

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium
Digital Archives Backup Workgroup Notes
June 16, 2025, 1:00 pm

ATTENDEES: Alison Hoffman (MLS), Andrew Hoks (SCLS), Tamara Ramski (SCLS), Emily Rogers (WVLS), Vicki Teal Lovely (SCLS), Kristen Whitson (RW/WiLS)

ABSENT: Keetra Baker (WLS), Joshua Klingbeil (WVLS), Scott Prater (UW-Madison)

Project Managers: Melody Clark (WiLS)

1. Review Agenda – Changes or additions

The Technology Steering Committee's discussion of the remaining LSTA funds was added as a discussion item.

2. Discussion Items

a. Discussion: APTrust

At the last meeting, the group was introduced to APTrust as an optional storage option. K. Whitson and S. Prater met with the Executive Director of APTrust. Recollection WI is moving forward with a no-cost six-month trial pilot as a data-gathering process. T. Ramski at SCLS has agreed to use a copy of 1 TB of digitized materials for this pilot, so no other systems' data will be copied, used, or moved. An [APTrust Pilot Plan Timeline](#) was shared with the group.

K. Whitson attended a recent APTrust annual meeting that was two half days of virtual meetings. APTrust asked a lot of questions about what their users need and want. She was impressed with the community and the organization, noting they are very adaptable to make changes to their procedures and workflows to meet the needs of their users.

It was asked if 1-2 TB could be used on the existing servers as a loading dock for materials, both during this pilot and ongoing, if the backup servers are maintained? A. Hoks noted that would be fine, and the only potential issue would be if it breaks after May 2026, when the contract ends.

It was noted that the goal, if they go with APTrust, is to be off the servers by then.

Next steps: The group will review the results of the pilot at their October meeting, and then the group's feedback will be incorporated into a draft proposal for the Technology Steering Committee to review at their December meeting.

b. Discussion: Technology Steering Meeting

It was shared that SCLS has a remaining balance of \$66,419.53 after covering the remainder of the Dell Backup Collaboration Maintenance Extension. At the Steering meeting, V. Teal Lovely proposed that it be used to fund the next generation of the Digital Archives Backup project for public library materials. There was general

agreement with this. Next steps for the Technology Steering Committee are for V. Teal Lovely to verify with DPI on the use of the funds, and the topic will come back to the Steering Committee at a future meeting after they learn more about the viability of the APTrust solution.

It was asked if those funds could be used to fund APTrust. If the Steering Committee and DPI agree, yes.

It was asked where the responsibility of the digital archives storage should go. Does it stay with the WPLC or does it go with another group? It was noted that if this group determines it should move outside of the WPLC, this group can make a recommendation to the Technology Steering Committee, who would review and weigh in, and, ultimately, the WPLC Board would need to make that decision. It was also noted that currently, SCLS is the fiscal agent for this project, and they can remain so in the future, if necessary.

3. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is September 9, 2025, at 9:00 am. It has been asked to reschedule the meeting for mid-October after the next Recollection Wisconsin Annual meeting on September 22nd.

A poll will be sent out to schedule the next meeting, avoiding the WHS Conference October 15th – 17th and WLA October 28th – 31st.