

40 (+) Years of Winnefox

1963 The Waushara-Green Lake County Cooperative Library Project was announced in June. It was to be a 2-year project funded with \$30,000 in federal grant funding. This would be the only program of its kind in Wisconsin, and one of the few in the country. Both county boards endorsed the project. This project would be directed by Jane Caldwell & located in basement of the Berlin Public Library. At that time there were 8 libraries in the two counties (in 2017 there are 13):

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|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Berlin | 5. Markesan |
| 2. Green Lake | 6. Plainfield |
| 3. Hancock | 7. Princeton |
| 4. Leon-Saxeville | 8. Wautoma |

After the initial two years this project would continue as WGLC and would be funded and governed by the two counties.

1971 Wisconsin's Public Library System Act was passed

1976 Discussions to form Winnefox started in Winnebago Co and then expanded into Green Lake and then Waushara. County board resolutions of establishment were passed and 15 trustees appointed.

1977

- January: Pamela Brown hired at WGLC
- February: The first Winnefox Board meeting was held. Leonard Archer was director and Virginia Perez was Coordinator. The first year's budget was \$126,040. There were 17 libraries in the three counties.

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|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Berlin | 9. East Waushara (Poy Sippi) |
| 2. Green Lake | 10. Redgranite |
| 3. Kingston | 11. Wautoma |
| 4. Markesan | 12. Wild Rose |
| 5. Princeton | 13. Oshkosh |
| 6. Hancock | 14. Neenah |
| 7. Leon-Saxeville | 15. Omro |
| 8. Plainfield | 16. Winneconne |

It appears from the records that Menasha did not join Winnefox until 1979.

Initial services included a system-wide library card and rotating collections of filmstrip-cassette kits, LP books, and children's record/book sets.

- May: A graphic artist was hired and van delivery began.
- October: Marquette Co. began talking to Winnefox about joining. The Fox Valley Library Council was established.
- December: Jane Caldwell retired from WGLC. Pam Brown would be named director in 1978.

- 1978** Ginny Perez left and Leonard Archer retired. Dick Miller was hired as Director and Gloria Hoegh as Coordinator. In December there was a special board meeting to admit Marquette County, effective 1/1/79
- 1980** Cindy Wallace begins working for WGLC.
- 1982** Dick Miller left early in the year and Paul Nelson was named Acting Director. John Nichols became Director in November.
- 1985** In July WALs was established by agreement between Winnefox and Oshkosh Public Library to *"acquire, own, and operate a 'turn-key' minicomputer-based, on-line integrated automated library system(ILS)"*. Oshkosh Head of Technical Services/Collection Management Karen Boehning began planning to implement this. Berlin, Menasha, & Neenah began talks to join WALs.
- 1989** Menasha & Neenah went live with the WALs ILS. Over the next 18 years additional libraries would join the ILS until all libraries were participating.
- 1991** The Waushara-Green Lake Library Cooperative (WGLC) became a Winnefox program under the name Winnefox Cooperative Technical Services (WCTS). Services at this time included cooperative ordering, cataloging, and processing of materials, rotating collections, and library workdays.
- 1998** Gloria Hoegh passed away. Ken Hall hired as Coordinator (title later changed to Assistant Director)
- 1999** Act 150 passed, requiring counties to reimburse libraries at least 70% of the cost of serving residents with no municipal library. Winnefox counties already reimbursed libraries for this service and have continued to fund libraries at or near the 100% level, as well as funding WCTS, library construction, and special projects.
- 2000** Fond du Lac Co. joined Winnefox. Pam Brown retired from WCTS.
- 2001** Mark Arend hired as Field Services Librarian

- 2002** A rotating collection of DVD packages, funded by Winnefox, is started to let libraries try out the then-new format; as DVDs become a mainstream format the circuit becomes library-supported and eventually the DVDs are absorbed into library collections. Ken Hall left and Mark Arend named Interim Assistant Director ("Interim" later dropped).
- 2005** John Nichols retired. Jeff Gilderson-Duwe hired as Director
- 2007** Overdrive ebook service began. Digital audio was later added to the collection.
- 2008** A changed governance structure was approved for the WALs operation and a new Winnefox Technology Executive Council (WTEC) was established.
- 2009** Sharing of materials between libraries continued to grow, requiring the restructuring of delivery routes and adding a third van.
- 2011** Winnefox began the Overdrive Advantage collection to supplement the statewide collection with additional copies of popular titles, leading to much shorter wait times. Winnefox is a statewide leader in this area.
- 2015** Winnefox contracted with the CESA-6 GROW office to provide grant-writing services to libraries