

# Rural Schools and Libraries

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# Aspen Report

- [Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries](#)
- To meet the changing needs of a digital age, libraries must leverage their 3 core assets:
  - People
  - Place
  - Platform
- Framework encourages libraries to broaden the amount of resources offered while maintaining a local presence.
- Focused on aligning library services to support community goals.

# Aspen Report

- “The challenges have been particularly acute for small libraries, those in rural communities [...] where limited budgets make access to e-books and upgrades to high-speed broadband difficult despite high community need for and interest in both.” (xi)
- “City library systems have many more users per year than rural, town or suburban libraries, and thus have different costs to cover, but all libraries need the same outcomes: high speed broadband that meets the needs of every library user and is not dependent on one’s zip code.” (50)
- “In some cases, notably in small cities and rural areas, libraries struggle to keep up because of extremely limited and unpredictable funding.” (52)
- “Support rural and small libraries to ensure that all residents have access to world-class resources regardless of where they live.” (64)
- “Structure grant opportunities in ways that small and rural libraries can take advantage of them; for example, not always emphasizing cutting-edge technology.” (65)

# Aspen Report

Recommendations for the special case of rural and small communities:

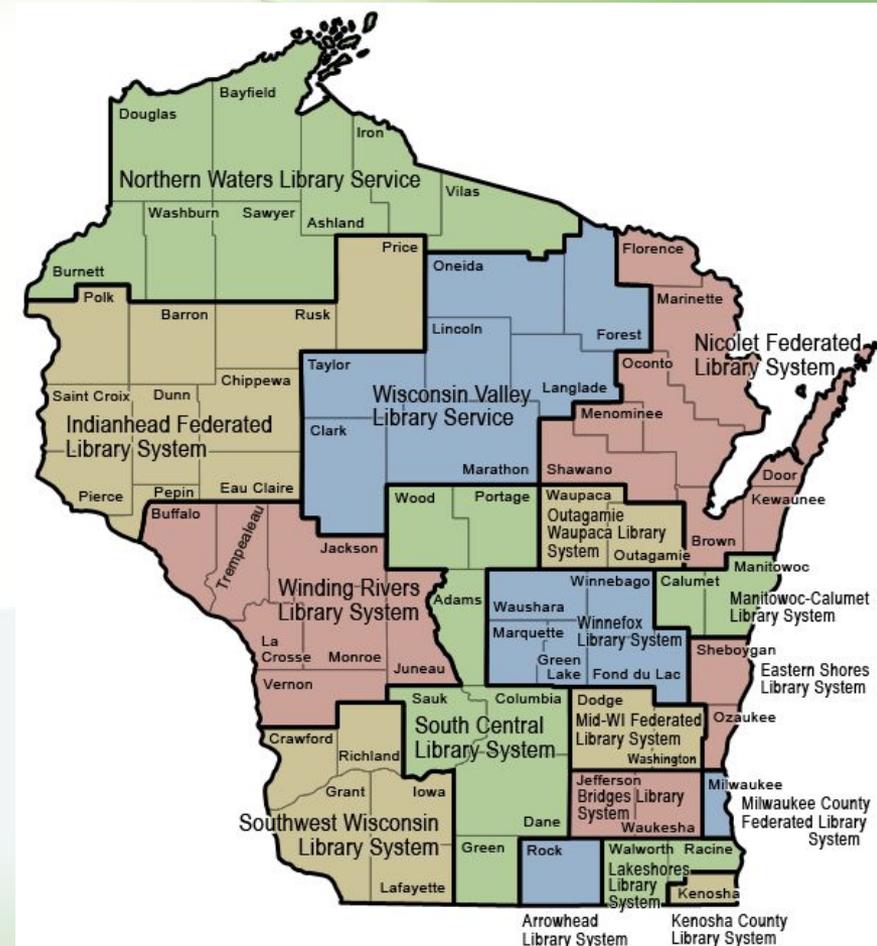
- Explore regional models to create economies of scale
- Maximize grant opportunities
- Create connections for librarians to share models and lessons
- Become part of larger library platforms that provide access to larger bodies of content

# ILEAD USA

- Leadership development with a focus on participatory technology tools.
- Worked in partnership with 9 other states, led by the Illinois State Library.
- Six teams, each consisting of five librarians (multitype)
  - Each team focused on a project to address a specific community need.
- One of the participants was Amanda Burns, former director of the Suring Public Library. Her team's project was a website and framework to encourage collaboration between public libraries and schools.

# Public Library Systems: Background

- Wisconsin's regional library systems began 40 years ago to enhance services and encourage resource sharing among public libraries.
- Legislation has been updated, but composition and service structure has remained fairly constant.
- Meanwhile, technology has affected the context in which libraries operate.
- In 2015, the Division conducted efficiency and cost-effectiveness studies, reviewed by COLAND.
- COLAND recommended that the Superintendent appoint a steering committee to make specific recommendations.



# Public Library System Redesign

- Ten person steering committee appointed
- Project Manager selected from proposals
- Project Work Groups selected from library community
- Town Hall Forum on May 12 at professional conference in Oshkosh
- Federal LSTA grant funds allocated to support project & development of recommendations
- Recommendations may require legislation
- Goal: Achieve a more efficient and effective structure & more consistent, equitable public library services

# Digital Public Library of America

- [DPLA](#) can share the unique stories of rural communities with people from across the street and around the world.
- It offers a single point of access to millions of items from local, state and national libraries, archives, and museums.
- DPI is on the Wisconsin DPLA governing board.
- Wisconsin's "hub" will go live early this summer.

*[Image of school in Ringle, WI, 1949](#) from the Libraries and Schools in Lincoln and Marathon Counties collection, supported in part by LSTA grants and soon to be discoverable through DPLA.*



# Common School Funds

- Common School Funds (CSF) are typically the only source of funding for public school libraries in communities across the state.
- [Board of Commissioners of Public Lands](#) (BCLP) just reported Wisconsin school districts will receive \$37.7 million or \$31.78 per student in Common School Funds.
- CSF are allocated to public school districts based on student population.
- [BCPL Trust Fund Loan Program](#) offers fixed rate loans to municipalities through a simple process with no application or pre-payment penalty fees.
- DPI is launching a comprehensive new CSF website in early May,

# School Library Media Licensing Update

- Creating a more accessible path to licensure should help rural districts to “grow their own.”
- The goal is to maintain high standards that fit the role as it exists now and in the future, while reducing the time and cost of attaining the license.
- DPI has draft content guidelines which are under community review.
- In June the Professional Standards Council will review.
- State Superintendent Tony Evers will review prior to implementation.

# Lifelong Learning Support for Job Seekers

- DPI and the statewide library community agree that not every public library, on its own, can build and maintain robust support for job seekers.
- Public libraries and DPI's RL&LL team are co-creating a Job Seeker's Support portal.
- Any public or school library can link to it or load the content to its own website.
- **This will make it easy for rural school and public libraries to better serve the job search needs of their communities.**
- **We WELCOME your ideas**

# Lifelong Learning Support for Job Seekers

- 60 public and school libraries have completed surveys.
- 150+ web-based resources were recommended by partners.
- DPI is holding feedback sessions with libraries to get more ideas.
- The website will include help on setting up an email account, BadgerLink tools like Learning Express Library, and local newspapers from rural areas.
- Connections with job centers and DWD are being strengthened.

# Lifelong Learning Support for Job Seekers

- DPI and Council on Library and Network Development (COLAND) raised awareness of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- DPI and SRLAAW (Directors of Public Library Systems and Resource Libraries) have raised awareness.
- [WIOA Plans filed by Workforce Development Boards](#) - recently submitted to DWD.

# offers high-quality content to everyone

- All Wisconsin residents can connect to BadgerLink from any computing device connected to the internet.
  - Offers local newspapers from many Wisconsin communities.
  - Includes tools to build computer software and job search skills.
  - Content for all age groups covering most school subject areas.
  - Genealogy tools offer insights into family and local history.
- BadgerLink connects to military families - featured on DPI's Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
  - Local libraries are highlighted monthly.



# Interlibrary Loan

- Rural libraries have access to specialized materials outside of their local collection.
- DPI's Interlibrary Loan staff refer Interlibrary Loan requests that cannot be filled in Wisconsin to give rural libraries access to materials nationwide.
- Catalog records can be quickly and easily incorporated into a library's catalog using WISCAT, the state's Interlibrary Loan software. These high quality records help library users discover materials on the shelf at their library.

# Interlibrary Loan

- Interlibrary loan gives rural schools access to the broadest possible collection of library materials.
- Educators often request multiple copies of books for class discussion. School libraries don't have to spend funds purchasing multiple copies.
- [College students that use Interlibrary Loan at high volumes have a GPA 1.43 higher than students who don't take advantage of Interlibrary Loans.](#)
- Interlibrary Loan can also supply journal articles. In rural areas where broadband is limited, students can still have offline access to BadgerLink-like content.
- Distance college students living in rural areas can take advantage of ILL using their public library.

# School Access to e-Books

- Ebook collections can make it easy for school districts to provide more materials to students without increasing the size of the library.
- They also reduce the risk and cost of lost books - students, parents and schools love that.
- School librarians have been talking with DPI about this since 2013.
- Multiple surveys have revealed needs and preferences.
- WiLS (Wisconsin-based school and library consulting firm) is leading the process.

# School Access to e-Books

- In December, 2014, WiLS shared a report summarizing their project research.
- In March, 2016, WiLS convened a “Think Tank.”
- Think Tank attendees reviewed school e-book purchasing models used in other states, and agreed on the mandatory and critical features of a school e-book purchasing model for Wisconsin.
- School library staff provided more feedback at the recent Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association conference.
- DPI will be meeting with WiLS soon to review recommendations.

# Stay Connected with DPI's RL&LL and PLD teams

- [DPI RL&LL Website: http://dpi.wi.gov/rl3](http://dpi.wi.gov/rl3)
- [DPI PLD Website: http://dpi.wi.gov/pld](http://dpi.wi.gov/pld)
- [WI Libraries blog](#)
- [BadgerLink outreach materials](#)
- Google+ Communities
  - [Library Services](#)
  - [Library Technology](#)
  - [School Library Media](#)