Wisconsin 2012 LSTA Grant Abstracts

Abstracts for the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) projects approved for funding in Wisconsin in 2012 are available below. These abstracts were included as part of the online grant applications submitted by grant applicants in September 2011. The abstracts are arranged in order by grant number within the LSTA grant categories.

Contents

A. Technology

Statewide Technology

Northern Waters Library Service   12-111
NWLS Delivery Service $15,000

The growth of resource sharing as a result of increased access to resources is phenomenal in the NWLS area. The number of interlibrary loan items loaned by NWLS libraries increased 5% from 2009 to 2010 (the last year we have complete statistics). Interlibrary loan items received by NWLS member libraries have increased 6% for the same period. The delivery service is the lifeblood of NWLS area resource sharing. Small rural libraries have never had the potential to serve their customers as well as they do now with the improved access to materials and efficient and regular delivery of materials. With messages for cooperation and consolidation serving as buzz words in the state budget news, the resource sharing provided by rural libraries is timely and effective. Statistics from Wisconsin Quickfacts from the U.S. Census Bureau (http://quickfacts.census.gov) show that the median income for a family in Wisconsin is $49,994. For the NWLS area families, the median income is much lower, $34,434. Therefore it takes a greater percentage of our region's resources to compete with libraries in more affluent areas of the state. Another challenge to efficient and cost effective delivery service is the size and scarcity of the NWLS region, 8,363 square miles (as large as Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware combined), with a population of 150,601. Twenty three of our twenty eight libraries are located in communities with a population of fewer than 2,000. The demographic reality is that persons living in rural areas have fewer resources and therefore may receive the most benefit from effective and efficient library services.

South Central Library System   12-113
Delivery Services $75,000

South Central Library System (SCLS) provides the intersystem connection of the statewide delivery service. SCLS will use the grant funds to underwrite the vehicle maintenance and fuel costs related to the statewide delivery service for public library systems.

Library System Technology

Arrowhead library System   12-121
Arrowhead Libraries Offer Beginning and Advanced Computer Training $9,600

The Arrowhead Library System will provide computer classes for the public and library staff at each of the seven libraries in the Arrowhead Library System. Libraries in Beloit, Clinton, Edgerton, Evansville, Janesville, Milton and Orfordville are participating in the computer training. It is anticipated that approximately 2,000 people will be trained at the computer classes during 2012, including 95 classes offered through funding by LSTA funds and 200 offered by the Arrowhead Library System funding.

Eastern Shores Library System   12-123
Wide Area Network Access for ESLS 2012 $11,300

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 20MB of transport to WiscNet, and 25MB 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 libraries' TEACH line to the BadgerNet WAN.

Indianhead Federated Library System   12-125
IFLS System Technology Projects $34,100

The IFLS system Technology Projects funds will be used to purchase replacement laptops for a training lab, WPLC membership, and the Text-a-librarian subscription. It will also be used to supplement the IFLS budget for online databases.

All 53 of our member libraries will benefit from each of these projects.

Kenosha Public Library   12-127
2012 KCLS Systemwide Resources and Services $8,900

Library systems in Wisconsin are annually given non-competitive grant money in the LSTA Library System Technology Project Grant category. In 2012 the grant for the Kenosha County Library System is again for $8,900. Lin Swartz-Truesdell, Assistant Library Director will apply for this grant which will purchase systemwide services and resources. These resources include membership to Wisconsin Public Library Consortium to purchase NetLibrary ebooks, and OverDrive products available from the Statewide WPLC website; Syndetics cover artwork for the Kenosha Katalog; and training costs for the upgrade of the KPL Library System product (V-smart/webopac). Some of these products have been purchased by this grant category for several years.

Lakeshores Library System   12-129
2012 Lakeshores Library System Technology Projects $14,500

Funds from the 2012 LSTA Public Library System Technology Project grant will be used to contract with a company to clean up our bibliographic records, purchase network equipment to improve library networks, purchase eBook reader devices to test state ebook collection, and purchase digital recording equipment for library continuing education events. Funds will also be used to purchase equipment for developing a low cost self check system which could lower initial costs substantially for libraries.

Manitowoc-Calumet Library System   12-131
Public Library System Technology Projects $8,500

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 pay for our portion of the cost for the three T1 lines at the central site.

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 help pay for MCLS's T1 line and a portion of its share of three T1 lines that serve the network's central site. Under a contract with the Eastern Shores system, MCLS will use local funds to pay for most of the central site costs, administration, technical support, and a portion of the MCLS share of WiscNet email and Internet service. These costs will absorb the remainder of the $8,500 that is allocated to MCLS in this noncompetitive grant.

The wide area network supported in part by this grant provides the telecommunications backbone for the shared automation systems in both Manitowoc-Calumet and Eastern Shores. Within MCLS, all six member libraries currently participate in a shared Sirsi Dynix system through the Manitowoc-Calumet Libraries Automated Resource Sharing Consortium (LARS). All of the libraries' 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 require compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act filtering requirements for participating 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. MCLS will be able to invest in continuing cooperative collaboration with ESLS in 2012. 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 will continue to have ready and reliable telecommunications to support resource sharing, communications, Internet access, and other activities.

Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System   12-133
MWFLS Technology Projects, 2012 $17,500

1. Providing adequate bandwidth for the MWFLS WAN: $3000 will be used to purchase ITp or WAN bandwidth for the MWFLS WAN. It will not be used to purchase Internet service. In order to insure preparedness for the DOA/TEACH bandwidth increases, $8295 will be budgeted for head-end infrastructure improvements.

2. WPLC Membership: $6,205 will be used for MWFLS's WPLC Membership in order to be able to participate in the WPLC Overdrive subscription.

Milwaukee County Federated Library System   12-135
MCFLS System Technology Projects - 2012 $36,500

MCFLS plans to utilize the 2012 Library System Technology Project funds toward the following:

1) Syndetics OPAC Enhancements - enhances the online catalog (CountyCat) by adding cover images, table of contents, chapter excerpts, series info, awards, and reviews.

2) LibraryThing for Libraries - enhances the online catalog (CountyCat) by adding book recommendations, tag-based discovery, other editions or translations, and reader reviews.

Nicolet Federated Library System   12-137
Online Database Support $28,600

NFLS in cooperation with the Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) purchases subscriptions to a variety of databases including the Gale Biography and Literature Resource Centers, and Opposing Viewpoints database among others to supplement the state-supplied BadgerLink databases. This project will provide part of the financial support for the NFLS portion of the database costs. OWLS is the contracting agency, and NFLS provides funding to OWLS for the NFLS portion of all database costs. Access to the databases is available to all users of the OWLSnet Innovative Interfaces integrated library system (InfoSoup.org), as well as to all users of the Brown County Library's Sirsi-Dynix integrated library system. Access to the databases is made available to all the libraries in both systems, as well as to users who log in to either the Brown County Library or OWLSnet websites from home or anywhere, using their library card barcode number.

Northern Waters Library Service   12-139
NWLS Technology and Database Project $24,100

Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) is maintaining a high level of information technology, thanks to the support of this LSTA grant category. Without this support, NWLS would not be able to provide this level of service to our member libraries. NWLS covers a large and sparsely populated region of Wisconsin, 8,363 square miles (as large as Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Delaware combined) with a population of 150,601. Twenty-three of our twenty-eight member libraries are located in communities with a population of fewer than 2,000. Along with the large area and low population, the NWLS region is an economically disadvantaged area of the state. Of the 20,401 students in the NWLS area, 10,401 or 49% receive free or reduced school lunches. The erate school lunch data show the following discounts: Lac du Flambeau and Bayfield: 90%; Ashland, Drummond, Hayward, Hurley, Phelps, Shell Lake, Solon Springs, Mellen, Webster, Winter: 80%; Spooner, Washburn, Maple, Boulder Junction 70%; Superior, Grantsburg and Northland Pines: 60%. The accompanying social, educational and community needs resulting from this level of poverty must be served by agencies such as strong public libraries. These LSTA funds provide much needed support to keep these communities networked to the bigger world of information. The NWLS Technology and Database Project funds will be used to purchase subscriptions to shared online databases chosen by NWLS staff with input from member library staff. This LSTA project will fund: (1) Ancestry Library Edition, an extensive library genealogy research tool. (2) WorldCat, a worldwide catalog of library collections that include more than 67 million bibliographic records with items in many different formats. (3) Membership in the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC). Membership in WPLC provides access to downloadable audiobooks, ebooks and other media. (4) Enhancements to Merlin, the NWLS shared online catalog. (5) Training for NWLS IT staff. The high level of training required by IT staff is expensive and often a distance from the NWLS area.

Outagamie Waupaca Library System   **12-141**
Support for Digital Audio Content   **$13,800**

InfoSoup users currently have access to downloadable digital media in the statewide WPLC Overdrive collection. According to the latest statistics, it's estimated that InfoSoup patrons will download approximately 15,000 audiobooks this year. Unfortunately, the use of downloadable audio materials is constrained by their limited availability.

The limited availability of downloadable audiobooks is illustrated by the lengthy holds lists for Overdrive materials. In addition, OWLS staff has received complaints from the general public about the lack of digital audiobooks, especially iPod compatible digital audiobooks, when they've held Overdrive training programs at member libraries. WPLC's Overdrive audio collection contains approximately 7700 titles, and only about 18% of these are iPod compatible. InfoSoup users currently have 1,151 holds placed on 613 Overdrive audio titles, with 345 of those holds on 159 iPod compatible titles. Clearly, the Overdrive audio collection is not meeting the needs of InfoSoup patrons.

This project will address the lack of available digital audiobooks by helping to finance a subscription to Recorded Books One-Click Audio service. This service provides access to a growing collection of over 2000 titles, most iPod compatible, that are always available to patrons; i.e., placing holds is never necessary.

This new collection of digital audiobooks will be promoted on the Audiobooks page in InfoSoup, on member library websites, and by creating a brochure for distribution at member libraries. The objective for 2012 is to achieve a minimum of 10,000 patron downloads from this service. A user satisfaction survey will be posted on InfoSoup in August. The results of the survey and the amount of use will determine if the subscription will be continued in future years. The total cost of this project is anticipated to be approximately $20,000.

South Central Library System   **12-143**
2012 System Technology Projects   **$42,100**

The 2012 System Technology Block grant will be used to purchase the following:

- $25,000 will be used to create an online statistical reports interface to the SCLS online catalog using Crystal Reports software.

- $3,000 will be used to explore different technological methods for accessing the SCLS Koha online catalog from various mobile devices.

- $5,000 will be used to purchase the PTFS Digital Library System interface, connecting the SCLS Koha online catalog data to the ArchivalWare database of local digital collections.

- $9,000 will be used to purchase Deep Freeze software licenses needed to secure Patron PCs on the SCLS network after the Windows 7 migration.

Southwest Wisconsin Library System   **12-145**
2012 SWLS Technology Projects   **$14,100**

The Southwest Wisconsin Library System (SWLS) serves five counties in the southwest corner of Wisconsin. We serve 28 small, rural public libraries.

SWLS will use its 2012 System Technology grant for the following projects:

- Join the statewide buying pool for digital media

- Continue its subscription to the LearningExpress Library's computer skills module

- Continue its subscription to Mango Languages

Waukesha County Federated Library System   **12-147**
2012 Technology Projects   **$17,400**

This project will allow the Waukesha County Federated Library System to fund two online databases for the residents of Waukesha County. Mango Languages will allow all county residents to have access to 37 foreign language courses and non-English speakers access to courses from 15 languages. Opposing Viewpoints will allow students to have access to materials for homework assignments that need research on both sides of issues.

Winding Rivers Library System   **12-149**
Demonstrating Online Databases III   **$22,600**

While BadgerLink has done a great job of providing subscription data services to all libraries and citizens in Wisconsin, it is not a comprehensive offering. The Demonstrating Online Databases project was designed to: 1) inform library staff and boards of the benefits of subscription database services, 2) instruct staff on how to promote and utilize specified databases, and 3) encourage library boards to begin planning for funding regionally acquired databases to enhance the offerings already available via BadgerLink. For 2012, WRLS will continue this emphasis in Demonstrating Online Databases III.

It has been shown that the majority of the libraries in WRLS become enthusiastic for new technology services once they have the opportunity to utilize and assess them. At the same time, however, a push from the library system is often needed to provide that initial opportunity. While the BadgerLink databases have been available for many years, the libraries in the region have not independently pursued adding databases on the local level. WRLS concluded in 2009 that is time to introduce the libraries to the value of additional databases. In 2010, WRLS acquired Ancestry.com for all of the libraries in the seven county region. We continued that subscription for 2011 and will also continue the project in 2012. The expectation is that WRLS will maintain this subscription for three to four years, working in the mean time to encourage member libraries to develop budget categories to take over the Ancestry subscription and add other resources that would be useful throughout the region. The intention is that these resources will continue to be acquired on a regional basis, but that local funding will be used to support the endeavor rather than LSTA funds. Over the longer term, LSTA funds will be freed up for additional demonstration projects and the available resources for our area will be strengthened in a methodical and manageable way.

Winnefox Library System   **12-151**
Winnefox Technology Project   **$19,100**

The grant funds will be used to help pay for several features on our WALS automated catalog/circulation system that will benefit our member libraries and their users.

For several years, we have purchased additional content for our OPAC records: Contents notes, reviews, excerpts, and cover art from Syndetic Solutions. The added content for the catalog has been well received by both library staff and patrons and has enhanced the usefulness of the OPAC.

We will continue to maintain a Z39.50 interface to allow other libraries ILL access to our catalog.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service   **12-153**
Security, Efficiency, and New Technology   **$27,200**

During 2012, WVLS intends to use the LSTA Technology Grant to support three projects: Network Security and Management Improvement, Virtual Desktop Infrastructure Deployment, and Patron Accessible eReader Impact Assessment.

Digitization – Local Resources

Lakeshores Library System   12-155
Digitizing plat books & atlases of Racine, Walworth & Kenosha Counties $4,200

This project will be undertaken by a group of staffers from Racine Public Library and Lake Geneva Public Library, with administrative support from Lakeshores Library System. These individuals will work with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center to digitize a series of "plat" books & other cartographic materials (atlases). These materials depict Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, and were collectively produced during a timeframe spanning 1866 to 1966. This project will build upon the successes of two prior LSTA grant-funded digitization projects completed by the Waterford Public Library (digitization of 1887, 1908 Racine Co. plat books) and the Lake Geneva Public Library (digitization of 1873 Walworth Co. plat atlas). The ultimate goal is to digitize the plat map & plat atlas holdings of Racine Public Library and Lake Geneva Public library, which together constitute the most complete collection of plat books & atlases across the entire Lakeshores Library System.

Mount Horeb Public Library   12-157
Mount Horeb Local History $4,992

The Mount Horeb Public Library (MHPL) proposes to partner with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center (UWDCC) to digitize rare and unique local historical items including photographs, genealogies, memoirs, church histories, and town/village plans. MHPL has identified a need for these items to be digitized and maintained online due to community response to library-sponsored genealogy workshops, a highly active historical society, and the number of requests we get from out-of-state researchers looking for local historical information.

MHPL will select items to be digitized and carefully record all necessary metadata before handing items off to UWDCC for digitization. MHPL will work closely with UWDCC in order to ensure all deadlines are met in a timely manner. MHPL will work with an in-house graphic designer to create pleasing displays, posters, and post card invitations to promote the new website. A coffee reception will be held in honor of the finished online site in which Jessica will give library customers a tour of the website and demonstrate how to search, find, and print items.

The success of the project will be evaluated based on the number of guests who attend the reception and the feedback we get from them. The project can also be evaluated based on UWDCC web statistics, which will illustrate how many visitors (i.e., clicks) use the website. MHPL will continue to get feedback from out-of-state researchers when librarians are able to refer them to our online materials when they call asking for help researching local information. The value of this project will be long-lasting and is a very worthwhile endeavor.

South Central Library System   12-161
Digitization of SCLS member library history titles $4,884

The South Central Library System (SCLS), in partnership with 12 member public libraries and the University of Wisconsin Digital Collection Center, will digitize 19 titles of historical interest. The titles will complement local history materials already digitized through previous LSTA grants and other funding sources. SCLS is requesting $4884 in LSTA funds to digitize 3,907 pages of material.

Digital Content Buying Pool

In May 2011 the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) sponsored a state-wide E-book Summit. A major recommendation from the Summit was the need to establish a statewide digital content buying pool. In a follow-up action, a committee from the Summit and the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) set a target goal of allocating $1 million for e-books and audio book purchases. That goal has since been met. Starting in 2012, DLTCL is committing $300,000 in grant funds for e-books with $700,000 being committed by the state's 17 public library systems and their member libraries. Each library system amount is based on a formula of current OverDrive e-book use and system population. Persons with compatible electronic devices anywhere in the state can now access nearly 5,000 titles from any of Wisconsin's 385 public libraries. This collection will grow considerably as new titles are added throughout the coming year.

Arrowhead Library System	12-165
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$9,392
Eastern Shores Library System	12-167
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$9,426
Indianhead Federated Library System	12-169
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$26,164
Kenosha County Library System	12-171
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$8,267
Lakeshores Library System	12-173
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$12,567
Manitowoc-Calumet Library System	12-175
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$5,188
Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System	12-177
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$13,501
Milwaukee County Federated Library System	12-179
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$40,910
Nicolet Federated Library System	12-181
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$20,974
Northern Waters Library Service	12-183
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$8,741
Outagamie Waupaca Library System	12-185
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant	$13,069

South Central Library System   12-187
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant $51,215

Southwest Wisconsin Library System   12-189
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant $7,215

Waukesha County Federated Library System   12-191
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant $24,659

Winding Rivers Library System   12-193
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant $14,818

Winnefox Library System   12-195
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant $17,860

Wisconsin Valley Library Service   12-197
Digital Content Buying Pool Grant $16,035

B. Special Needs

Accessibility

Indianhead Federated Library System   12-201
Connecting Libraries and Autism $19,476

The Indianhead Federated Library System will be working with 20 libraries in 7 counties to make libraries more accessible to young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), thereby also making them more accessible to their families. Our partners have told us that families are often hesitant to come to the library because they are afraid of behavior problems and lack of understanding at the library, the library environment is too stimulating, and it is impossible for their children to participate in regular programming. In order to address this, participating libraries will receive training, equipment, and materials to make the library more welcoming and accessible to families with young children on the spectrum.

Participating librarians will learn about autism, and how to adapt programming to make it more accessible for children on the autism spectrum. They will work with partners to publicize these programs. Libraries will receive materials and training to help them provide programming to better address the needs of children with ASD, and then will provide at least 6 programs each.

Three librarians, along with the Project Coordinator, will attend a statewide autism conference to learn more about the issues and help them make connections with families and providers. These librarians will work together to provide a webinar or series of webinars about the conference for other librarians—these webinars will be available and promoted statewide.

 Librarians will also work with partners to determine the best items to make the library environment more accommodating to children on the spectrum. Because there is such a variety of issues with autism and because every library has a different situation, each library will have a range of choices (from furniture to light filters to signage and maybe more). In addition, each library will receive a choice of some materials about ASD to make their collections a more useful resource to families affected by autism.

With this grant, we will set the foundation for improved service to people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and we will plan to build upon that foundation in years to come.

Participating libraries include:

- Altoona Public Library (Regina Arndt)
- Amery Public Library (Elaine Meyer)
- Augusta Public Library (Jane Walsh)
- Baldwin Public Library (Bonnie Clausen)
- Balsam Lake Public Library (Deanine Hupe and Tricia Olson)
- Chippewa Falls Public Library (Colleen Crowley)
- Eau Claire—L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library (Shelly Collins Fuerbringer)
- Ellsworth Public Library (Julie Belz)
- Elmwood Public Library (Jayne Gaerets)

- Fall Creek Public Library (Jenna Gilles)
- Hudson Area Joint Library (Mary Davis)
- New Richmond Public Library (Georgia Jones)
- Park Falls Public Library (Matthew White)
- Pepin Public Library (Christy Rundquist)
- Phillips Public Library (Jo Hick)
- Plum City Public Library (Jacquie Pooler)
- St. Croix Falls Public Library (Cole Zrostlik)
- Somerset Public Library (Norma Scott)
- Stanley Public Library (Susan Anderson)
- Woodville Public Library (Karen Furo-Bonnstetter)

Eastern Shores Library System   **12-203**
Member Library Accessibility Grant   **$11,068**

Five member libraries in Eastern Shores Library System (ESLS) have expressed a real need for accessibility equipment. Mead Public Library, the resource library for ESLS, is planning to install a new sound system in the Rocca Meeting Room in 2012. To integrate an assistive listening system at this time would be most beneficial. According to the Director, Sharon Winkle, "This is the largest meeting space in the building and even the use of a standard microphone by the speaker(s) will not meet the needs of people with hearing impairment".

Two smaller libraries, Cedar Grove and Elkhart Lake have also expressed a need for assistive listening equipment in their meeting rooms. An induction loop assistive listening system will be installed in each one. The Directors at the libraries have done presentations and older participants have noted their inability to hear them, even when using a microphone. Recognizing that you have a problem hearing and asking for assistance is a huge step for someone. These libraries acknowledge the need for assistive listening equipment for their patrons and want to provide that service.

The Oostburg Public Library needs a desktop magnifier. Too many patrons have struggled with flimsy magnifying sheets or cumbersome magnifying glasses, and they need a permanent, reliable video magnifier/reading machine. The F. L. Weyenberg Public Library of Mequon needs an additional 19-inch monitor for the adult section of the library. Two years ago a 19-inch monitor was installed and the patrons with vision impairment have gravitated to it. They also need a walker with a seat. Elderly patrons with mobility issues have voiced a need for this type of equipment at this facility.

Finally, the library system would like to provide a workshop on disability awareness for the library system members. The workshop would cover hearing loss and what the libraries can do to serve this growing population.

Northern Waters Library Service   **12-205**
Improving Accessibility in NWLS Libraries   **$18,662**

Hearing loss is a major public health issue that is the third most common physical condition after arthritis and heart disease. Hearing loss affects approximately 17 percent or 36 million adults in the United States. By the age of 65, one out of three people has a hearing loss. Hearing loss not only affects the elderly, about 3 of every 1,000 children are hard of hearing or deaf.

The Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) project to improve access for library users with hearing loss has two components. The first component is to provide eighteen member libraries with the opportunity to improve service to patrons with hearing loss by purchasing and installing small area hearing loop systems at their circulation desks.

The second component is training. NWLS plans to assist all member libraries in learning to better serve persons with hearing loss by providing a training workshop. The workshop will be presented by William Holzhaeuser, AuD, ENT Professional Associates, located in Ashland, Wisconsin. The training session will concentrate on the issues surrounding hearing loss and learning ways to better serve persons with hearing loss.

Eighteen NWLS libraries recognize the importance of improving access to library users with hearing loss by agreeing to participate in this project. The libraries in Hayward, Presque Isle, Winter, Phelps, Ashland, Land O Lakes, Webster, Eagle River, Superior, Cable, Shell Lake, Boulder Junction, Lac Courte Oreilles, Mellen, Grantsburg, Sayner, Bad River and Manitowish Waters have signed "Intent to Participate" forms committing to this project.

Outagamie Waupaca Library System   **12-207**
Hearing Loops at OWLS Libraries   **$17,350**

Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent disabilities. As a library's role as a community center increases in importance, so does the need to find better ways to serve patrons with hearing loss at service desks and in meeting rooms. Libraries have traditionally attempted to serve the needs of those with hearing loss through adaptive technologies such as FM receivers; however, these technologies have many disadvantages and often go unused after a large investment. Hearing loops, while not a new technology, are a cost-effective and convenient way to provide hearing assistance to patrons with hearing aids. Where a hearing loop is installed, a patron need only activate their hearing aid's t-coil to have a personal in-the-ear loudspeaker.

The Outagamie Waupaca Library System is applying for a 2012 LSTA Public Library System Accessibility in Public Libraries Grant to install service desk hearing loop systems at eleven (11) member libraries and install meeting room hearing loop systems at two (2) member libraries. The installation and implementation is anticipated to cost $27,508. This grant will fund $17,350 of the cost, and the remaining $10,158 will be covered by local funds. OWLS will create and distribute promotional materials to participating libraries. We will work with Fox Valley Hearing Loop, LLC and Arrow Audio, Inc. to install and promote the availability of hearing loops to the medical and general community.

Winnefox Library System   **12-209**
Wheelchairs and walkers for Winnefox libraries   **$1,000**

This project will place wheelchairs and wheeled walkers in seven Winnefox libraries. Smaller libraries will be offered a choice of either a wheelchair or walker while larger libraries will receive either two wheelchairs, two walkers, or one of each. Smaller libraries will not receive both for space reasons.

Winnefox will create and distribute promotional materials to local media and social service agencies. Libraries will promote these items to local organizations and senior meal sites.

Literacy

Southwest Wisconsin Library System   12-211
Bridging the Gap: Connecting Seniors and Online Resources $21,941

For the past few years, we've seen governmental agencies increase their presence and services on the internet while at the same time closing physical offices and/or reducing service hours. The assumption seems to be (1) that everyone has a computer and Internet access and (2) everyone know how to use a computer and effectively search the Internet.

However, the experience of the public libraries in SWLS tells a much different story. We are learning that there are a significant number of people without any computer skills at all. While this affects all age groups, our libraries have seen the most need coming from seniors.

Studies have shown that only 45% of those who are age 65+ own a computer of any type. Household income and educational level are important factor in computer ownership. Recent data from the 2010 Census shows that Wisconsin is tied as being the "oldest state" and continues to age rapidly. Many seniors in Wisconsin are "aging in place" and those seniors who have lived in the same communities all their lives tend to be less healthy, less affluent and not as well educated. What we find at the state level is also true in southwest Wisconsin.

This grant intends to address this need by providing computer training classes to those seniors living in poverty. Through an initial one-week course and five follow-up sessions, participants in the classes will learn to use a computer and the Internet. The staff of participating libraries and social service agencies will become better acquainted with each other and work together more effectively to assure that no senior in SW Wisconsin is left behind.

South Central Library System   12-213
Early Learning Environments $24,300

Libraries are the cornerstones of strong communities. We strive to be the "third places" in our communities, places which provide opportunities for community members to connect, interact, and learn. Libraries lay foundations for lifelong learning and often are the only places where families from all socio-economic classes and cultures mingle with one another.

The 2012 early literacy grant project, "Early Learning Environments" (ELE) will address the needs public libraries have for creating developmentally appropriate spaces for early learning, particularly for children and families who live in poverty. Through appropriate continuing education workshops, participants will learn methods for creating spaces that encourage early learning, reflection, and social interaction. Participating library staff also will attend Wakanheza: Creating Welcoming Environments workshops , which will present strategies for creating environments that allow patrons to succeed; these workshops empower library staff to serve and connect with patrons of all needs, abilities, and means. Other workshops will introduce participants to program materials and new books that strengthen early reading, math, and science skills. 2012 LSTA funds will be used to purchase developmentally appropriate educational toys and resources that will be used to create early literacy environments and to purchase materials to be used in early literacy programs for young children and their parents. Participating libraries will also explore the concept of the Web as space and an SCLS Early Literacy Facebook page will be created that will publicize early literacy programs and spaces, provide links to videos of fingerplays and rhymes, provide early literacy tips, and suggest appropriate books and stories.

Early Learning Environments will:

1. Introduce methods for creating early learning spaces in public libraries.

2. Introduce methods for modeling early learning skills to parents and caregivers.

3. Sensitively introduce techniques for working with children and parents who live in poverty/stressful situations.

4. Introduce new methods of evaluating literacy programs.

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. "Early Learning Environments" will help libraries and their partners reach more families and will help children build the skills they need for successful, fully-literate lives.

Rice Lake Public Library   12-215
Creating an Early Literacy Resource Center for Rice Lake Public Library $14,800

The Rice Lake Early Literacy Resource Center will allow the library to place early literacy at the forefront of its service to all families. Our community has a growing population of unemployed, underemployed, and poverty level families. We also have a number of migrant families in the area for only a few months at a time, many of whom have no idea of the free resources we have available for them.

The physical space being created will offer the community a fully unique place that encourages all five of the Every Child Ready to Read principles. Toys and furnishings will encourage parent and child playtime, literacy panels will open dialogue between family members, whiteboards will offer the opportunity to practice writing and drawing, musical instruments and CDs will encourage singing and rhythm activities, flannel stories will inspire rhyme, and books and storytimes will motivate families to read together.

The partnerships created will foster the sharing of resources and an exchange of ideas and information between multiple community organizations. The library will be able to reach entirely new populations of parents and children thanks to the commitment of Early Head Start, Head Start, UMOS Migrant Head Start, the Rice Lake Pregnancy Help Center, the local Teen Parenting Group, the Heart Island Family Enrichment Center, and the Rice Lake School District to not only share library resources with the families they serve, but also bring those families to the library for scheduled programs and invite library personnel to their staff meetings in order to share information on literacy, books, and library services. The partnership with the local ride service has eliminated one of the primary barriers to service among families with incomes at or below the poverty line—that of transportation.

The collection of circulating story kits will allow families to recreate storytimes at home, with books, music, and manipulatives and will allow children to use books to make connections with other activities. Ideas and skills learned at our educational story programs will be recreated and adapted by parents and caregivers creating a love of reading and books for the entire family. The AWE computer games will engage their children and encourage a new level of technological literacy as well. The parenting resources will assist both families with very little education and reportedly low level parenting skills, as well as families who simply want to improve their parenting techniques.

Brochures, pamphlets, fliers and booklists will be made available at the library as well as on the sites of our partnering organizations. Additionally, the web presence we will create for the program will include links to web sites for children and parents that aid in literacy and school readiness. There will also be a section with information for parents, including links to modeled songs, rhymes, and fingerplays and the site will provide staff at the library and within our partnering organizations a comprehensive go-to place for literacy resources.

The most exciting aspect of the program is how easily the library will be able to sustain it once it is developed. Making the time to provide programs and outreach for our partnering organizations will become a part of our regular service and the collection of story kits and parenting resources will be updated and expanded along with the rest of our collection. The Friends of the Library has agreed to support any needed upkeep and replacements of toys and equipment. The library staff and partnering agencies are all very excited to put this framework into place and serve families in this way.

Milwaukee Public Library   12-217
Bridging the Summer Reading Gap with Reading Lounges $27,141

The combined effects of low reading scores, high concentrations of poverty, the summer reading gap, and reductions in summer school offerings has put the City of Milwaukee into a state of reading crisis with lifelong implications. The Milwaukee Public Library's implementation of reading lounges will assist in creating a culture of reading in the city of Milwaukee. This pilot program builds upon the foundations of current library summer reading outreach with the intent of empowering summer school staff, families and students themselves to create a welcoming reading environment where the pleasure in reading for enjoyment will be discovered. Milwaukee Public Library will partner with three summer sites to create reading lounges at the sites; provide staff to model strategies and reading materials for increased success in student reading interest, comprehension and stamina, and cooperate with site staff and parents to build a culture of reading at school, in the home and at the library. The ultimate goal is for summer sites to replicate the program.

Arrowhead library System   12-219
Arrowhead Library System Promotes Health, Financial, and $15,630
'Green' Literacy

The Arrowhead Library System will promote health, financial and "green living" literacy by developing a curriculum for computer classes in each of the three literacy areas. Computer classes in the three literacy areas will be held at the seven public libraries in Rock County and collaborating with the Janesville-based literacy tutoring program,

The Literacy Connection, Arrowhead will provide a computer trainer and offer classes at their site. Once the curriculum is developed it will be available to other libraries and literacy councils interested in developing access to reliable and accurate websites in the three areas.

C. Library Improvement

Library Improvement

Northern Waters Library Service   12-227
Improving New Library Director Orientation $9,953

The purpose of this project is to conduct a library director orientation for those who have been directors for 18 months or less or are new to Wisconsin. The grant funds will be used to pay for mileage and lodging for qualified directors and conference space costs. The content will be decided upon following a survey of library and system directors. Presenters for the project will come from experienced directors, library system staff, and staff from DTLCL. The project is the first step in a statewide effort to prepare new directors for success. The project is sustainable and will continue after the grant period. Sessions will be recorded and made available to all interested directors through the BadgerLearn portal, best practices for director orientation will be developed for use by all 17 public library systems, and plans will be made for continued new director orientation at a regional and/or state level.