

WPLC Historical and Local Collections Committee

Minutes

December 9, 2019, 1:00-2:30

Attendees (asterisk indicates absent): Jill Fuller (Bridges Library System), Alison Hoffman (Monarch Library System), Robert Jaeger (Milwaukee Public Library), David Kranz (Southwest Wisconsin Library System), Nate Pflager (Winding Rivers Library System), Tamara Ramski (South Central Library System), Bradley Shipp (Outagamie Waupaca Library System)*

I. Introductions; welcome new committee member

Robert Jaeger, Manager of Special Collections and Archives, Milwaukee Public Library

Introductions were made. Welcome, Bob!

II. General project updates: For your information. We will not discuss at the meeting unless there are specific questions. These projects either involve current WPLC work or connect to Wisconsin public library systems in some way.

DPI-funded digitization kits

SCLS and Recollection Wisconsin staff presented two "train the trainer" workshops in July to train public library system staff on digitization procedures. Arrowhead, Bridges, Manitowoc-Calumet and MCFLS are all moving forward on projects with member libraries using the kits.

WNA/Badgerlink newspaper project

In September, almost 325,000 pages of historical newspapers from 15 different publications were transferred to Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Costs to libraries were significantly reduced thanks to a contribution of LSTA funds from DPI. Content is appearing on the site as it is processed. [List of titles and date ranges.](#)

National Digital Newspaper Program

The Wisconsin Historical Society has received a third round of grant funding from NEH to digitize and add an additional 200,000 pages of historical newspaper content to Chronicling America over the next two years.

Discussion: It was asked how materials are selected for the NDNP project. There is a statewide committee that makes the selections with a priority on national significance and continuity / duration of runs available. Foreign language newspapers will likely be the focus for the coming selection round.

III. Other updates and discussion

a. WPLC contribution to Recollection WI:

Background: In previous years, the WPLC has approved funds for Recollection Wisconsin to cover hosting fees for CONENTdm via Milwaukee Public Library. Last year, DPI / WISE covered these costs for all participants. This support will continue into the future. It was asked if the committee would consider making a contribution to Recollection Wisconsin for other projects.

Discussion: It was asked if the set-up charge for hosting through Milwaukee Public Library could be covered by WPLC, which is \$200 per organization. In the past, \$1750 was contributed. It was generally approved that this would be a good way to maintain a connection between WPLC and

Recollection Wisconsin. Because this is a request that has been approved before, the process for recommending its approval wouldn't be extensive.

Outcome: Project managers will make a budget request to the WPLC Board for \$1750 to cover the cost of digital collection setup for hosting through the Milwaukee Public Library.

- b. WPLC annual meeting and session presentation at WAPL –
 - i. Topics for discussion at annual meeting (April 29)
 - 1. Updates as appropriate from the WHS/WPLC newspapers project: This will be decided later as more information is known.
 - ii. Ideas for info sharing at conference session (April 30 or May 1)
 - 1. This was tabled for future conversations.

IV. Newspaper Platform Update/Next Steps

Background: At our last meeting, the group decided to move forward with the investigation of Veridian as an alternative access platform for historical newspaper content. Since that time, WiLS has worked with the Wisconsin Historical Society and gathered other information to put together an initial plan for the project.

Materials to review: [Newspaper Project Plan](#)
[Veridian proposal](#)

Discussion:

1. Given this plan, do we want to continue to move forward in this direction?
 - i. It was noted by multiple committee members that the demo site's interface is clean, approachable, and potentially easy to search. For one member, the printing function came out blurry but this could be due to user error. The vendor has been responsive and informative when asked follow-up questions. Veridian did the work of ingesting the content that was provided by Paul Hedges of WHS. If we chose their hosting, they would continue to do that work.
 - ii. It was emphasized that this project is a high priority for WHS staff involved but it still needs to be taken to higher-level decision-makers for approval. WHS sees this as a value-add for existing content in addition to setting up an infrastructure for future content that might be added and accessed. For WPLC, this is a growth opportunity for the WNA work and further develops the partnership with WHS.
 - iii. It was asked about WHS' metadata and images. It was clarified that for any content that WHS has scanned, they will maintain in their workflows for both physical (microfilm) and digital preservation. There would be no exporting out of the WNA site for those as we'd use the TIFF files from WHS which would be transferred to Veridian. Contemporary newspapers publications would fall more on WHS to decide. The WNA BadgerLink collection was created to provide access to newly-published content and WHS is collecting and archiving them. Potentially, WHS might choose to provide some of that content through Veridian but this would be a future step as the priority is historical newspapers. The Veridian platform allows for flexible access level creation and this was a benefit to WHS for controlling access to newer, copyrighted content. WHS has reviewed and approved of the Veridian platform as the top choice for their content as well, primarily because it uses the METS/ALTO metadata which is the core standard.

- iv. The costs shared are total costs which will be shared, in an as-yet-to-be-determined way, by WPLC and WHS. It was clarified that the final budget item for page-level METS/ALTO is either/or; the cost will not include both options.
 - v. It was shared that WHS has staff already doing this work with the NDNP project and it is possible that that staffer would provide the staff work needed in this plan. It is unknown what contributions for each organization would look like at this time; developing a funding model would be the next step after buy-in from WPLC, via this committee, is established.
 - vi. It was discussed if there was a preference for local or vendor hosting and it was clarified that if local hosting is chosen, ingestion would be handled by a local organization as well.
 - vii. It was asked if authentication would be needed. Primarily, access would be open than content that would need to be protected for copyright concerns. There is a user account feature that is required for creating / correcting metadata. There is a privacy policy and it's unknown how this ties into Amazon Web Services and patron data privacy concerns. It was asked if access can be controlled through IP or geolocation.
2. What are some potential sources of funding for the project?
- i. WHS will be a funding partner and conversations have been had with DPI because of the benefit to patrons. The WPLC has R&D funds we could request. There are private funds or grant sources that could be applied for.
 - ii. Committee members will take this idea back to their systems and libraries to contribute ideas for funding sources.
 - iii. It is unlikely that the WPLC will contribute ongoing funds from R&D but might be interested in one-time investment. It might make sense to have someone from WHS present at the WPLC Board meeting in which this is discussed.
 - iv. It was clarified that we are getting an estimate from WVLS for hosting.

Outcome: There was general support for the platform and plan from the committee, given that reasonable cost sharing or models can be created. Project managers will connect with WHS for support and provide more information for the next WPLC Board meeting.

It was noted that Stef Morrill will be leaving WiLS and this committee this coming Spring. Emily Pfotenhauer and Andi Coffin will be the primary contacts going forward.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.