



September 25, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

The Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND) is a 19-member council, appointed by the Governor, with the statutory responsibility of making recommendations to the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Legislature regarding library and information services for Wisconsin residents. COLAND'S key responsibilities are:

- promoting free access to knowledge, information, and diversity of ideas by all Wisconsin residents;
- facilitating the most effective use of library resources through interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries;
- promoting cooperation and resource sharing among public libraries, school libraries, other types of libraries, and related agencies; and
- planning, coordinating, evaluating, and setting statewide priorities for the development of networks to enable library cooperation and resource sharing within Wisconsin.

With the encouragement of Superintendent Tony Evers, COLAND has appointed a work group to develop a strategic vision for library systems in the 21st century and recommend actions that will move Wisconsin toward the desired future state. To that end, COLAND has adopted the following guiding principles and is seeking feedback from the Wisconsin library community regarding the future design of library system services:

1. Transformation is key to success in the 21st century. Transformation involves disruptive change. Transformation involves letting go of the status quo to meet the evolving information, learning and technology needs of Wisconsin residents.
2. The status quo of 17 library systems requires significant overhead costs to maintain. Reducing the number of library systems will free up overhead dollars that can be reinvested into resources and services.
3. Consolidation must be accompanied by service redesign through increasing the use of technology, reducing duplication, utilizing Lean production principles to streamline operations, and increasing the sharing of services among library systems.
4. Reducing the number of library systems and redesigning services will change the role of resource libraries. This is an opportunity to rethink the concept of resource libraries.
5. Libraries are transforming to an active learning environment and changing from a place for individuals to a collaborative space, and a shift to outreach —beyond the library walls. How can library systems provide resources and services to assist libraries with this transformation
6. Focus on the next big thing - create a bold vision for the future, delivering new services in new ways.

Please go to the following link to provide your ideas,

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Pzeh1eL7Pp49wu-T-wMJJh_CiQY2-sqXC0HPRDBQ6LE/viewform or this shortened [bit.ly](http://bit.ly/1tXBxLI) link: <http://bit.ly/1tXBxLI>

To have the most impact, fill out the feedback form by October 5. Another opportunity to provide feedback to COLAND will be at the Wisconsin Library Association conference at 7:30 a.m., Thursday, November 6. COLAND will be formalizing its recommendations at the November 14 meeting.

Sincerely,

Nita Burke, COLAND Chair