

Wisconsin 2013 LSTA Grant Abstracts

Abstracts for the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) projects approved for funding in Wisconsin in 2013 are available below. These abstracts were included as part of the online grant applications submitted by grant applicants in September 2012. The abstracts are arranged in order by grant number within the LSTA grant categories.

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A. Technology

Statewide Technology

Northern Waters Library Service 13-102
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 4.3% from 2010 to 2011 (the last year we have complete statistics). Interlibrary loan items received by NWLS member libraries have increased 5.61% from 2010 to 2011 (the last year we have complete statistics). 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/qfd/index.html#>) show that the median income for a family in Wisconsin is \$51,598. For NWLS area families, the median income is much lower, \$38,191 (from <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/saige/saige.cgi>). 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 150,694. Twenty one 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 13-104
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. This service is vital for the physical delivery support

of interlibrary loan materials. The LSTA funds subsidize the share of costs each of the 17 public library systems in Wisconsin is responsible to fund for their continued participation.

Public Library System Technology

Arrowhead Library System 13-142
Arrowhead Libraries Offer Computer Training \$6,188

The Arrowhead Library System will provide computer classes from basic to advanced skills at the seven public libraries in Rock County, including Beloit, Clinton, Edgerton, Evansville, Janesville, Milton and Orfordville. The purpose of the classes is to improve the computer skills of the participants and to increase their skills in using the electronic resources available on the Internet and at the ALS libraries.

Eastern Shores Library System 13-144
Wide Area Network Access for ESLS 2013 \$7,501

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 (BCN), 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 50MB of transport to WiscNet, and 50MB for WAN traffic, for a total of 100MB with the BCN. The connection to the BCN is fiber. 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 13-146
IFLS System Technology Projects \$19,272

The IFLS system Technology Projects funds will be used to purchase replacement routers for our member libraries and the TextALibrarian and Office365 services. It will also be used to supplement the IFLS budget for online databases.

50 of our member libraries will benefit from the router project. All of our member libraries will benefit from the other projects.

Kenosha Public Library 13-148
2013 KCLS Systemwide Resources and Services \$5,588

Library systems in Wisconsin are annually given non-competitive grant money in the LSTA Library System Technology Project Grant category. 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; 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 13-150
2013 Lakeshores Library System Technology Projects \$9,164

Funds from the 2013 LSTA Public Library System Technology Project grant will be used to contract with a company to cleanup our authority file records, purchase a new firewall to improve library networks,

purchase eBook reader devices to train staff on using the state ebook collection, and purchase items for improving our staff training program including a new projector and laptops.

Manitowoc-Calumet Library System 13-152
Public Library System Technology Projects \$6,370

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 of the fiber 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. The grant will also help pay for MCLS's T1 line and a portion of the fiber 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.

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 SirsiDynix ILS 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 2013. 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 patrons, the continuation of access to ready and reliable telecommunications to support resource sharing, communications, Internet access, and other activities.

Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System 13-154
MWFLS Technology Projects, 2013 \$9,242

Providing adequate bandwidth for the MWFLS WAN: \$3000 will be used to purchase ITp and WAN bandwidth for the MWFLS WAN. It will not be used to purchase Internet Service.

WPLC Membership: MWFLS's 2013 Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) membership.

SHARE Bibliographic cleanup: Cleanup work on the SHARE consortium's bibliographic database. This work will be done in conjunction with funds from Lakeshores Library System.

Milwaukee County Federated Library System 13-156
MCFLS System Technology Projects - 2013 \$21,100

MCFLS plans to utilize the 2013 Library System Technology Project funds toward the following :

- 1) Purchase of annual subscription and implementation fee for Encore, Innovative Interfaces's Discovery Services Framework.
- 2) Purchase of implementation fee for Boopsie, Inc, an advanced mobile solution App for libraries.

Nicolet Federated Library System 13-158
Online Database Support \$13,548

NFLS in cooperation with the Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) purchases subscriptions to a variety of databases (Gale Biography and Literature Resource Centers, HeritageQuest, and Opposing Viewpoints) to supplement the state-supplied BadgerLink databases. This project will provide part of the financial support for the NFLS portion of the total database costs. OWLS is the contracting agency, and NFLS provides funding to OWLS for the NFLS portion of the 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 13-160
NWLS Technology and Database Project \$11,485

Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) is maintaining a high level of information technology, thanks to the support of this LSTA category. Without this support, NWLS would not be able to provide this level of service to our member libraries. Northern Waters Library Service covers a large and scarcely populated region of northern Wisconsin, 8,363 square miles (as large as Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware combined) with a population of 150,694. Twenty one 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 23,36 students in the Northern Waters area, 49% receive free or reduced 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 and 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) LearningExpress Job and Career Accelerator, library users can explore careers, find jobs and get help with resumes, cover letters and interview. (5) Enhancements to Merlin, the NWLS shared online catalog. (6) 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 13-162
Support for OWLSnet Data Lines \$8,728

OWLSnet member libraries use data circuits to provide Internet access to their patrons and to take advantage of OWLSnet services.

LSTA funds will be used to assist in paying for bandwidth for OWLSnet member libraries. OWLS currently pays \$96,060 for data circuits. Additional bandwidth is needed at some member libraries, and it is anticipated that additional bandwidth will be secured. LSTA funding will make it more feasible to pay for any additional bandwidth.

South Central Library System 13-164
ILS Project Manager \$23,878

The 2013 Public Library System Technology grant will be used to:
Provide Enterprise Wireless access to all libraries eligible for the service.
Provide additional access to end users to run reports for the shared Koha ILS using Crystal Reports.
Provide a means for one smaller library to join the shared Koha ILS.

Southwest Wisconsin Library System 13-166
SWLS 2013 System Technology Projects \$9,069

The Southwest Wisconsin Library System (SWLS) serves 28 small rural libraries in a five county area. Approximately 50% of the libraries in SWLS have operating budgets in amounts under the Wisconsin Public Library Standards recommendation of \$68,000 for 2012. The slowness of the recovery of the economy doesn't provide much hope for improvement in the near future.

With such small budgets, many libraries in SWLS do not provide access to online databases except those provided by the State (Badgerlink) or those provided by SWLS (OverDrive, Mango Languages, Consumer Reports.Org and LearningExpress Library's Computer Skills module). Yet usage of databases by patrons of SWLS libraries continues to grow. This grant will allow SWLS to continue to provide the much needed, popular databases that SWLS libraries are unable to provide on their own.

Historically, the SWLS web page has been the access point for the online catalog and databases. The member libraries had a small web presence associated with the larger SWLS site and content was managed by SWLS staff. Fast forward ten plus years, most of those small "web pages" are gone. Even though web page creation is now within the grasp of those without a technical background, there is still a need for training on the creation of library web pages. To address this need, SWLS will contract with WiLS to provide one three-hour, hands-on training for our member libraries in creating a web page using WordPress.

Waukesha County Federated Library System 13-168
Mobile apps \$10,852

The purpose of this project will be to identify, evaluate and implement mobile applications (apps) for the IOS (iPhone, iPad) and Android platforms to work with the new Polaris ILS (Integrated Library System). These apps will allow the system to brand its catalog service and give the public an easy way to access the online catalog from their mobile devices.

Winding Rivers Library System 13-170
Demonstrating Online Databases IV \$12,510

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 2013, WRLS will continue this emphasis in Demonstrating Online Databases IV.

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 **13-172**
Winnefox technology project **\$12,496**

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 **13-174**
Security, Efficiency, and Technology - Part 2 **\$13,011**

During 2013, WVLS intends to use the LSTA Technology Grant to support four projects: A continuation of Network Security and Management Improvement, a continuation of VDI Deployment, 21st century technology implementation (including, in part, a continuation of eReader accessibility to patrons), and the inclusion of Samson Memorial Library into our system's ILS consortium (V-Cat).

Digital Creation Technologies

Appleton Public Library **13-182**
APL Digital Media Lab **\$16,104**

APL will create a digital lab with supporting programming and equipment that supplements/extends the creation tools currently found in technology labs at the three Appleton Area School District High Schools; this lab will also be available to the general public. The lab will give students and the general public the opportunity to explore interests in three distinct phases. The first phase focuses on exploration and experimentation to determine areas they wish to pursue. In the second phase they take on real world projects, acquiring skills and transferable experience. The final phase brings students back to the lab as mentors to students in the first or second phase of the process and the general public. With our project partners we will generate projects for students, the products of which will be made available publicly, showcasing both the efforts of the student and the supporting organizations. Major goals for the project relate to Equitable Access, 21st Century Learning/Creation, Collaboration/Mentoring/Community Engagement, and Library Use/Relevance.

Digitization of Local Resources

Beloit Public Library 13-184
Beloit Local History Digitization Project – Part I \$5,000

The Beloit Public Library (BPL), in partnership with the Beloit Historical Society (BHS) and the Beloit College Library Archives Department (BCL), will work with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center (UWDCC) to digitize rare and historic books unique to Beloit. The project is to digitize 28 titles that are a small part of the participating libraries core local history collections. The books to be digitized include the earliest City and telephone directories that includes historical information on residents of the state-line cities Beloit WI and South Beloit, IL. There is also a 1928 farm directory referring to the many rural citizens, a 1940 plat book showing the changes to a more urban community, a 1942 personal remembrance of the community's early years by one of its oldest citizens, a book of one-room schoolhouses photographs before many were torn down, and a rare copy of "Beloit in 1911." Described as "America in microcosm", the connections of the Beloit state-line communities to each other and the world was evident from early days, and continues today with several international entities.

Elisha D. Smith Public Library 13-186
Neenah-Menasha Digitization Project \$2,409

Neenah and Menasha have a shared history that extends back more than 150 years. Preservation and awareness of this history has long been vital to the missions of the Neenah Public Library and Elisha D. Smith Public Library in Menasha. Both libraries collect material relevant to their community's history and host programs on these topics. Both libraries have close working relationships with their historical societies that enhance these offerings. The object of this project is to add material that focuses on the shared history of the two cities. The cornerstone of the project is an extensive oral history project conducted in the 1970s by a professor at UW-Fox Valley. This material currently exists only on cassette, a format that will eventually deteriorate. Digitizing it will preserve the oral history and make it widely available to anyone interested in the history of the Neenah-Menasha area.

Brillion Public Library 13-188
Brillion History for all \$2,353

Brillion is a 125 year old community of over 3000 people. The Brillion Library serves a broader community of about 7800. Researchers from all over the world use the library online to get family information. Despite its long heritage, there are few historical resources about Brillion online. A number of years ago, the library obtained a scrapbook about Brillion becoming a city by an individual from the community. The scrapbook contains personal correspondence, newspaper clippings and photos of the process. It would be a valuable resource to someone doing research on Brillion. There are a number of church histories and resources as well as family histories. Some resources are kept at the local Historical Society, which is open to the public by appointment only. This limits the access the public has to these resources. The Library has an active genealogy group that meets regularly at the Library. The Internet and its resources are valuable for these genealogists and having information on Brillion online would be beneficial. We have an increasing number of seniors doing research from their homes. . This grant will make historical information on the Brillion Community available online to the world.

Mead Public Library 13-190
Sheboygan County Historical Documents IV \$5,000

With this LSTA grant Mead Public Library continues its long-range goal of digitizing all types of historically important Sheboygan materials covering a wide-range of subjects.

E-Content Licensing

The purpose of this category is to support and encourage expanded e-content to be made available to libraries and individuals statewide. In this category, \$100,000 will be used as a match to support expanded statewide cooperative purchasing through WiLS (Wisconsin Interlibrary Services) of e-books and other e-content. This is half of the requested amount.

Arrowhead Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-106 \$3,846
Eastern Shores Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-108 \$4,326
Indianhead Federated Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-110 \$8,623
Kenosha County Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-112 \$3,627
Lakeshores Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-114 \$4,933
Manitowoc-Calumet Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-116 \$3,913
Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-118 \$4,961
Milwaukee County Federated Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-120 \$9,290
Nicolet Federated Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-122 \$6,534
Northern Waters Library Service E-Content Licensing Grant	13-124 \$5,780
Outagamie Waupaca Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-126 \$4,774
South Central Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-128 \$10,305
Southwest Wisconsin Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-130 \$4,898
Waukesha County Federated Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-132 \$5,549

Winding Rivers Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-134 \$6,154
Winnefox Library System E-Content Licensing Grant	13-136 \$6,149
Wisconsin Valley Library Service E-Content Licensing Grant	13-138 \$6,337

B. Serving Special Populations

Accessibility in Public Libraries

Indianhead Federated Library System Connecting the Disconnected	13-192 \$13,087
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In 2013, the Indianhead Federated Library System (IFLS) aims to give libraries the tools to provide more effective, engaging service to three underserved populations: adults and teens on the autism spectrum; people who are mentally ill; and “disconnected” young adults—18-25-year-olds who are not in school and not working. There is some overlap in these populations, and all would benefit from library staff that is well-informed, empathetic, and aware of resources in the library the wider community.

Training with national experts will give library staff a broader understanding of the population, issues they face, and services they need. Training will be followed up by local networking meetings, which will allow library staff to meet local providers and advocates to gain deeper and more specific insight about the local population, issues, existing resources, and ways the library can fit their services to meet the needs in the community.

Training opportunities will be available to all librarians in the system (and state-wide). The networking meetings will be county-wide, and will be open to any librarian in the county. Eleven libraries will work with local contacts and IFLS Library Development and Youth Services Coordinator to develop an action plan (or plans) to specifically address the needs of one or more of these groups. They will receive funding to carry out the plans, which might include enhanced collections geared toward these populations, special programming to address their needs, or equipment that would make the library experience easier or more relevant to them.

Outagamie Waupaca Library System Hearing Loops for OWLS Libraries	13-194 \$5,000
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Hearing loss is one of the most prevalent disabilities. Hearing loops are a cost-effective and convenient way to provide hearing assistance to patrons with hearing aids or cochlear implants. The Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) is applying for a 2013 LSTA Public Library System Accessibility in Public Libraries Grant to install service desk hearing loops at six (6) member library locations and raise awareness of the benefits and availability of hearing loops. The project is estimated to cost \$6,435. This grant will fund \$5,000, and the remaining \$1,435 will be covered by local funds. OWLS will coordinate hearing loop installation, create and distribute promotional materials to participating libraries, and work with Juliette Sterkens of Fox Valley Hearing Loop, LLC to train library staff and promote the hearing loops to patrons with hearing loss, hearing care providers, and the community at large.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service 13-196
Improving Auditory and Physical Accessibility in WVLS Public Libraries \$16,091

“Improving Auditory and Physical Accessibility in WVLS Libraries” will enable Wisconsin Valley Library Service (WVLS) to enhance customer service and building accessibility for persons of all ages with disabilities at 11 public library locations in north central Wisconsin. The project seeks to achieve a “sense of normalcy” whereby patrons with hearing and mobility disabilities can use their library like everybody else.

When libraries advocate for persons with a hearing loss by employing adaptive equipment and making it a natural and expected part of the library landscape, it not only raises community awareness of available technologies, but also promotes community acceptance and encourages similar adaptations in other community locations.

The major goals of the project are twofold: WVLS will assist 9 library locations to provide enhanced customer service to the hearing impaired with the installation of hearing loops at their check-out and information desks. WVLS will assist 2 library locations in providing physical accessibility to customers with mobility limitations, by enabling the retrofitting of exterior doors with electronic openers.

A training workshop designed to increase ability-awareness and knowledge of hearing loop technology will be offered, with the expectation that representatives from the 9 hearing loop installation locations, as well as additional participants from all 25 WVLS libraries will attend. To promote/market these improvements in customer service and library accessibility to persons with hearing and mobility disabilities, each participating library will work with a community partner agency to broadcast information throughout the 11 participating communities and seek opportunities to raise community awareness.

Hearing loss affects approximately 1 out of every 10 Americans and is more prevalent than any other disability, outranking arthritis, high blood pressure and heart disease. It is also a disability that is not readily apparent to the average observer and viewed by many as a condition that should be corrected medically or with assistive devices if at all possible. Use of closed sound systems or loop systems in public meeting areas and at service desks benefit an increasing number of library patrons of all ages who wear a personal hearing aid equipped with a receiving device.

Providing electronic assistance at the library’s front door is just common good sense since it’s impossible for a person of any age to partake of all the riches a library has to offer if they cannot cross the threshold.

Dane County Library Service 13-198
Outreach to Senior Readers \$14,464

The Outreach to Senior Readers project will address the informational and recreational reading needs of senior citizens with disabilities who reside in nursing homes and assisted/senior living facilities or visit Dane County area senior centers. This project will assist this special needs population by offering alternatives to traditional print books by providing both access to e-readers and personalized e-reader training. For seniors with profound low vision or who are unable to use e-readers, a collection of audio books and large print books will be purchased to refresh the current collection of materials which are rotated monthly among nursing homes, assisted/senior living facilities and senior centers

Northern Waters Library Service
Improving accessibility in NWLS libraries

13-200
\$21,600

The ALA Code of Ethics states “We provide the highest level of service to all library users.” For library users with disabilities, this statement is not quite true, without accessible computer workstations, they are left behind. For many, accessing a computer through a traditional keyboard, mouse, and screen is a challenge, if not an impossibility. Computers can open up worlds for persons with disabilities. Through the computer and the Internet, disabilities melt away to reveal the person's true gifts and talents.

Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) intends to use project funds to accommodate library users whose disabilities limit their ability to use the computers and online resources available in participating libraries. Over the past few years, NWLS has used funds from the Accessibility Grant Category to improve accessibility in the library with shopping carts, wheeled walkers, large monitors and hearing loops. The goal of this project is for NWLS to purchase and set up software and equipment that will make at least one public access computer in each library more accessible to those with disabilities.

Library participants will receive assistance from NWLS with marketing the adaptive technologies and services available to their patrons with disabilities. A workshop designed to teach member librarians how to use the software and hardware purchased as part of this project will be presented by North Country Independent Living (CNIL). CNIL is located in Superior, Wisconsin and provides consultation, training, workshops, and presentations to groups, individuals, communities, and businesses, to increase awareness of disability related issues and laws.

Disabilities affect an estimated 18.7% of Wisconsin residents, 49.8% of residents age 65 and over. In the NWLS region, the numbers are higher, 18.7% in Ashland County, 20.3% in Bayfield County, 21.5% in Burnett County, 18.5% in Douglas County, 22.6% in Iron County, 23.5% in Sawyer County, 24.8% in Vilas County and 20.8% in Washburn County. (<http://quickfacts.census.gov>). According to Applied Population Laboratory, three NWLS counties average population are the oldest in the state; Iron County age 51, Vilas County 50.7 years, Bayfield County 49.4 years. The Median age in the State is 38.5 years.

There are numerous types of impairment that impact computer use including:

Visual impairment: Low vision affects one in twenty Americans of all ages and is a common problem for the elderly. Visual impairment is a significant challenge in computer accessibility since computer interfaces often solicit input visually and provide visual feedback in response. This project will provide individuals with vision impairment screen magnification, screen reader software and keyboards with large keys.

Motor and dexterity impairments: Some people are not able to use conventional input devices, such as the mouse or keyboard. To aid individuals with motor and dexterity impairment, this project will provide participating libraries with trackballs, keyboards with large keys, accessible computer workstations, large chairs, footrests and adjustable arms for monitors.

Hearing impairment: Audio interfaces common in desktop computing are usually limited to system sounds for feedback. Software producers accommodate people who can't hear with visual cues. Headsets can also be of assistance to the hearing impaired by blocking the ambient noise of a room and allowing the user to hear only the sounds directly from the computer.

Learning impairment: Specialized software programs and hardware for patrons who have learning differences will display print as well as provide auditory reading of the text. Read and Write Gold and Kurzweil software improves learning for students with reading and writing disabilities.

This project also addresses NWLS 2012 Plan of Service, Services to Users with Special Needs which states: (1) Apply for system wide LSTA grants to serve special needs patrons. (2) Assist member libraries in developing special needs projects to serve their own communities.

Libraries signing a letter of intent to participate in this project are: Bad River Public Tribal Library; Boulder Junction Public Library; Grantsburg Public Library; Koller Memorial Library, Manitowish Waters; Larsen Family Community Library, Webster; Legion Memorial Library, Mellen; Mercer Public Library; Phelps Public Library; Presque Isle Community Library; Spooner Memorial Library;

Superior Public Library including branches in Lake Nebagamon and Solon Springs; Vaughn Public Library, Ashland; Weiss Community Library, Hayward; Winter Public Library.

Literacy Initiative and Improvements

Appleton Public Library **13-202**
Library Outreach to Hmong Families with Children **\$15,000**

According to the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census, the number of Asians in Outagamie, Calumet and Winnebago Counties has been steadily rising. These three counties converge in the City of Appleton. In Appleton alone, 5.3% of our city population in 2010 was Asian. The largest minority group in our city is Hmong.

The 2010-2011 Fox Cities LIFE Study (Leading Indicators for Excellence) identified "support for education" as an "opportunity area". The community and its leaders ranked it second of eleven priority areas for community leaders to work on (independently and/or collectively). The report states that the "percentage of Fox Cities third graders reading proficiently has declined every year since 2006-2007."

Wisconsin Knowledge Concepts Examination (WKCE) scores from the Appleton Area School District (AASD) in 2011 show that of those 3rd grade students who scored below proficient on the WKCE, 36% were Asian, 38% had limited English proficiency, and 30% were economically disadvantaged. This speaks directly to our Hmong population in Appleton.

During the summer of 2012, the Children's Services Section of the Appleton Public Library had an MLIS student intern from UW-Madison, Yee Lee Vue. Miss Vue, a Hmong resident of Appleton, was asked to bring the ALA early literacy initiative, known as "Every Child Ready to Read" (ECRR) to our local Hmong community. Miss Vue translated brochures, posters and an ECRR PowerPoint presentation into Hmong. Then, she scheduled home visits with Hmong families who were referred to her by the Hmong American Partnership, through a local Hmong business and word-of-mouth. During home visits, Miss Vue showed her PowerPoint presentation, explaining ECRR. At the end of each home visit, a survey was completed. We found that significant language and cultural barriers were the primary reason why Hmong parents did not bring their children to the library. With Miss Vue, we were able to draw in new library users by giving them oral information in Hmong about our library materials and services and offering a personalized orientation visit to the library with Miss Vue. At the end of each home visit, all reported that the information that Miss Vue provided was either "helpful" or "extremely helpful".

There are an estimated 800 Hmong children in Appleton from birth to age 14. With this grant, these children and their parents will have access to a part-time Hmong speaking staff member whose purpose is to provide outreach to Hmong families. Their title will be "Hmong Family Outreach Specialist". This staff member will work 16 hours a week for APL Children's Services, teaching ECRR to individuals or groups, assisting Hmong families in obtaining library cards and learning to use the library. Additionally, this staff member will be present for at least one children's program a week and be accessible to orient Hmong parents and children in other children's programs as well. Furthermore, this grant will supply free books, coloring books and crayons to Hmong families who complete the ECRR training. Hmong families will learn about this outreach through referrals, word-of-mouth and an aggressive marketing campaign using strategically placed poster and brochures made available through local organizations, educational institutions, local churches, Hmong businesses and use of the local press including, Wisconsin Hmong Radio.

Southwest Wisconsin Library System 13-204
Steppingstones to Success: improving early math and science literacy \$19,600

Recent studies have shown that there are several factors that influence how prepared for kindergarten a child will be. Among these factors is the family's socioeconomic status. Poverty puts up barriers to educational achievement. There is evidence that the achievement gap between high and low income children is growing.

The communities in southwestern Wisconsin are no strangers to poverty. Many of the libraries report that number people in their communities who are struggling financially have grown in recent years.

One of the recommendations from the Governor's Read to Lead Task Force was to begin early literacy screening for all four and five year old kindergartners.

Thanks to the 2005 Early Learning Initiative for Wisconsin Public Libraries by the Division for Libraries and Technology, the public libraries in SWLS have strong early literacy programs and resources for reading. Where the libraries feel that there is a gap and a need is in resources for early math and science literacy.

This grant will work to improve the early math and science literacy skills of children ages birth to 5 years old who live in poverty in southwest Wisconsin. This will be accomplished in three ways: improving the knowledge and skills of library staff and partnering agency staff by providing two workshops (Bridges out of Poverty and Steppingstones to Success, a full day workshop providing tips for incorporating math and science into library programs), providing parents and caregivers/childcare providers with techniques for integrating math and science concepts into everyday life, and improving library resources that support early math and science literacy.

Elisha D. Smith Public Library 13-206
English Language Learning @ the Library \$4,460

There is a clear need for additional English Language Learning opportunities in Menasha. This project will address this need by creating an opportunity for people at different levels to practice and improve their skills through the creation of an English/Spanish Conversation Club. Beyond the educational benefits of this service, it will also serve as an opportunity to improve cultural exchange and understanding. The library's physical collection will be updated and expanded to meet the demand generated by this new offering and access to the Tell Me More language learning resource will allow for further learning opportunities, both within the library and from home. Cooperation with local partners will allow us to target our marketing efforts to those most in need of these services.

Northern Waters Library Service
Improving 21st Century Skills in NWLS Public Libraries

13-208
\$12,946

The purpose of this grant category is to promote and demonstrate the role of public libraries in providing literacy services that support lifelong learning in a variety of formats for people for whom using a library is difficult. This project will help improve library service to adults who are unemployed, underemployed and living in poverty by improving their job skills by:

Providing basic computer skills training sessions concentrating on 21st century skills;

Marketing classes to job seekers in cooperation with partnering agencies; and

Printing and distributing course materials and other resources.

The libraries that have signed the “Intent to Participate” include:

- Boulder Junction Public Library partnering with Nicolet Technical College
- Forest Lodge Library, Cable partnering with the Cable Area Lions Club
- Sherman and Ruth Weiss Community Library, Hayward, partnering with the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
- Plum Lake Public Library partnering with the Nicolet Technical College
- Evelyn Goldberg Briggs Memorial Library, Iron River partnering with the Iron River School Adult Education Program
- Legion Memorial Library, Mellen partnering with the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
- Mercer Public Library, partnering with Nicolet Technology College
- Larsen Community Library, Webster partnering with Communities United in Education
- Winchester Public Library partnering with Nicolet Technical College
- Bad River Public Tribal Library partnering with the Bad River Education Department
- Vaughn Public Library, Ashland partnering with WI Job Center.
- Spooner Memorial Library partnering with Educational Opportunity Centers and the Spooner Area Job Center
- Shell Lake Public Library, partnering with Experience Works and the Washburn County Social Service Agency
- Phelps Public Library, partnering with Phelps Area Lions Club
- Koller Memorial Library, Manitowish Waters partnering with the Nicolet Technical College
- Presque Isle Community Library, partnering with Nicolet Technical College
- Winchester Public Library, partnering with Nicolet Technical College

The role of the partnering agencies listed above is to provide high quality instructors, help to promote classes and identify potential students.

Our nation’s transition to sophisticated paperless infrastructures requires new social adaptations to technology for accessing information, business, government services and workforce development opportunities. Libraries are critical anchors for digital access and equity in local communities, and need to include computer literacy as an essential library service for people relying on the library for assistance with new technology.