

trustee tale

Newsletter for Public Library

Revisioning Wisconsin Public Library Systems

State Superintendent Tony Evers has recently announced the appointment of the Steering Committee for Revisioning Wisconsin Public Library Systems, a multi-year project seeking to update and refine the roles and services of Public Library Systems and maximize the public investment in library systems and public libraries.

The Steering Committee includes a DPI liaison and a diverse group of librarians, including a member of the DPI sponsored Lean System Study Work Group, a member of COLAND, a resource library director, small and large system directors, a representative from the Milwaukee Public Library, and public library representatives from libraries of varying sized communities.

The group will be supported by COLAND (the Council on Library and Network Development) and The Division for Libraries and Technology. More information about the project and the process leading up to it can be found at http://pld.dpi.wi.gov/pld_system-redesign



Developing an Effective Library: Step Two, The New Director's First Weeks

By Mark W. Arend, Assistant Director
Winnefox Library System

Hiring a new library director is expensive. You've spent a lot of time, effort, and money deciding what experience, abilities, and qualities your new director should have, interviewing, and choosing the right director for your library. Unfortunately, many library boards feel that their job is done as soon as the new director walks in the door. Spending a little time and effort after the director is hired, however, can make a big difference.

This process really starts before you hire the director. The library's files and financial records should be in order. The director's office should have been cleaned.

Introduce your new director to the library staff. Go with them to the municipal offices to meet your clerk or administrator and fill out paperwork. Help introduce them to elected officials and other community leaders.

Walk them through the building, pointing out areas that you're especially proud of, that have been recently updated, or are of concern. Go over the library's policies and budget.

Doing this will not only make your new director feel more welcome, but will help them more quickly become an effective leader.

FAQ

We're remodeling the library next year. Do we have to have a formal competitive bidding process?

Possibly, depending on the project and estimated cost. Wisconsin Statutes requires municipalities to competitively bid any "public construction" project that is estimated to cost over \$25,000.

If the cost is under \$25,000 but over \$5,000 the municipality must give a class I notice of the construction before a contract is executed.

The Municipality, published by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, discussed this in their November 2013 issue. In addition to these requirements, your municipality may have policies addressing capital projects. Your municipal clerk or public works department can also help you with this.



Wisconsin joins the Digital Public Library of America

On August 28, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) announced that Wisconsin is one of the newest additions to its growing roster of partners. DPLA brings together the riches of America's libraries, archives and museums and makes them freely available to the world. Since launching in April 2013, DPLA has aggregated over 11 million items from hundreds of institutions across the United States. These items come from a national network of Content Hubs, large digital collections from institutions such as the Smithsonian, Harvard University and the National Archives, and Service Hubs, state or regional collaboratives that bring together digital collections from multiple partners.

The DPLA Service Hub in Wisconsin will build on the Recollection Wisconsin statewide digital initiative, a collaboration of the Milwaukee Public Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WiLS, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Historical Society. As a Service Hub, Recollection Wisconsin will serve as the "on-ramp" for Wisconsin libraries and cultural heritage organizations to participate in DPLA, ensuring that local collections can be discovered as part of this innovative national program.

Wisconsin's first contribution to DPLA is slated to go live in early 2016. It will consist of nearly 400,000 records representing photographs, books, maps, artifacts and other historical resources from more than 200 libraries, archives and museums. Many of these materials document the histories of communities across the state, including thousands of resources digitized by the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center in partnership with dozens of public libraries. Other materials to be made available through DPLA in early 2016 encompass ma-

ior research collections held by Wisconsin institutions, such as the Wisconsin Historical Society's Freedom Summer Project and the American Geographical Society Library collections at UW-Milwaukee. Smaller, local digital collections such as the InfoSoup Memory Project will also be included.

A statewide survey of 140 libraries and historical societies in communities with populations under 6,000 conducted by Recollection Wisconsin in 2014 indicated that 85% of those organizations that do not currently have digital collections of local materials are interested in bringing this content online, while 82% of those with existing digital collections are interested in sharing more. In its role as a DPLA Service Hub, Recollection Wisconsin will coordinate professional development opportunities for Wisconsin library and cultural heritage professionals to learn about selection, copyright, scanning, metadata, digital preservation, and other elements of the digitization process, which will help them share their collections through Recollection Wisconsin and DPLA.

"Partnering with DPLA will not only provide significant exposure for our digital collections, but will enable transformative uses of our cultural heritage materials," said Ann Hanlon, Head of Digital Collections and Initiatives at UW-Milwaukee and Chair of the Recollection Wisconsin Governing Board. "We are grateful for the leadership and coordination that WiLS has provided to enable Wisconsin to partner in this ambitious and groundbreaking effort."

To read more about the Service Hub planning process, governance and implementation timeline, visit <http://recollectionwisconsin.org/dpla>.



Save the Date!



Let's Make It Happen! at the Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference

This year's WLA Conference will be at the **Madison Marriott West in Middleton on 4 – 6 November**. As usual there are programs of interest to trustees. Check out the WLA site for more information.

<http://wla.wisconsinlibraries.org/events-conferences/annual-conference/wla-conference-home>

Have questions?

Contact us and we'll try to help.

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