	4.5%
0.4%	16.6%	25.7%	23.7%	35.8%	19.9%	4.1%	52.6%	10.6%	-4.0%	-20.5%	-17.8%
67.6%	11.4%	-4.0%	11.1%	-1.9%	23.6%	-0.9%	10.8%	12.7%	-5.3%	10.8%	-13.9%

Periodical subscriptions per 1,000 extended population

Less than 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 2,999	3,000 to 4,999	5,000 to 6,499	6500 to 8,999	9,000 to 12,999	13,000 to 18,999	19,000 to 34,999	35,000 to 69,999	70,000 to 99,999	100,000 and over
-43.6%	-69.2%	-49.9%	-58.2%	-48.3%	-48.4%	-50.0%	-32.9%	-45.7%	-45.0%	-52.0%	-53.7%
-36.0%	-54.3%	-35.7%	-52.1%	-37.7%	-38.9%	-38.8%	-32.7%	-43.7%	-47.1%	-55.5%	-29.2%
4.2%	-34.3%	-34.3%	-39.2%	-31.3%	-30.6%	-25.4%	-26.1%	-43.0%	-41.3%	-33.8%	-15.1%

Collection size per capita (print, audio, and video), extended population

Less than 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 2,999	3,000 to 4,999	5,000 to 6,499	6500 to 8,999	9,000 to 12,999	13,000 to 18,999	19,000 to 34,999	35,000 to 69,999	70,000 to 99,999	100,000 and over
-4.2%	-12.4%	2.3%	-16.0%	-10.6%	-4.4%	-15.4%	-10.0%	-17.8%	-11.8%	-20.6%	-20.9%
-29.3%	-21.2%	-13.6%	-12.5%	-0.6%	12.7%	-11.6%	8.4%	-14.8%	-10.0%	-19.6%	-13.0%
22.3%	-8.7%	-11.0%	-17.0%	-23.1%	-4.0%	-13.5%	4.5%	-2.6%	-10.0%	-14.9%	1.6%

Computers per 1,000 extended population

Less than 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 2,999	3,000 to 4,999	5,000 to 6,499	6500 to 8,999	9,000 to 12,999	13,000 to 18,999	19,000 to 34,999	35,000 to 69,999	70,000 to 99,999	100,000 and over
-22.7%	-23.0%	-19.0%	-10.2%	-41.6%	-13.2%	-27.8%	-22.8%	-34.2%	-26.8%	-40.1%	-30.8%
-10.1%	-36.1%	-13.9%	-17.5%	-35.5%	-18.1%	-32.8%	-19.0%	-22.3%	-15.2%	-36.1%	-16.1%
-18.2%	-30.7%	-1.7%	-16.4%	-25.9%	-17.9%	-20.9%	29.9%	-0.9%	-12.4%	-35.3%	4.9%

FTE Staff per 1,000 extended population

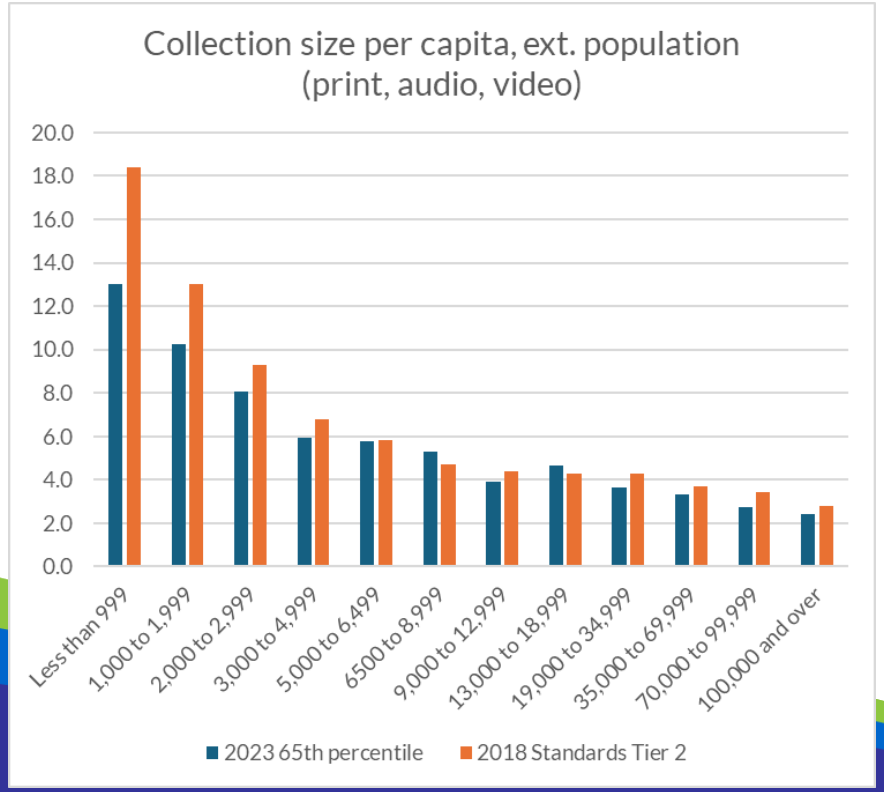
Less than 999	1,000 to 1,999	2,000 to 2,999	3,000 to 4,999	5,000 to 6,499	6500 to 8,999	9,000 to 12,999	13,000 to 18,999	19,000 to 34,999	35,000 to 69,999	70,000 to 99,999	100,000 and over
1.0%	-12.3%	11.2%	-7.5%	1.4%	-21.3%	-13.0%	4.5%	-5.6%	4.1%	21.2%	2.1%
17.3%	-18.5%	3.4%	-4.2%	6.1%	1.3%	7.3%	20.6%	19.0%	-1.6%	5.4%	-2.4%
26.9%	-29.7%	-10.9%	-19.1%	-27.2%	8.1%	-11.6%	4.8%	4.5%	3.2%	-6.6%	-12.6%

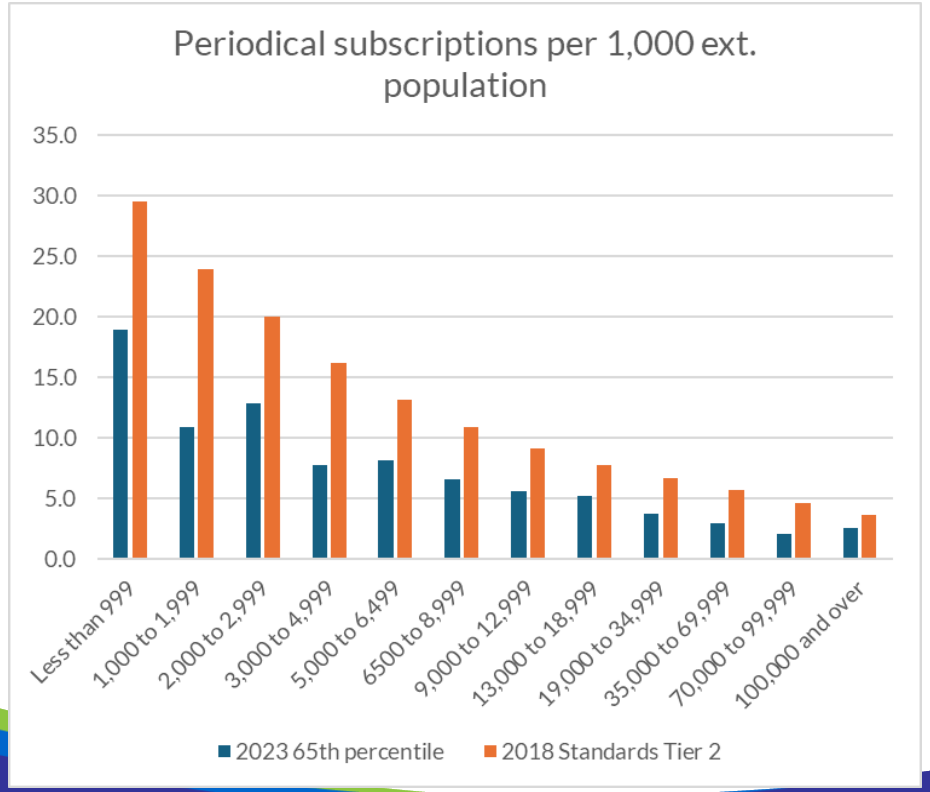
% Change in Tier data from 6th edition standards to 2023 Annual Report Data

Green = increase since 2018, Red = decrease

Tier 1: 40th percentile; **Tier 2:** 60th percentile; **Tier 3:** 90th percentile

2018 Standards vs. 2023 AR Data





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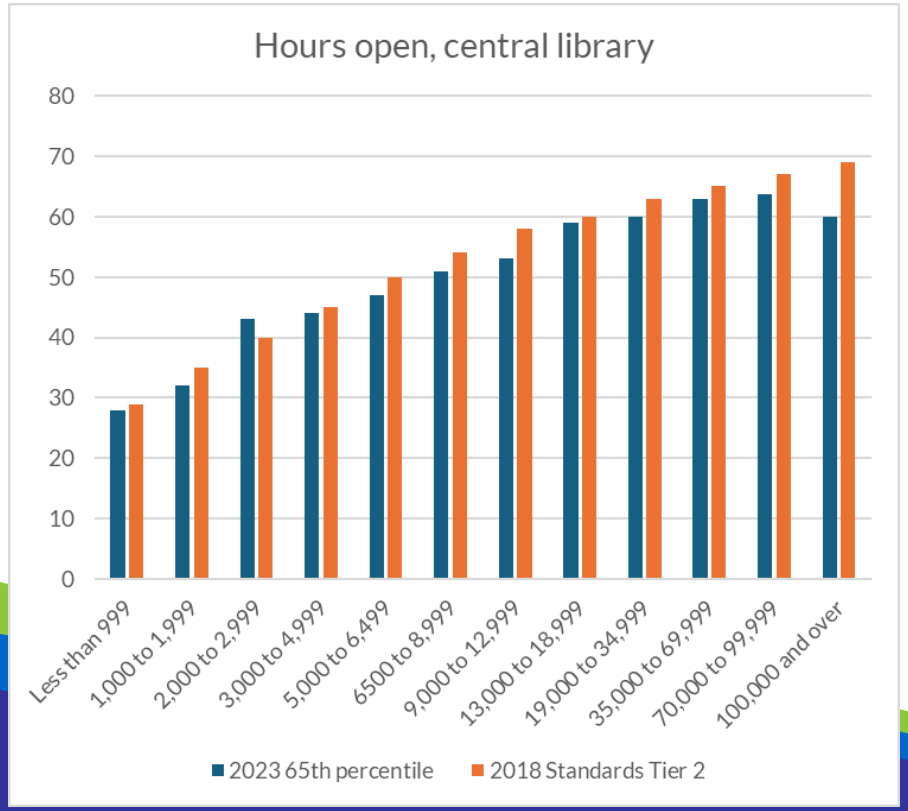

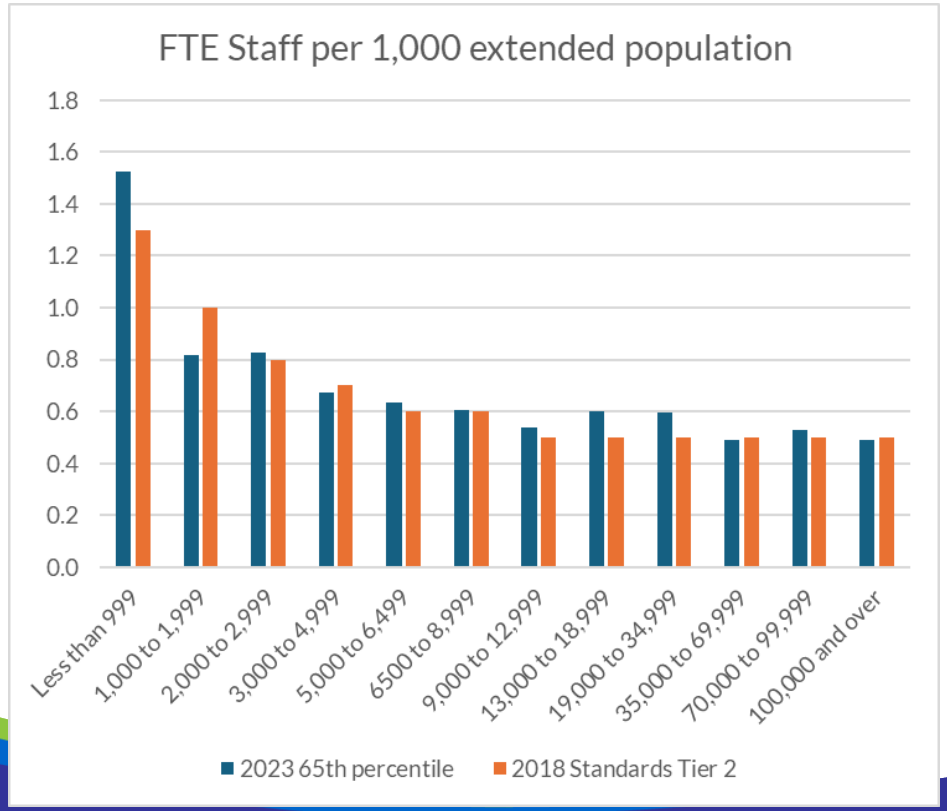

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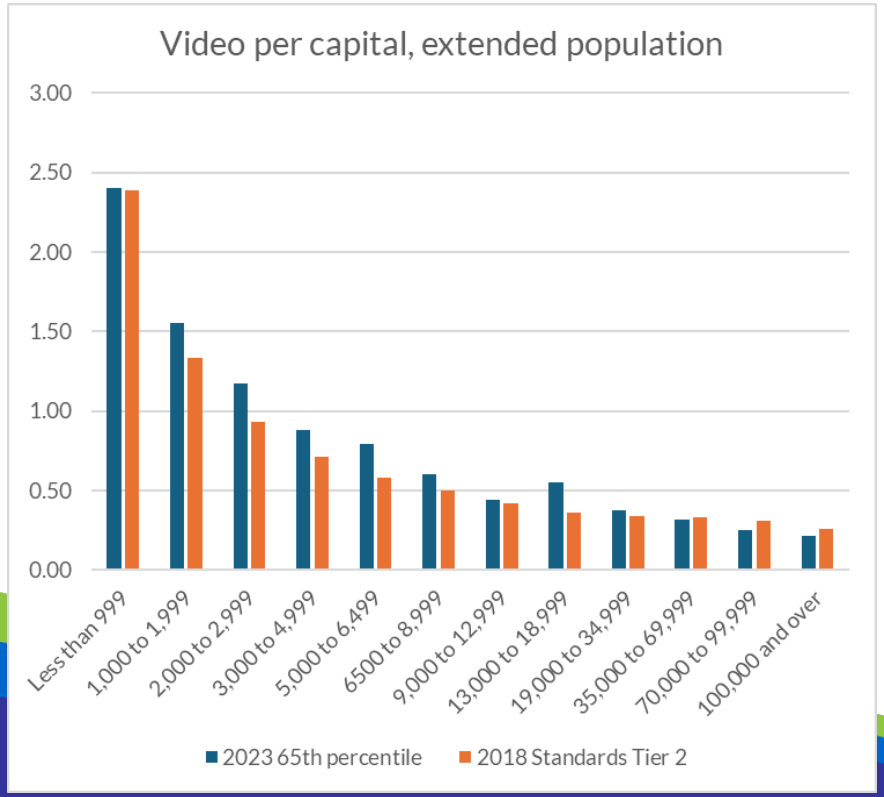
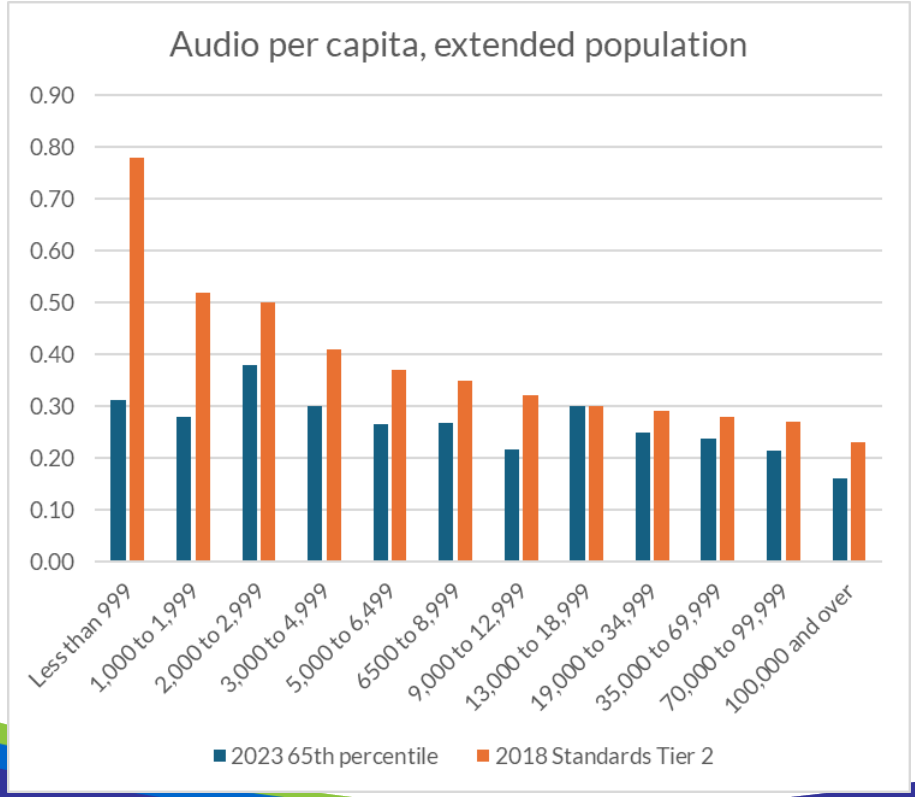




Wisconsin History of Youth Guidelines

- Public Library Services for Youth with Special Needs: A Plan for Wisconsin (1999)
- Wisconsin Public Library Youth Services Guidelines (2012)

What's Missing from the Guidelines?

- Access
- Intellectual Freedom
- Materials Challenges
- Community Voices
- Post-Covid World
- Storytime Guidelines
- Staff Competencies
- The Power of Play

- Early Childhood Development
  - Ages and Stages
- Five Early Literacy Practices
  - Talk, Sing, Read, Play, Write

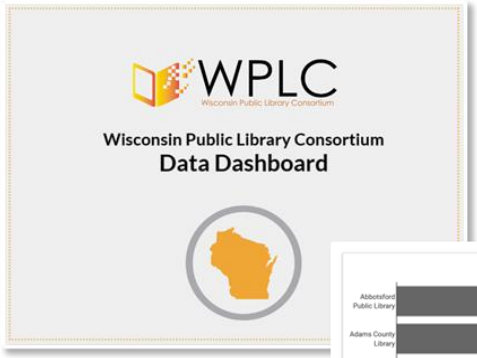
National Examples

- Colorado Public Library Standards
- North Carolina Public Library Standards
- Promising Practices for Youth Services in Pennsylvania Public Libraries
- South Carolina Youth Services Guidelines (2014)
- ALSC Competencies for Librarians Serving Children
- YALSA Core Professional Values for Teen Services

Data gaps in Wisconsin Standards

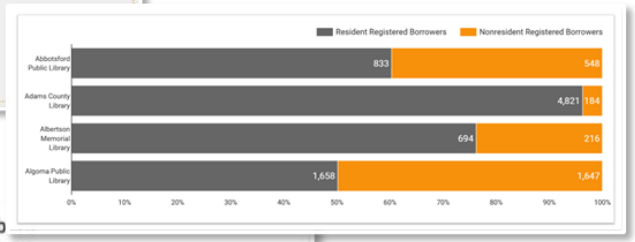
- **What data do we collect that we do *not* include in the quantitative Standards?**
  - Items in 1987 quantitative standards but not 6th ed. include: Volumes added per year, circulation per capita, turnover rate (circulation/items held)
  - Programs and attendance data
- **What data do we not even collect?**
  - Youth services FTE, number of YS staff classified as "Librarians," and MLIS Librarians serving youth.
  - Ditto for inclusive services and adult services.

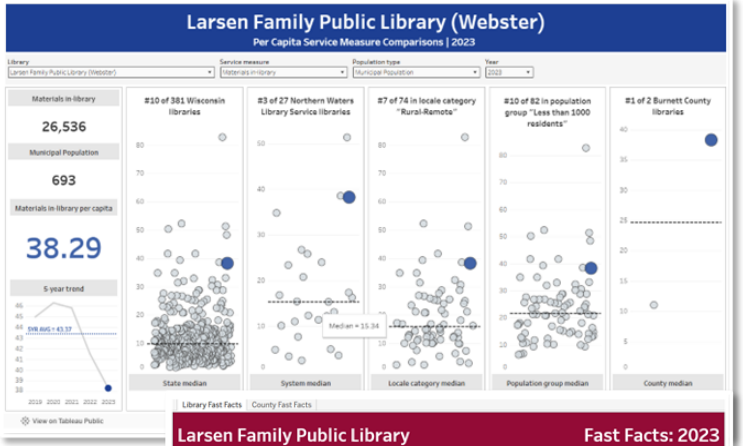
Other Evaluation Tools

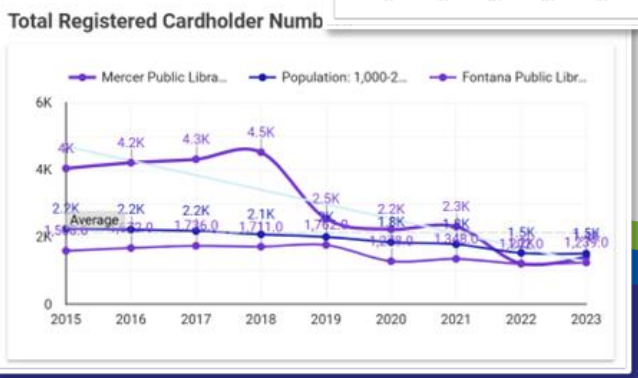


WPLC Data Dashboard

wplc.info/dashboard

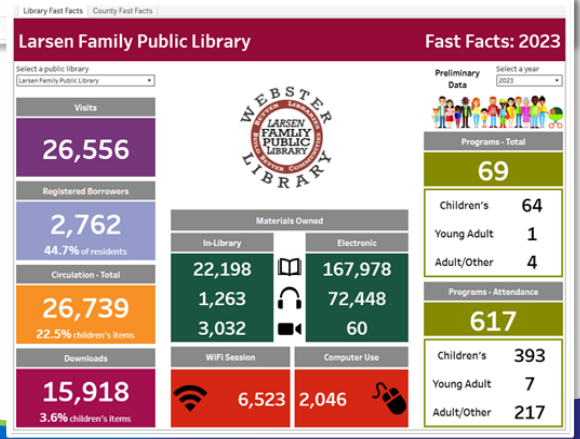






SCLS Data Dashboard

www.scls.info/data-statistics



Tell Us What You Think

- **Question 1:** Have you used Wisconsin Public Library Standards for your library's planning? How are you using the standards? If you aren't using them, why not?

- **Question 2:** What should be added, removed, revised, or completely re-thought in the current standards to make them more useful?

What's Next?

Questions

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