

Wisconsin 2015 LSTA Grant Abstracts

Abstracts for the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) projects approved for funding in Wisconsin in 2015 are available below. These abstracts were included as part of the online grant applications submitted by grant applicants in September 2014. The abstracts are arranged in order by LSTA grant categories.

Contents

- [Accessibility](#)
- [Delivery Services](#)
- [Digital Creation](#)
- [Digitization of Local Materials](#)
- [Early Literacy](#)
- [Merging Public Library Systems](#)
- [Public Library System Technology](#)

Digital Creation Technology

Kenosha Public Library	15-112
Digital Consumers to Digital Entrepreneurs	\$18,914

Children in grades 3-5 in Kenosha County are in need of strong support to develop digital skills that not only prepare them to be savvy digital consumers, but inspire and enable them to become digital creators and entrepreneurs. The future economy will demand it. By providing free access to local professional mentors in year-long KPL Computer Coding Camps for Kids, Kenosha Public Library hopes to improve children's STEM problem solving skills through fun and engaging activities, connect the "why" and "how" of the technology children use in the classroom and at home, and strengthen each child's confidence that s/he is part of the digital future.

Digital Creation Technology

La Crosse Public Library	15-114
La Crosse Public Library Creation Community	\$5,071

The La Crosse Public Library Youth Services and Adult Services departments have teamed up to develop a Creation Community for children and adults. The purpose of the Creation Community is to ensure that all patrons have the access to develop crucial digital skills to sustain an informed citizenry in the 21st century. The focus of this project is computational thinking, a problem-solving method that uses computer science techniques. We are asking for \$5701 in LSTA funds to: acquire six mobile coding activities, which will be used during programs inside LPL, as well as forming a part of outreach into the School District of La Crosse (SDL) and any future community partnerships These will also be used in

tandem three times per year as part of an all-ages hands-on program. Each activity will be housed in its own bin for convenient transportation by LPL staff to and from the library. The library will introduce new computer class offerings that feature a coding component, focusing on ways patrons can use coding in their daily lives (e.g. building a website, creating a mobile application). The Creation Community, fully realized, will provide the La Crosse community and our partners at SDL with authentic learning opportunities for all ages, equipping our patrons with transferable skills they will be able to use throughout their lives.

Digital Creation Technology

Southwest Wisconsin Library System
SWLS Mobile Makerspace

15-116
\$20,247

This SWLS Mobile Makerspace project is designed to provide learning opportunities, as well as a creative outlet for patrons who would otherwise never experience these technologies. Participating SWLS member libraries (Barneveld, Boscobel, Dodgeville, Lancaster, Livingston, Mineral Point, Prairie du Chien and Viola) serve populations that struggle with poverty, high unemployment rates, and other socioeconomic indicators. The eight member libraries participating in this pilot project are committed to incorporating transliteracy skills into their services and programs in order to keep their libraries relevant and keep up with the current, digital environment and are committed to providing a gathering place for people to come together in a collaborative, learning environment. The Makerspace hardware and software that will be purchased will provide exposure to equipment that will build technical skills, which may in-turn lead to enhanced job skills. The opportunities created to explore these technologies will also reinforce and enhance STEM (Science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning. The collaborative environment will serve to engage young and old alike, as well as facilitate group efforts in the creative process that will result in community based projects ranging from video and audio recordings of oral histories to intergenerational sewing/quilting groups to digitally based 4-H projects. The intended outcome of this project is to increase the offerings of digital resources and increase opportunities for patrons to test these new technologies by exploring and creating in a non-judgmental environment through intergenerational collaboration.

These libraries have limited resources to individually provide this Mobile Makerspace initiative, but through collaboration with each other and their partners this program can be planned and administered successfully and will ultimately benefit the combined service population of 26,000.

Digital Creation Technology

St. Croix Falls Public Library
Create Space: Digital, Social, Tangible

15-118
\$5,000

Following the results of a spring 2014 community survey and in response to space demands and use patterns, the St. Croix Falls Public Library, through private foundation funding, recently created an additional community room. The new space is accessible to users during regular library hours and after

hours, making it an ideal third space for community members. The success of this grant proposal will impact the benefits of this Create Space through the development of three connected yet distinct user groups within the new space. First, hardware and software to further transform this "all purpose room" into a simple, yet state-of-the-art, mini-computer working lab with technology for creative exploration, but also expert-led, concise courses on marketing and digital creation with the tools small business owners, local non-profits, and area artisans need to effectively launch their services and connect with users. Second, the addition of Lego Wedo kits and the creation of a Young Robotics Club held within the Create Space will challenge community youth to expand their learning and making beyond the computer screen and the classroom. Finally, an open invitation to area clubs and societies to extend their activities through technology, creating a digital scrapbooking environment for sharing individual and community stories.

Intended outcomes include: an increase in the capacity of marketing, networking, and outreach performed by area organizations; a greater enthusiasm for science, technology, engineering, and math among young students that effectively transforms them to active hands-on creators using technology; and an increased creation of digital content shared among community members, reflecting the public and private stories of the St. Croix Falls area and finally, a sustaining commitment to providing access to state of the art technology through the St. Croix Falls Public Library.

Digital Creation Technology

Outagamie Waupaca Library System	15-120
Waupaca County Maker Boxes	\$7,235

Lack of funding, space, and technical expertise have been barriers for smaller and rural libraries wishing to participate in the "Makerspace" movement. Seven Waupaca County libraries will collaborate on this project to develop portable Maker Boxes. The "pop-up" nature of these Maker Boxes will enable libraries to use existing space on a temporary basis for maker programming, and then pack it up when the space is needed for other uses. Curating just one or two boxes each, the owning library will be responsible for developing program ideas, lesson plans, instructions and documentation, and building local expertise through staff training or by partnering with local experts. They will then share their experience and knowledge with other libraries who borrow their Maker Box. This project will serve school age, teen, and adult residents of Waupaca County, most of whom live in small towns or rural areas. The intended outcome of this project is to increase access to creative technology and programming that supports education, lifelong learning, and digital literacy for residents of Waupaca County by sharing resources among libraries and developing local partnerships.

Digital Creation Technology

U.S.S. Liberty Memorial Public Library	15-122
Technology Learning Lab and Makerspace On-the-Go	\$3,158

The Grafton Public Library is interested in pursuing new ways to assist community members in learning new technologies and strengthening community-engaged learning. To meet our goal, we will build a

technology learning lab and a makerspace on-the-go. The technology learning lab will have state-of-the-art equipment and software to enable community members to learn new technologies and produce digital creative works. The lab will include technology, such as a scanner and VHS-to-DVD converter to help preserve family and Village of Grafton history. The makerspace on-the-go will contain electronics to promote “making”, skill building, and collaborative learning. We will partner with Karin Sevenser, director of the Grafton Senior Center, and Rick Seybold, technology coordinator at the Grafton High School, to create programming for seniors and high school students, as well as intergenerational programming that makes use of the technology learning lab and the makerspace on-the-go.

Digital Creation Technology

Manitowoc Public Library
Community Creation Room

15-124
\$8,840

Abstract - The Manitowoc Public Library will create a space in the library for community members to create digital content. The space and equipment will be available for exploration and creation of business logos, musical expression and recording, digital illustration, movie making, and technology education. The library is prepared to dedicate physical space for a sound proof room and make this space available for individual and community learning and creation of 21st century digital content.

The goal of the Community Creation Room is to expand services and learning to seniors and entrepreneurs so they are able to increase their digital literacy skills. There are two target populations for this grant period, seniors interested in increasing their digital literacy skills and creating digital content and entrepreneurs enrolled with programs at Progress Lakeshore.

Digital Creation Technology

Walter E. Olson Memorial Library
OML Tinker Studio: a Content Creation MakerSpace

15-126
\$9,995

The OML Tinker Studio is a place for creation, collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship. As a digital content creation space, it is where OML community members can go to get the training, tools, and camaraderie to create stories using audio, video and animation tools. A special collection of conversion hardware helps community users convert existing analog resources into digital ones to use in content creation projects. OML Tinker Studio incorporates the knowledge of instructors and local content creators to lend their skills in projects that help grow the local content creation community.

Digital Creation Technology

Mead Public Library	15-128
Digital Creation Lab	\$10,600

Mead Public Library intends to provide access to digital content creation hardware, software, and training to our patrons. The library will further its strategic goals to “create a foundation for educational success” and “provide opportunities for lifelong learning” by providing training and access to digital technologies in order to encourage and empower community members of all ages to create new digital content. Access to the most current hardware, software and digital literacy skills training is essential in bridging the digital divide. This access and training can mean the difference in the ability of some people to fully participate in education, the workforce, and democracy. The Mead Public Library exists to provide lifelong learning opportunities to the entire community, regardless of background. As our nation and particularly our school systems have identified the need for more STEM-learning opportunities, the Mead Public Library has responded by offering more opportunities for learning about technology.

Digital Creation Technology

Oscar Grady Public Library	15-130
Digital Media Conversion Lab	\$5,000

As technology rapidly progresses, the medium of personal photography and unique photographic formats has evolved dramatically over the last 30 years. The concept of converting the now antiquated and nearly obsolete formats of 8mm film, 35mm camera negatives, transparency slides, and Polaroid film to more stable and practical digital files has become a necessity in the interest of family history and photographic preservation.

Unless under optimal archival conditions, family home videos, aging photographs, negatives, and slides rapidly deteriorate and become more difficult to view and share because of changes in the mechanics of processing each format and access to appropriate products and services. As such, the Oscar Grady Public Library, in Saukville Wisconsin, seeks to provide the communities we serve with the equipment and training necessary to view and digitally preserve family photographs and film by creating a unique Digital Media Conversion Lab.

Digitization of Library Historical Material

Winding Rivers Library System	15-132
Expanding the WRLS ECHO Project	\$6,402

The Winding Rivers Library System (WRLS) will expand access to unique history materials in twenty-four of its member public libraries by adding to a regional online collection of visual images (photographs and postcards) representing western Wisconsin history and culture. Library staff and volunteers will scan and develop metadata to add at least 500 images to the collection. All images will be included on the WRLS project website, and the entire collection will be linked through the shared online public catalog.

Images will be harvested by Recollection Wisconsin and included on its website. Libraries will collaborate with WRLS to market the collection to the public. Each participating library will be surveyed to identify unique local history print and text resources for future addition to the online collection.

Digitization of Library Historical Material

Outagamie Waupaca Library System	15-134
Digitizing Local Newspaper Content	\$15,000

As of today, there is no easy way for libraries in Wisconsin to digitize and make available their historical newspaper collections, and no easy way for those interested in using digitized newspapers to search and find this material. This project, a joint project with the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, will digitize up to 100 rolls of historical newspaper microfilm representing communities around the state, create the corresponding searchable text and metadata, put all of the content into a centralized platform as a seed collection, and create best practices and documentation for other libraries to contribute content and continue to grow the collection.

Digitization of Library Historical Material

Milwaukee Public Library	15-136
Dr. James Cameron Pamphlet Collection	\$5,620

The Dr. James Cameron Pamphlet Collection is a project to digitize thirty-eight pamphlets by civil rights activist and Milwaukee citizen Dr. James Cameron (1914-2006). Dr. Cameron, the only known survivor of a lynching attempt, was a self-taught historian and lecturer whose lifework focused on raising Americans' consciousness of lynching and educating the public about the injustices suffered by people of African descent in America.

Topics addressed in the pamphlets include slavery, the Civil War, Reconstruction, lynching, the Ku Klux Klan, the Civil Rights bills of the 1960s, and late 20th-century police/community relations. Dr. Cameron is best known locally for founding and running America's Black Holocaust Museum from 1988 until his death in 2006.

These pamphlets provide a unique, eyewitness perspective of American history and culture and will be of interest to local, state, and national scholars; local students of American civil rights history, as well as to Milwaukeeans who celebrate Dr. Cameron's local legacy.

This project complements MPL's current digitization efforts and will add to, but not replace those efforts for 2015.

Digitization of Library Historical Material

Clintonville Public Library 15-138
Expanding the Clintonville Memory Project \$1,000

Clintonville Public Library is seeking LSTA funds to digitize two historical Waupaca County Plat books and a collection of materials related to Clintonville’s municipal airport, which is where Wisconsin Central Airlines was started in 1944. The new digital collections will be published in the Infosoup Memory Project, our CONTENTdm repository for local history (memory.infosoup.org). The goals of this project are to provide online access to local history resources that are not currently accessible to the public or that are currently only available for use in the library, and to promote the central role of public libraries in recording and preserving community memory. LSTA funds will also be used to hire a vendor for scanning and to purchase appropriate long-term storage and back up media for the master image files.

Digitization of Library Historical Material

Aram Public Library 15-140
Digitization of Historic Newspapers in Delevan \$6,109

Aram Public Library and other member libraries of Lakeshores library system have limited resources to individually digitize historic newspapers and host them online for the public. In an effort to preserve and disseminate vital portions of early Deaf Culture and Delavan History, Aram Public Library in partnership with the Wisconsin School for the Deaf Library, The Wisconsin Historical Society, Lakeshores Library System and Recollection Wisconsin is proposing to digitize the Delavan Republic pre-1900 and the Wisconsin Times newspapers pre-1969. This project will establish a platform which will be usable by other member libraries in the future.

Digitization of Library Historical Material

Manitowoc Public Library 15-142
Manitowoc County Historical Place and Name Index \$3,445

The goals of this project are to provide online access to local history resources that that are currently only available for use in the library, or that are not possible to access online or that are difficult to access and print online, and to promote the central role of public libraries in recording and preserving local history. Our target population, which is centered in the City of Manitowoc and radiates out to much of the United States, based on the people who have contacted us in the past, will be able to access more local history and genealogy information directly online.

Accessibility

Arrowhead Library System 15-144
Hearing Loops for Rock County Libraries \$24,920

With hearing loss, one of the most common disabilities, hearing loops are an extremely cost efficient and convenient way of providing assistance to those hearing impaired patrons who use hearing aids or have cochlear implants. The Arrowhead Library System (ALS) is applying for a 2015 LSTA Public Library System Accessibility in Public Libraries Grant, Level 2, to install a total of three meeting/program room hearing loop systems in three member libraries; Beloit, Edgerton and Hedberg (Janesville) Public Libraries. It is also the intention of this grant to raise awareness of the benefits and availability of hearing loops. ALS will coordinate with Metro Sound & Video for hearing loop installation and staff training at the three ALS member libraries participating in the grant. ALS will also create and distribute supplemental training and promotional materials to its member libraries. In addition ALS will also continue to work with hearing loop advocate Juliette Sterkens to promote and train library staff to promote hearing loops to patrons with hearing loss, hearing care providers, and the community at large. The intended outcome of this project is to increase access to library programming and meetings, by the hearing impaired, through the use of hearing loop systems.

Accessibility

South Central Library System 15-146
Serving the homeless: A planning grant \$1,000

Wisconsin's homeless population is growing. This growth is happening across the state, in communities of all sizes, and public libraries are making every effort to provide the best services for their patrons without homes. As communities across the state begin to address the growing needs of the homeless population, the time for public libraries to reflect on community need, library mission, and organizational purpose is NOW. Library administrators, boards, staff, and volunteers recognize this timely need and are asking for guidance and planning assistance. The 'Serving the Homeless Planning Grant' will provide opportunities for library directors and staff in the South Central, Mid-Wisconsin Federated, and Southwest Wisconsin Library Systems to gather together to identify needs, evaluate and discuss current trends, investigate services, meet with staff from social service organizations, attend a regional 'Serving the Homeless' symposium, and cooperatively plan library services for homeless populations.

Accessibility

Waukesha County Federated Library System 15-148
Accessibility with Meeting Room Hearing Loops \$19,968

Hearing loss is a major public health issue and is the third most common physical condition, after arthritis and heart disease (HearingLoss.org). Hearing loops are a cost-effective, convenient and an

invisible way to provide hearing assistance to patrons using hearing aids or cochlear implants. This grant project would fund inductive hearing loop systems for meeting rooms at six (6) member libraries in Waukesha County and raise awareness of the benefits and availability of hearing loops. The project is estimated to cost \$30,852 of which \$10,884 will be covered by local funds and \$19,968 by LSTA funds. Waukesha County Federated Library System will coordinate this project including hearing loop installation, create and distribute hearing loop promotional materials, and ensure library staff receive proper training and best practice information on using the hearing loop.

Accessibility

Nicolet Federated Library System	15-150
Serving Special Populations Planning Grant	\$1,000

NFLS librarians, working with the system staff, and assisted by DLC staff, will develop a survey that will derive relevant information about local Special Needs priorities. After compiling the results, system staff will meet with the librarians to identify and list local implementation goals. After the local implementation goals have been developed, the librarians and system staff will create a new NFLS Special Needs Plan that will incorporate ways that the system can assist the member libraries in carrying out and completing the implementation of local goals and activities.

Early Literacy

Indianhead Federated Library System	15-154
Promoting Family Engagement and Media Mentors	\$20,798

Families and daycare providers in the Indianhead Federated Library System will have more resources for learning to meaningfully engage with the children in their care. They will have access to Media Mentors, librarians and other early childhood professionals who can help them learn about their children's development and the way to use media (particularly screen media of all kinds) intentionally. This will be achieved by a series of continuing education efforts for librarians and other early childhood professionals, ranging from formal webinars and workshops to more informal opportunities to share information and ideas about technology and media and network together. In addition, 21 libraries will develop enhanced early literacy areas that encourage engagement between caregivers and children, and libraries will establish and deepen partnerships with other agencies, particularly those serving more vulnerable, economically disadvantaged children and families, or children with disabilities.

Early Literacy

Southwest Wisconsin Library System	15-156
SWLS 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten	\$12,936

In *Becoming a Nation of Readers* (1985), the Commission on Reading stated, "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."

Therefore, the purpose of the SWLS 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is to increase school readiness by introducing children to as many books as possible, read aloud by a parent, sibling, or other caregiver in order that the child will learn letter knowledge and that letters make up words, as well as other essential early literacy skills. This initiative will also offer the opportunity for library staff to model to parents and caregivers how to read a book to a child. Furthermore, this project complements the Growing Wisconsin Readers initiative with its goals of providing resources to caregivers about how to read effectively to young children and showcasing ways in which public libraries support early literacy. Implement the SWLS 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program with the goal of reaching at-risk families with children age birth – 5. Participating libraries will provide early literacy tips and activities to caregivers through a website/blog for public use that will include early literacy tips, book suggestions, and a library program calendar, as well as links to early literacy websites including Growing Wisconsin Readers and 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. A training workshop for librarians on the topic of early literacy, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten implementation, passive programming and DIY (Do it Yourself) program ideas for the youngest patron will be presented with the goal of participating libraries offering an early literacy program featuring a topical speaker or offer a series of DIY programs that will provide activities that will reinforce early literacy skills. Each library will also receive funds to enhance their picture book and level 1 reader collections to aid in providing further resources for grant participants and to aid in book related activities associated with the DIY programs.

The intended outcome of this project is for the member libraries to identify increased awareness of early literacy skills among the children from rural and low-income families participating in the project. Participating SWLS member libraries (Barneveld, Blanchardville, Boscobel, Cobb, Gays Mills, Mineral Point, and Prairie du Chien) serve populations that have poverty levels that range from 8.6% to 15.6% with free and reduced-price meal data, which indicates eligibility for these communities ranging from 28% to 58-65%. Furthermore, these libraries have limited resources to individually provide this early literacy initiative, but through collaboration with each other and their partners this program can be planned and administered successfully and will ultimately benefit the combined municipal service population of 31,000.

Early Literacy

Larsen Family Public Library	15-158
Happy Kids Back Pack Program	\$2,000

All children, from rich or poor families deserve the right to learn to read. Yet, thirty-four percent of American children start kindergarten without the skills they need to learn to read. Children living in low-income communities, like Webster in Burnett County, are especially at risk. In Burnett County, 18.6% of our population is below poverty level. Children who start out with reading difficulties are more likely to remain poor readers and fall behind in school. In Wisconsin, children in urban and rural communities are equally at-risk. (Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin, <http://www.chawisconsin.org/ror.htm>) Studies show that having books in the home is a huge educational advantage to children. “A child from a family rich in books is 19 percentage points more likely to complete university than a comparable child growing up without a home library.” (from <http://www.psmag.com/navigation/books-and-culture/home-libraries-provide-huge-educational-advantage-14212/>) To help our area children succeed, we have already started a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program using LSTA funds through the Northern Waters Library Service. We have started an Early Literacy Committee which extends its

influence to local day care centers and headstarts. We held a book give-away at the Burnett County Fair this summer, giving books to the children who attended our storytime at the 4H booth. We had our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten kickoff on Gandy Dancer Day (Webster, Wisconsin's annual village festival.) We gave away ice cream cones and a free book to each child - 115 in total. Our volunteer children's programmer also volunteers at Connections food giveaway (our local foodshelf) and while there, gives a free book to each child present. By partnering with the Happy Kids Backpack Program we will be reaching another special population who will benefit from the library's influence in their lives.

Early Literacy

Monroe Public Library **15-160**
Grow a Reader: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten **\$7,105**

The Monroe Public Library will develop a Grow a Reader: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program and accompanying Little Sprouts: 100 Books Before One program to increase early literacy, reading and school readiness among children in our community. Through this program, we will educate parents, caregivers, and community members about the importance of reading to kids and the impact this has on children's future abilities in school. Our Little Sprouts program is especially aimed at starting small with families who might be intimidated at the thought of reading 1,000 books.

The Grow A Reader program will help further the Monroe Public Library mission. Monroe has a significant Spanish-speaking population, and all program materials will be translated into Spanish. Through significant outreach and partnerships with local organizations, including the Literacy Council, we hope to reach this population as well as other non-library users.

Children under age one can start with the Little Sprouts: 100 Books program, and graduate to the Grow A Reader: 1,000 Books upon completion. Little Sprouts will be given a board book at sign-up to make sure they have something to read, and all children will get a book at the completion of the program. When children start the Grow A Reader program, they will be given a library tote bag to carry their books and start a library habit. We will also offer a voucher for a special kids library card, and encourage all families to sign up for library cards.

Early Literacy

Carleton A. Friday Memorial Library **15-162**
The First Five Years **\$6,500**

The goal of our project "The First Five Years" is to ensure the sustainable integration of early literacy instruction and practices into the New Richmond area by reaching out to the underserved.

The first five years of a child's life are a time of huge developmental growth, language and literacy development begins in infancy, and the skills developed during these early years help prepare children for learning to read. Early literacy can be thought of as "pre-reading skills", these skills make it easier for children transitioning into reading when they enter school.

Friday Memorial Library offered 132 different children's programs that had a 5,022 attendance last year. Our service population area includes daycare centers that have barriers to library service. There is a significant population without transportation and living in poverty. The first five years are critical to a

child's ability to succeed in school and beyond. Through this outreach program parents will be given the tools they need to make early literacy part of their children's lives. Caregivers will participate in workshops designed to give them understanding, techniques, and confidence to dispense early literacy kits and facilitate their own early literacy programs. Literacy kits will also be made available for checkout at the library.

With a new outreach program, "The First Five Years" we would like to target parents and caregivers who do not come to the library. To accomplish this we will be collaborating with community organizations that serve disadvantaged families and make resources and learning opportunities available. Encouraging parents and caregivers to read aloud is not sufficient to develop early literacy skills. Families and caregivers will be provided with early literacy kits that help foster language interaction and purposeful play between the adult and child. We strive to provide tools to create a language rich environment where parents and caregivers work with children on a one on one basis. Our support of parents and caregivers in their role as children's first teachers will offer endless learning opportunities by demonstrating the best materials and methods to develop language and early literacy skills. Emphasis will be on books and reading as part of daily life rather than a school like context. Parents will be encouraged to join their children and engage in multiple literacy activities through the materials provided in the kits. This will help develop early literacy skills and a love of reading through family involvement.

Children will be prepared with the skills needed when entering school, a love of books and reading will be in place, libraries will be viewed as safe and accessible places, parents, caregivers, and staff will receive training and guidance to introduce and increase knowledge of teaching the best early literacy practices.

Evaluation will occur at six month and one year evaluations, to be done by participating agencies.

Early Literacy

Kilbourn Public Library
Early Literacy Interactive Space

15-164
\$11,500

Children and their parents and caregivers of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds in the Wisconsin Dells / Lake Delton area have limited access to technology that appropriately helps develop early literacy skills. The Early, Digital and Computer Literacy grant will introduce ways to appropriately use technology to strengthen early literacy skills. The Early, Digital and Computer Literacy grant will increase access to early literacy computer, digital and print resources and will provide opportunities for children and their parents and caregivers to work together to improve early and computer literacy.

Delivery Services

Northern Waters Library Service	15-166
NWLS Delivery Service	\$15,000

Delivery has been an established, accepted, important, and expensive element of NWLS service since October of 1998. Using the combination of federal, state, and county funds, NWLS will continue to support the delivery service, as the service of choice, among its member libraries. Delivery is integral to resource sharing: the level of efficiency of the delivery network determines the level of satisfaction of patrons and library staff.

Delivery Services

South Central Library System	15-168
Delivery Services for Wisconsin Libraries Delivery Network	\$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

Southwest Wisconsin Library System	15-170
SWLS 2015 Technology Project	\$14,400

Southwest Wisconsin Library System member libraries lack both the financial and staff resources necessary to provide access to online resources individually. Given the relatively high poverty rate among the five SWLS counties, it is unlikely that patrons would have access to online resources on their own. This project will continue the subscriptions for two databases: ConsumerReports.org and Mango Languages, provide training for library staff and patrons and provide a marketing plan for raising awareness of these resources.

Public Library System Technology

Eastern Shores Library System	15-172
Wide Area Network Access for Eastern Shores 2015	\$11,500

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 ESLS, and five of the six libraries in MCLS have 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 150MB of transport to WiscNet, and 150MB for WAN traffic, for a total of 300MB with the BCN. The bandwidth was upgraded in mid-2014 as part of the DOA/TEACH project to increase bandwidth for libraries and library systems. 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.
Amount of Federal Funds Requested: \$11,500.00

Public Library System Technology

Northern Waters Library Service	15-174
NWLS Technology and Database Project	\$24,300

Northern Waters Library Service is maintaining a high level of information technology, thanks to the support of the LSTA grant 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 sparsely populated region of northern Wisconsin, 8,363 square miles (as large as Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware combined) with a population of 149,845. 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 22,256 students in the Northern Waters area, 52% receive free or reduced lunches. The erate school lunch data show the following discounts: Lac du Flambeau 90%; Ashland, Bayfield, Drummond, Hayward, Hurley, Phelps, Shell Lake, Solon Springs, Mellen, Spooner, Webster and Winter 80%; Washburn, Maple, Boulder Junction, Grantsburg 70%; Superior 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 funds from this project 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. (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.

Public Library System Technology

Outagamie Waupaca Library System	15-176
Support for OWLSnet data circuits	\$14,100

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 approximately \$94,000 for data circuits.

Public Library System Technology

Manitowoc-Calumet Library System	15-178
Public Library System Technology Project	\$8,600

LSTA funds will be used to pay for T1 and fiber lines for five of six of MCLS's member libraries at the TEACH-subsidized annual rate of \$1,200 per library. The grant will also help pay for MCLS's fiber line access, as well. Lester Public Library, the only library not connected to the BCN, will be subsidized with an equal amount of \$1,200 for Internet service contracted with Charter Communications through the City of Two Rivers. Under a contract for network services with the Eastern Shores Library System, MCLS will use local funds to pay for the central site costs, administration, technical support, and a MCLS's share of 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 MCLS member libraries now interact directly with our web-based ILS with the servers being hosted in the "cloud".

Providing high-speed, Internet access 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 continue investing in collaboration with ESLS in 2015. MCLS member libraries have repeatedly confirmed that they want the System to continue to maintain Internet access and the wide area network as vital system services. By allocating LSTA technology funds to pay for the T1/fiber lines and Internet service, which represent a substantial portion of network/Internet costs, this grant will help ensure that Manitowoc-Calumet libraries and their patrons, the continuation of access to ready and reliable telecommunications to support resource sharing, communications, Internet access, and access to e-resources.

Public Library System Technology

South Central Library System 15-180
2015 Public Library System Technology \$43,900

The 2015 Public Library System Technology grant will be used to:
Purchase network equipment to increase the bandwidth in libraries with a critical need (\$15,000)
Provide assistance for libraries planning to join the shared ILS (LINKcat) using the open source LibLime Koha software (\$2,000)
Provide a Discovery Layer for the LINKcat OPAC of the shared ILS (\$18,000)
Create makerspace kits for libraries to use in their programming (\$8,900)

Public Library System Technology

Nicolet Federated Library System 15-182
Online Database Support \$29,200

NFLS in cooperation with the Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS) purchases subscriptions to a variety of databases 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.

Public Library System Technology

Arrowhead Library System 15-184
ALS Technology Projects 2015 \$9,800

Arrowhead Library System (ALS) will maintain an effective and secure connection for member libraries to the ILS by purchasing adequate WAN bandwidth. It will not be used to purchase Internet Service. ALS will also upgrade the existing head end router.

ALS will add to and support the Mobile Makerspace that travels to member libraries for makerspace programs. The makerspace provides the opportunity for member libraries to promote community engagement, provide access, foster new ideas, and encourage exploration. The makerspace gives library patrons and the local community an opportunity to explore and test new technologies and equipment in a safe environment. It will also allow patrons to explore and learn at their own pace, focusing on their own interests to meet their technology goals.

Public Library System Technology

Milwaukee County Federated Library System 15-186
MCFLS System Technology Projects--2015 \$38,200

Member libraries of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System continue to develop services in various areas. The grant will assure secure network access through a new firewall, continue and secure telephone hold notification service through a new server, improve staff efficiency through one-step ordering of materials, and provide digital content to an underserved population through the purchase of Spanish Language e-books and digital audio.

Public Library System Technology

Waukesha County Federated Library System 15-188
Overdrive Integration and Charging Stations \$18,100

1. Enhancing the Integrated Library System software by integrating the Overdrive digital collection into the Café database. All materials available on Overdrive will appear in Café and users will be able to place holds and check out materials from the Café catalog. All of their holds and checked out materials will appear in their “my account” feature in the Café catalog.
2. Providing each library with a charging station which will allow up to 8 devices to be charged at one time. The station has cables for high volume usage so users would just have to plug their devices in to charge. The charge rate is 2% per minute for a phone and 1-2% per minute for a tablet or iPad. The stations will have customized graphics to promote the libraries.

Public Library System Technology

Lakeshores Library System 15-190
2015 LLS Technology Projects \$14,900

Our 2015 LLS Technology Project grant funds will improve our libraries ability to service the needs of their patrons in several ways. Funds will be used to improve visibility and accessibility of library collections, to improve on system-provided technology kits, develop system-provided data collection aids, improve our ability to support our digital collections and improve our efficiency at supporting library computers.

Public Library System Technology

Winnefox Library System 15-192
Enhancements to the WALs ILS \$19,700

This project will allow Winnefox to continue to provide a high-quality ILS product for both member libraries and the public. The three components of this project are:
Syndetics added content (cover art, reviews, etc.) to the public catalog.

SIP2 connection to allow our catalog to connect with the Overdrive ebook and audiobook collection. This connection is also used to connect the ILS to self-check machines.

Mobile Circ. This new SirsiDynix feature allows libraries to extend services to any place with an internet connection. As an example, the library could register users and even check out items at the local farmers' market or business expo. It also improves the collection management process by allowing staff to weed or do inventory directly from a mobile device.

Public Library System Technology

Winding Rivers Library System 15-194
Technology Consulting Services for WRLS \$23,300

Abstract: The Winding Rivers Library System (WRLS) will contract with a qualified network technician for one year, to assess member libraries' technology needs, provide technology consulting, prepare an inventory of all hardware and software in member libraries, standardize and document on-site wiring configurations, and implement patch management for hardware and software updates. In addition, WRLS will contract with Wisconsin Library Services (WILS) to perform and complete a system services study in 2015, to assist WRLS in planning for adding a staff network technician position in 2016.

Public Library System Technology

Kenosha County Library System 15-196
2015 KCLS Resources and Services \$9,200

This 2015 Library System Technology Project grant for KCLS will be to purchase systemwide Library Resources and Services. The purchases will include the annual membership to the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium to allow for better pricing on the products offered through the Wisconsin Digital Library. The grant money will also purchase an annual subscription to Syndetics for cover art used in the web opac of the Kenosha County Libraries. Finally, the grant will pay for a portion of the upgrade costs for the ILS/web opac.

Public Library System Technology

Indianhead Federated Library System	15-198
IFLS Automation Support	\$35,000

This project will provide a discovery layer (Innovative's Encore service) to our entire service population as a way to make searching library resources more in line with how our patrons search other services on the Internet. The discovery layer will integrate our traditional ILS, Badgerlink resources, and e-materials in one place. We have future plans to include local digitized materials as well.

Public Library System Technology

Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System	15-200
2015 LSTA Technology	\$18,100

This project helps to ensure stability of our network allowing for the system to provide an ILS to our member libraries. We also provide WPLC memberships for our member libraries so they are able to access electronic content. This grant is also used to provide Internet BCN connection to our member libraries. This will also allow us to provide an updated meeting and training room for better continuing education and learning opportunities for our member libraries and adjacent system libraries.

Public Library System Technology

Wisconsin Valley Library Service	15-202
WVLS Technology Services Enhancement	\$27,700

Bandwidth enhancements currently underway are simultaneously taxing the existing (very aged) routers currently in place at many of our libraries and positioning those libraries to be acquiring even more bandwidth in the future. Other mechanisms for acquiring additional bandwidth (ie. Business Cable Internet services) also demand additional security mechanisms be available on the "edge" of the libraries' networks.

Ever increasing technology-usage-sophistication of the general patron base also means the "inside" of the Wide Area Network (WAN) connecting the libraries to the library system must also continuously see improvements to security capabilities and configurations.

The ability of low-cost preservation of "analog" materials in a digital format has driven demand pervasively for the ability of libraries to digitize materials, especially those of local significance or uniquely local and subject to permanent loss if not preserved in a timely fashion. Many libraries are working individually on digitization strategies to meet local demands. This portion of the WVLS Technology Services Enhancement project is intended to help WVLS member libraries of all types to access capital for digitization projects, to learn how to digitize and preserve content, and to normalize that experience among many/all libraries within the system and, hopefully, within other systems as well.

21st century technology connotes the use of current technologies to enhance experiences. Writers can now use advanced tools to self-publish in a meaningful way. Creators of physical things can now design electronically, or consume others' electronically generated designs to "print" physical objects in three dimensions. Library patrons across all income levels, community institutions, and local businesses alike are seeking opportunities to learn about and experiment with these technologies to discover ways to make them locally relevant. Jobs are being created around the "individual-creator" concept both in developing, manufacturing, and servicing the tools as well as in the innovative (and often even common sense) utilization of those tools to create new content, information, and "things."

Merging Public Library Systems

Lakeshores Library System	15-214
Exploring a Consolidation-Kenosha &Lakeshore	\$5,000

This project has two successive goals. The first goal of the project is to develop and execute an investigation into whether or not a consolidation of Kenosha County Library System and Lakeshores Library System is in the best interests of library users throughout both systems' combined service area. If a consolidation would be beneficial, the second goal of the project will be to develop a timeline for consolidation, and a draft Library System Plan.