

trustee tale

Newsletter for Public Library Trustees

Ebooks, and Kindles, and Nooks, Oh My!

By Mark W. Arend, Assistant Director
Winnefox Library System

The world is changing and libraries are changing with it. A modern library is likely to have the same book in multiple formats: traditional print (regular, large type, and paperback), audio (CD and Playaway), downloadable digital (audio and ebook), and maybe even video. Not to mention other library resources: music CDs, computers, databases, wireless internet access, and more.

Though it seems as if libraries are suddenly being flooded with new formats, this isn't really a new development. While printed books have been, and continue to be, an important part of the library's holdings they haven't been the only format for a long time. Over a hundred years ago some public libraries were beginning to experiment with collecting new recording technologies: Edison's wax cylinders and shellac discs. By the 50's many libraries had record collections and some had films in 16mm and 8mm. In the 80's libraries began to experiment with CDs and movies on VHS, Beta, and early videodiscs. Around the same time we began to see the first (pre-internet) public-use computers.

One of the newest developments, and one of the most exciting, is the growth in digital media—computer files that have no physical existence—and especially ebooks. In 2005 the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium, an organization made up of all 18 public library systems in Wisconsin, began contracting with the Overdrive company to provide Wisconsin library users with digital audiobooks that library users could download to their computers or MP3 players. In 2009 Overdrive added ebooks to its collection and in the last month it's added ebooks for the popular Kindle reader.

The explosion in interest in and use of ebooks that we've seen over the past two years has shown no sign of slowing down. In order to fill the demand for these new formats the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) has made a significant commitment to expanding this collection. In 2011 they are spending \$100,000 in Federal LSTA grant funding on ebook and digital audio content, which is in addition to over \$100,000 budgeted by WPLC. In 2012, a partnership between DLTCL, public library systems, and public libraries will spend \$1,000,000 on "e-content". DLTCL has committed up to \$300,000 in LSTA funds which will be matched by \$700,000 from libraries and systems.



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Most of this \$700,000 will come from libraries around the state. Winnefox is recommending that libraries consider this as part of their collections expenditures. Just as libraries have expanded their idea of collection beyond printed materials to include CDs and videos they need to expand again to include digital media.

Digital media is here to stay. As costs for e-readers continue to drop—they're now available for under \$100—use of digital media will continue to rise among our users. Libraries need to fill this demand.



A Very Brief Introduction to Compensation for Nonresident Service

*by Rick Krumwiede, director
Outagamie-Waupaca Library System*

Public libraries in Wisconsin have a long history of providing service to residents of adjacent counties. In many areas, such service predates the establishment of Wisconsin's public library systems. With the establishment of systems, public libraries were required to begin providing service to residents of all counties within their own system. In addition, the Department of Public Instruction encouraged all systems to enter into intersystem onsite borrowing agreements with adjacent systems in order to enable intersystem service. While some of these intersystem onsite borrowing agreements included compensation from one system to another, others did not. In the mid-1980s, system law was changed to require public libraries belonging to systems to serve residents of adjacent systems, but the law was later amended to allow public libraries to discontinue this service if they weren't appropriately compensated for it.

Since 2005, with the passage of Wisconsin Act 420, counties have been required to reimburse libraries in adjacent counties for serving their residents who live outside of a community with a library. Essentially, counties were required to reimburse libraries in adjacent counties on the same basis that they are required to reimburse municipal libraries within their own counties for serving rural residents. This law has been very successful in making sure that public libraries are compensated for much of the inter-county service that they provide. For example, in 2010 public libraries in 65 counties received \$4.2 million in inter-county service payments from adjacent counties. (See DPI's FAQ at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/act420.html> for more information on Act 420.)

Because counties are only responsible for paying for library service to their residents who live outside of communities that operate libraries, counties that operate consolidated county libraries are exempt from the provisions of Act 420. This exemption can be unfortunate for neighboring libraries because counties that operate consolidated county libraries often have rural residents who find it easier to use a library in another county.

Most public library trustees would agree that their libraries should be compensated for extending service beyond their municipal borders because they believe that it is inappropriate for local residents to subsidize the use of their libraries by nonresidents. However, adequate compensation for nonresident service could occur in a variety of ways. Under the current laws, payments from counties are probably the most common method for compensating municipal libraries for the nonresident service they provide. In some situations, a public library system or another municipality might pay a municipal library for the service it receives. It's also possible that a library could receive a service, rather than a payment, in exchange for the service that it provides. Finally, two libraries or jurisdictions could decide that they each provide roughly the same amount of service to the other's residents (i.e. there is reciprocity of service) and that no other compensation is necessary.

While some inequities continue to exist, current library laws, agreements, and practices have gone a long way toward ensuring that public libraries are fairly compensated for extending service beyond their borders. Your public library system can answer additional questions and provide you with more information about the various nonresident service arrangements that are in place.

Changes in Library Director Continuing Education Requirements

By Mark Arend, Assistant Director
Winnefox Library System

One of the requirements for membership in a library system is that a library director hold and maintain certification as a library director from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). To maintain certification a director must participate in continuing education activities as described in the *Certification Manual for Wisconsin Public Library Directors*. The DPI has issued new rules for library directors' continuing education requirements which took effect in August of this year. These changes affect both newly-hired and current directors, and are summarized below.



New classes for Grade II and III Certification

Newly-hired library directors holding Grade II and Grade III temporary certification (required for libraries in communities with population less than 5,999) must complete four required classes on library administration and management during their first four years of employment as a director. These classes have been modified to reflect the changes in the nature of public library operation; the new classes being phased in are:

- Basic public library administration
 - Advanced public library administration
 - Organization and management of collections
 - Public and community services
- The DPI has developed a transition schedule for directors who have completed some of the old required

classes, and the directors who are affected have been informed.

New requirement for technology-related continuing education activities

To maintain certification, all library directors must complete 100 hours of continuing education activities over a five year recertification period (this requirement takes effect for newer directors once the initial four classes have been completed). A new addition to this requirement is that 10 hours of these activities be "technology-related".

New option for Grade II Certification

Applicants for Grade II certification would not have to take the four required classes if they hold a bachelor's degree along with a minor in library science, if the minor includes or is supplemented by 3 semester credits of coursework (or the equivalent) in advanced public library administration.

FAQ

I've heard that for all our meetings we have to post an agenda in three places in the community. Is this true?

No, this is a commonly-held misunderstanding. The law requires that notice be given to:

1. the public
2. any members of the news media who have submitted a written request for notice
3. your municipality's official newspaper designated pursuant to state statute or, if none exists, a news medium likely to give notice in the area.

The Attorney General's office has advised that posting the meeting notice in at least three locations in the community will serve to give notice to the public.

The Open Meetings Compliance Guide, found at <http://www.doj.state.wi.us/site/ompr.asp>, is a good resource.

For answers to questions on library director certification you can refer to:

- Your system's certification or continuing education coordinator
- The *Certification Manual for Wisconsin Public Library Director*, found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/cert.html>
- *Trustee Essential # 19: Library Director Certification*, found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/pld/handbook.html> (Note that this has not been updated to reflect this change in requirements).



**LIBRARIES:
A RENEWABLE RESOURCE**
Wisconsin Library Association
Annual Conference
November 1-4,
Hilton Milwaukee City Center &
Frontier Airlines Center,
Milwaukee

[http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/
conferences/2011/index.htm](http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/conferences/2011/index.htm)

**LIBRARY
LEGISLATION DAY**
February 14, 2012

LLD is an excellent opportunity to talk with legislators directly and encourage their support for programs that improve library services within the state.



You can find more information at:
[http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/
day/index.htm](http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/day/index.htm)

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If you have questions, comments or suggestions
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