

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium
Digital Library Steering Committee Meeting Notes

November 6, 2025, at 1:00 pm

ATTENDEES: BLS: Shawn Carlson (Waukesha), BLS: Abby Armour (Mukwonago), KLS: Shannon Urban (Kenosha), MCFLS: Karli Pederson (Milwaukee), MCFLS: Kenny Schlueter (Greenfield), MCLS: Meredith Gadzinski (Manitowoc), MLS: Leslie Jochman (Plymouth), NWLS: Leslie Mehle (Superior), OWLS: Megan Kloeckner (Little Chute), PLLS: Michael DeVries (Beloit), SCLS: Eric Norton (McMillan), Katie Hanson, proxy for Molly Warren (Madison), SWLS: Karina Zidon (Platteville), WLS: Nicole Hardina-Wilhelm (Neenah), WLS: Susie Menk (Ripon), WVLS: Elisha Sheffer (Rhineland), WPLC Board Rep: Katherine Elchert (NWLS)

Absent: IFLS: Martha Spangler (Altoona), NFLS: Clare Kindt (Brown County), WRLS: Kayla Mathson (Independence), Elizabeth Neuman (DPI Rep)

Project Managers: Melody Clark (WiLS)

Meeting started at 1:00 pm

1. **Call to order**
2. **Review Agenda – changes or additions**
There were no changes or additions.
3. **Approval of minutes – [September 11, 2025](#)**

Motion: Approval of meeting minutes

Made by: S. Carlson

Second: K. Schlueter

Discussion: None

Results: Motion Passed

4. **Reports: Committees, Workgroups and Project Manager Updates**

- a. **WPLC Board Report**

It was reported that the Historical and Local Digital Collections Committee co-hosted a Historical Newspapers Think Tank in collaboration with Recollection Wisconsin on September 23rd. A white paper will be created with outcomes and next steps. The Website Workgroup shared the draft site. The Board will be asked to provide some feedback to help fine-tune the site. The slate of officers for 2026 was approved: Chair: Steve Ohs, PLLS; Vice-Chair: Bradley Ships, OWLS; Digital Library Steering Liaison: Katherine Elchert, NWLS; Technology Collaborations Steering Liaison: Steve Hesel, MCFLS.

The Board approved the 2026 Digital Library seat apportionment and there will be a few changes for 2026. The Board adopted values and reviewed activities for year two of the strategic plan.

b. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee met Sept 18th They walked through Year 2 activities of the WPLC Strategic Plan and completed the same survey the steering committees did. S.Gold provided updates from OverDrive since the last meeting including changes to hold suspensions and a change to the way the current average waiting period is calculated. A form for special publisher sales specifically for author talks or library reads was presented and an update on Amazon Business and library sales was provided. Digipalooza attendees shared highlights from their conference experiences and the committee discussed staggering subscription packages of books to reflect shifts in patron demands. The next meeting will be November 20th and selectors will be asked if they wish to continue in their roles at that time. System directors will be notified of any impending vacancies.

5. Discussion and Action Items

a. Discussion and Action: 2026 Officers

The Nominations Committee is recommending the following slate of officers for 2025:

- DL Steering Chair: Michael DeVries
- DL Steering Vice Chair: Karina Zidon

Motion: Approval of the slate of officers

Made by: E. Norton

Second: K. Schlueter

Discussion: None

Results: Motion Passed

b. Discussion: Wisconsin Reads

The WPLC Digital Library Marketing Committee is planning a statewide book club with *Still True* by Maggie Ginsberg, winner of the WLA 2023 Literary Award for fiction.

Wisconsin Reads will run from January 15th through March 14th, 2026. The Committee has used their budget to purchase a simultaneous use license for the duration of the program and has money left over to use for copies of the audiobook version as well.

They have a [logo](#) and are working to develop marketing materials and a book discussion guide - which they hope to have available next month on the WPLC website - to support the public library community. Ms. Ginsberg is a very enthusiastic supporter of this program and is excited to do a virtual author interview and Q&A, which is tentatively scheduled for **March 4th, 2026, at 7:00 pm**. They are looking for a member of the WPLC community who is interested in doing that interview! There would be strong support

from WPLC project managers and the Marketing Committee, and delighted participation from the author.

The group was asked if anyone is interested in helping the project by interviewing the author? E. Norton volunteered!

6. 2026 Meeting Schedule

- February 12, 2026, 1:00 PM
- April 9, 2026, 1:00 PM
- April 10, 2026, 10:00 AM - Annual Membership Meeting (Virtual)
- April 24, 2026, 10:00 AM (Date is tentative)- Listening/Feedback Session (Virtual)
- May 14, 2026, 1:00 PM
- September 10, 2026, 1:00 PM
- November 5, 2026, 1:00 PM

7. Committee information sharing and questions

A. Amour shared that Bridges libraries are not renewing Hoopla this fall and will reallocate that money to their OverDrive Advantage account. Several libraries in MCFLS, Monarch and others are also not renewing Hoopla.

S. Menk shared that Ripon started a library level Advantage account and is working to figure out the purchasing for it. She is purchasing cost per circ and is using it for book clubs. It was asked how the OD CPC costs compare to Hoopla. S. Menk didn't select for Hoopla so wasn't sure. Others shared the range from \$.99 - \$9.99. L. Jochman noted she is mostly purchasing cost per circ to bring down holds and they are dropping Hoopla next month and sees it as replacing that service. K. Hanson noted that sometimes choosing the 100 max option is a much better option than CPC. 100 max availability is on a title by title basis, though.

K. Pederson asked those libraries that have advantage accounts to share more about their approach to obtaining an Advantage account vs a collaborative approach through the system. K. Hanson noted that for Madison, they make sure the titles purchased by MPL are also available in the SCLS system's account.

N. Hardina-Wilhelm asked if other libraries were having to replace hotspots and noted that they are seeing a high volume of loss. M. DeVries noted that they are not replacing them due to so many of them going missing and replacement costs. Several others are not replacing them for the same reasons.

8. Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: February 12, 2026

Meeting ended at: 1: 38 pm