2022 WPLC Collection Development Committee Recommendations

Updated March 2022 - DRAFT

With input from the WPLC Board and Digital Library Steering Committee, the WPLC Collection Development Committee began work on their annual recommendation process in October of 2021. Once accepted and approved by the Digital Library Steering Committee in Spring of 2022, the recommendations will take effect through the end of 2023 as they include 2023 digital buying pool budget recommendations.

The following areas of focus have been identified:
- Explore and research new content and formats to add to Wisconsin's Digital Library.
- Assess and continue enhancing juvenile and young adult collections.
- Review and evaluate the deselection and collection maintenance process implemented in 2022.
- Increase buying pool amount by approximately 5% to fulfill the 5% increase for 5 years recommendation made in 2020.

I. Explore and research new content and formats to add to Wisconsin's Digital Library.

As the Wisconsin's Digital Library continues to grow and usage remains high, there is interest in expanding the library's offerings. A few areas of interest have been suggested by the WPLC Board, Digital Library Steering Committee and by the Collection Development Committee. Those areas include exploring streaming music, electronic newspaper collections, and digital book kits for book clubs.

The patron survey, conducted by the Collection Development Committee in November of 2021, shows that there is interest in expanding the collection into other areas other than just ebooks and audiobooks. Many also expressed appreciation for the addition of magazines.

Some comments from the patron survey:
- "I am thoroughly impressed and grateful for the library's current digital selections. I think there is a gap in digital movie content."
- "Video is the main reason I have utilized the Overdrive site."
- "I enjoy the magazines."
- "Love the magazines."

- "I appreciate the efforts you are making, and would love to see the WPLC Digital collection grow substantially in size and scope, to better serve your readers. Thank you!"
- "I like the vast availability of the magazines."
- "I love the e-magazines as well."
- "More knitting popular magazines Love the magazine selections Love this service provided Thank you."
- "Thank you for bringing back the magazines!!!"
- "The Wisconsin Digital Library should definitely offer digital access to National and Local Newspapers, such as NYT, Washington Post and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel."
- "I would love to be able to borrow videos (movies, documentaries)."
- "Need more digital videos available. Very "slim" variety and not enough more current movies. Really enjoy downloading a good movie. More of existing collection in library should be digitalized."
- "Need streaming service to borrow movies."

In addition to the patron survey, the Collection Development Committee also conducted a survey of the Wisconsin Library Staff in December of 2021. It was asked if staff get requests for electronic materials and collections that are not owned by Wisconsin's Digital Library. 25% of the respondents answered yes, they do. When asked what types of alternate electronic materials or collections have been requested, the following responses were provided, supporting the need to investigate alternate collections:
- "Hoopla and Kanopy."
- "Academic materials."
- "Popular authors from other countries and teen items."
- "Streaming tv series."
- "Self-published materials."
- "Hoopla or Kanopy."
- "Mainly audiobooks that are not owned by Wisconsin's Digital Library. Some requests for Hoopla or Kanopy, especially from patrons who have moved from another system."
- "Self-published titles, or Amazon-only titles. Generally, books that only available in ebook format, and mostly only available on Amazon/Audible."
- "Consumer Reports online would be very useful and answer a lot of questions. Not the database version now available through Badgerlink. Available through some libraries: www.consumerreports.org/cro/index."
- "Popular streaming video."
- "Self-published stuff."

The Collection Development Committee recommends the following activities:

- **Project managers will monitor what is happening in terms of other statewide cooperative purchasing efforts including Badgerlink. Based on that knowledge, project managers will prioritize the research and availability of new formats and collections. Research will be presented to the WPLC Board and Digital Library Steering Committee. Exploration may include:**
    - **Research available music streaming services, focusing on services that provide entire albums rather than just individual tracks.**
    - **Research current options for video through Overdrive and other potential streaming services on a statewide level.**
    - **Explore statewide electronic newspaper collections. Availability of local titles is of importance.**
    - **Investigate options for digital book kits for adult or youth book clubs that can be checked out in sets.**
- **Continue to monitor the SimplyE and Palace Project collaborations, patron-facing apps that aggregate content from various sources.**

II. Assess and continue enhancing juvenile and young adult collections.

A recommendation by the Collection Development Committee in 2021 was to engage in an in-depth collection analysis and identify gaps in the Juvenile and Young Adult collection as well as to reallocate collection dollars to increase the budget for Juvenile and Young Adult purchasing. An additional $10,000 (roughly 15% of the buying pool increase) was allocated to Juvenile and Young Adult materials for 2022. This increases the total Juvenile and Young Adult collection budget to $30,000 or $2,500 per month.

The consortium will need to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the enhanced budget throughout 2022 and reassess allocations for 2023. The recent patron survey conducted showed that there is a large interest in young adult materials, both for ebooks and audiobooks. 22% of respondents reported they check out young adult ebooks and 25% reported they check out young adult audiobooks.

What kinds of ebooks do you typically check out from Wisconsin's Digital Library?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bestselling Fiction	69.62%	2,489
Bestselling Nonfiction	28.78%	1,029
Biography / History	22.99%	822
Business	3.27%	117
Children's	7.41%	265
Christian Fiction	7.75%	277
Cooking	10.21%	365
Erotica	5.96%	213
Historical Fiction	39.89%	1,426
Hobbies / Crafts	10.35%	370
Information Technology (IT/computer manuals)	1.45%	52
Mystery / Thriller	62.66%	2,240
Romance	35.55%	1,271
SciFi / Fantasy	27.64%	988
Suspense / Horror	17.90%	640
Travel	5.03%	180
Young Adult	21.51%	769
None of the above	1.17%	42
Total Respondents: 3,575		

What kinds of audiobooks do you typically check out from Wisconsin's Digital Library?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bestselling Fiction	67.41%	1,713
Bestselling Nonfiction	36.88%	937
Biography / History	27.78%	706
Business	4.21%	107
Children's	8.15%	207
Christian Fiction	8.03%	204
Erotica	5.35%	136
Historical Fiction	38.88%	988
Mystery / Thriller	61.51%	1,563
Romance	29.32%	745
SciFi / Fantasy	30.54%	776
Suspense / Horror	18.97%	482
Travel	3.86%	98
Young Adult	24.99%	635
None of the above	2.05%	52
Total Respondents: 2,541		

In the 2021 Library Staff survey, staff members were asked if, in the past year, have they received an increase in requests for juvenile and/or young adult related electronic materials. 21.5% responded yes while 53.7% responded they didn't know. The 21% increase shows there is still a need for more juvenile and young adult content in Wisconsin's Digital Library.

The Collection Development Committee recommends the following activities:
- **Work with OverDrive to run usage and other collection statistics on juvenile and young adult materials in the collection to determine if additional reallocation is necessary.**
- **Work with YA/Juv librarians to better understand the reading wants and habits of youth, potentially via the annual 2022 staff library survey or a separate survey.**
- **Look beyond OverDrive for additional juvenile and young adult materials like Tumblebooks or Tales2Go. Assess current Overdrive title availability and look to other vendors who may offer desired content.**
- **Continue to monitor the Public Library Connect feature to link student Sora (school Overdrive collections) accounts with the WPLC and local public digital libraries and its potential effect on Wisconsin's Digital Library juvenile and young adult collections.**
- **Continue to run diversity audits to monitor collection development progress.**

III.   Review and evaluate the deselection and collection maintenance process implemented in 2022.

A part of the recommendations made in 2021 is to develop a timeline and process for weeding the collection on a more frequent basis as well as to consider the diversity of the collection when engaging in deselection practices.

As a part of the 2021 Library staff survey, respondents were asked in Wisconsin's Digital Library as it exists today, do you feel there are too few or too many ebooks in a variety of subjects. While many responded that they didn't know, it is clear that there are several areas where staff feel more attention needs to be given, specifically in African American, Asian, Bestselling Fiction and Nonfiction, Children's, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, Mental Health and Young Adult subjects. The same was asked about audiobook subjects. Responses were very similar to that of ebooks. See the below two charts for the full responses.

In Wisconsin's Digital Library as it exists today, do you feel there are too few or too many ebooks in:

	TOO FEW	JUST RIGHT	TOO MANY	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
African American	30.65% 38	16.13% 20	0.81% 1	52.42% 65	124
Asian	34.68% 43	10.48% 13	0.81% 1	54.03% 67	124
Bestselling Fiction	37.90% 47	38.71% 48	5.65% 7	17.74% 22	124
Bestselling Nonfiction	31.45% 39	42.74% 53	2.42% 3	23.39% 29	124
Biography / History	14.17% 17	42.50% 51	2.50% 3	40.83% 49	120
Business	9.17% 11	31.67% 38	5.00% 6	54.17% 65	120
Children's	33.87% 42	23.39% 29	2.42% 3	40.32% 50	124
Christian Fiction	13.22% 16	25.62% 31	9.09% 11	52.07% 63	121
Cooking	7.44% 9	38.02% 46	3.31% 4	51.24% 62	121
Erotica	14.17% 17	22.50% 27	10.83% 13	52.50% 63	120
Historical Fiction	9.84% 12	48.36% 59	0.82% 1	40.98% 50	122
Hobbies / Crafts	15.83% 19	34.17% 41	0.83% 1	49.17% 59	120
Indigenous	32.52% 40	9.76% 12	0.81% 1	56.91% 70	123
Information Technology (IT/computer manuals)	13.22% 16	15.70% 19	4.96% 6	66.12% 80	121
LGBTQ+	27.64% 34	19.51% 24	5.69% 7	47.15% 58	123
Mental Health	28.93% 35	17.36% 21	1.65% 2	52.07% 63	121
Mental & Physical Differences	19.83% 24	15.70% 19	0.83% 1	63.64% 77	121
Multicultural Studies	21.14% 26	13.01% 16	0.81% 1	65.04% 80	123
Mystery/Thriller	14.52% 18	49.19% 61	7.26% 9	29.03% 36	124
Non-English Languages	30.08% 37	12.20% 15	3.25% 4	54.47% 67	123
Religion	8.40% 10	24.37% 29	3.36% 4	63.87% 76	119
Romance	12.20% 15	36.59% 45	14.63% 18	36.59% 45	123
SciFi/Fantasy	17.89% 22	39.02% 48	4.07% 5	39.02% 48	123
Suspense / Horror	11.48% 14	38.52% 47	5.74% 7	44.26% 54	122
Travel	6.61% 8	33.88% 41	1.65% 2	57.85% 70	121
Women	9.84% 12	36.89% 45	0.82% 1	52.46% 64	122
Young Adult	30.58% 37	28.93% 35	0.00% 0	40.50% 49	121

In Wisconsin's Digital Library as it exists today, do you feel there are too few or too many audiobooks in:

	TOO FEW	JUST RIGHT	TOO MANY	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
African American	26.96% 31	13.04% 15	0.87% 1	59.13% 68	115
Asian	28.70% 33	13.04% 15	0.00% 0	58.26% 67	115
Bestselling Fiction	44.35% 51	27.83% 32	1.74% 2	26.09% 30	115
Bestselling Nonfiction	41.59% 47	28.32% 32	0.00% 0	30.09% 34	113
Biography / History	22.12% 25	33.63% 38	0.88% 1	43.36% 49	113
Business	9.73% 11	27.43% 31	1.77% 2	61.06% 69	113
Children's	35.65% 41	15.65% 18	3.48% 4	45.22% 52	115
Christian Fiction	12.50% 14	23.21% 26	3.57% 4	60.71% 68	112
Cooking	7.08% 8	28.32% 32	0.88% 1	63.72% 72	113
Erotica	15.04% 17	19.47% 22	5.31% 6	60.18% 68	113
Historical Fiction	19.30% 22	36.84% 42	0.00% 0	43.86% 50	114
Hobbies / Crafts	8.85% 10	26.55% 30	0.88% 1	63.72% 72	113
Indigenous	29.57% 34	11.30% 13	1.74% 2	57.39% 66	115
Information Technology (IT/computer manuals)	9.73% 11	18.58% 21	1.77% 2	69.91% 79	113
LGBTQ+	26.79% 30	16.07% 18	2.68% 3	54.46% 61	112
Mental Health	25.66% 29	16.81% 19	0.00% 0	57.52% 65	113
Mental & Physical Differences	20.35% 23	16.81% 19	0.88% 1	61.95% 70	113
Multicultural Studies	21.05% 24	15.79% 18	0.88% 1	62.28% 71	114
Mystery/Thriller	22.61% 26	36.52% 42	3.48% 4	37.39% 43	115
Non-English Languages	26.55% 30	10.62% 12	1.77% 2	61.06% 69	113
Religion	10.62% 12	23.01% 26	3.54% 4	62.83% 71	113
Romance	15.65% 18	29.57% 34	9.57% 11	45.22% 52	115
SciFi/Fantasy	23.28% 27	31.90% 37	2.59% 3	42.24% 49	116
Suspense / Horror	14.04% 16	35.96% 41	3.51% 4	46.49% 53	114
Travel	9.82% 11	22.32% 25	0.00% 0	67.86% 76	112
Women	14.78% 17	30.43% 35	0.00% 0	54.78% 63	115
Young Adult	33.04% 38	23.48% 27	0.00% 0	43.48% 50	115

The Collection Development Committee recommends the following activities:
- **Work with OverDrive to identify or develop new reporting tools or other automated tools that can make deselection work more efficient.**
- **Review and evaluate the implemented deselection process.**
- **Consider the potential effects of adding new collections or formats to the collection, the maintenance, and deselection of those collections, as well as the impact they will have on the Selection Committee.**

IV. Increase buying pool amount by approximately 5% to fulfill the 5% increase for 5 years recommendation made in 2020.

From January 2021 through October 2021, 13,676 titles and a total of 96,884 copies were purchased by the consortium and added into the collection. That's a total of $1,084,037 spent so far this year. Added with the existing collection, Wisconsin's Digital Library has a total of 105,560 unique titles and over 290,000 copies in the consortium collection. From January 2021 through October 2021, there have been 6,061,056 checkouts. Compared to last year, circulation from January 2020 through October 2020 was 5,848,485. This clearly shows that while the collection continues to grow, so does its usage.

In the 2021 Patron survey, respondents were asked if they find the title or author they are looking for isn't available, do they place a hold or search for a different, available title. 88% of respondents reported that they will place a hold while 50% reported they would search for a different title. The Wisconsin's Digital Library users will place holds and still search and check out other materials, showing the high use and demand of the collection.

Patrons were also asked in the last six months how many ebooks they have checked out from Wisconsin's Digital Library compared with how many physical books they have checked out from their local public library. The majority (35%) of respondents noted that they had checked out more than 20 items from Wisconsin's Digital Library whereas the majority (65%) had checked out fewer than 5 physical books from their local public library.

| In the last six months, how many ebooks have you checked out from Wisconsin's Digital Library?	In the last six months, how many physical books have you checked out from the physical library?
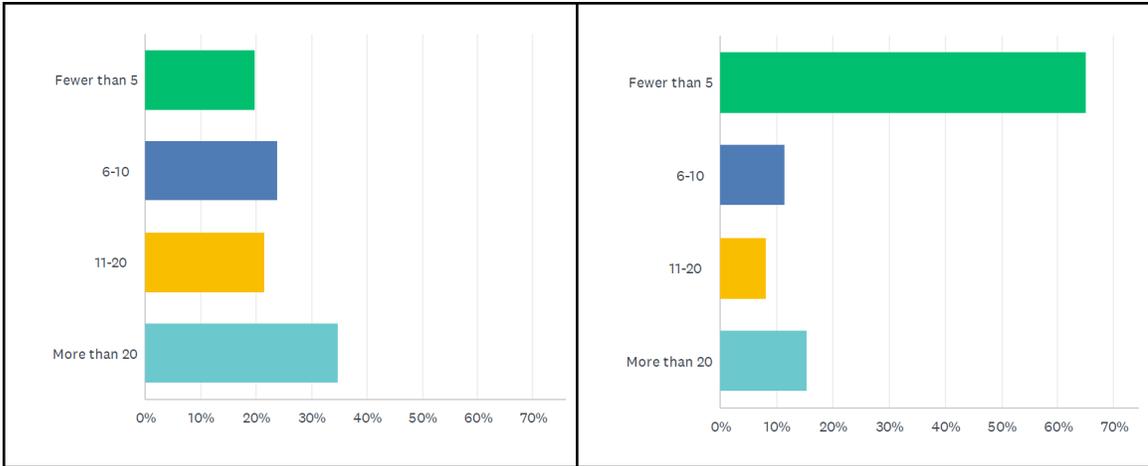
The same holds true for audiobooks. Patrons were asked how many audiobooks they check out from Wisconsin's Digital Library compared to how many they have checked out from their local public library. The majority (33%) responded that they checked out more than 20 audiobooks from Wisconsin's Digital Library whereas the majority (91%) responded that they checked out fewer than 5 audiobooks from their physical library.
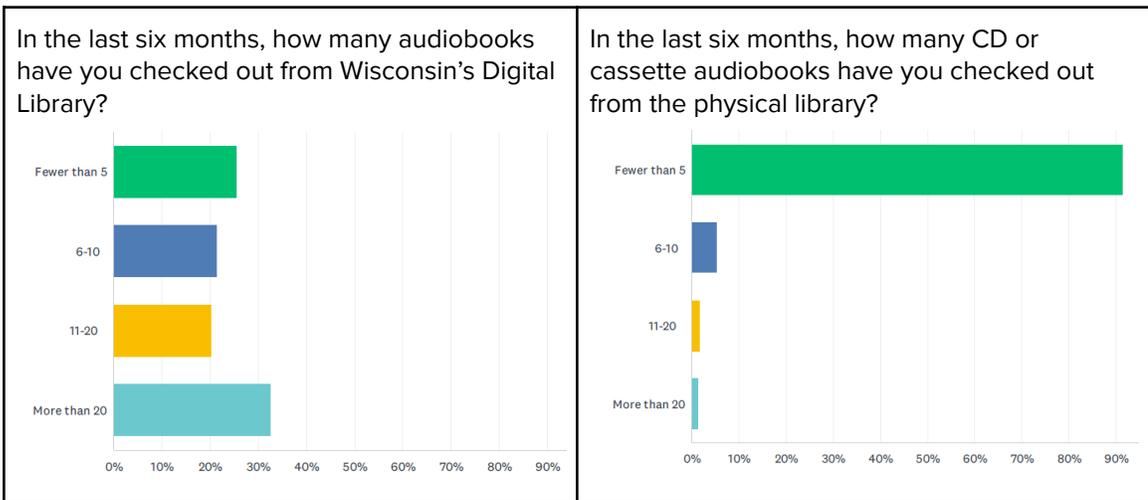
In addition, patrons were asked if they were looking for a specific title in Wisconsin's Digital Library, and if they see there is a six month or more wait time for it, what would they do? The majority (61%) responded that they would place a hold. The demand for titles in Wisconsin's Digital Library is high and patrons are willing to wait.

The survey conducted in 2021 of library staff indicates that there is favor for increasing the collections budget as well. Wisconsin library staff were asked if they think the current buying pool amount is too low, too high, or just right for the current collection demand. 48.6% responded that it was too low for demand, 41.8% responded that they didn't know and 0% responded that it was too high.

Do you think the current buying pool amount is too low, too high, or just right for the current collection demand?
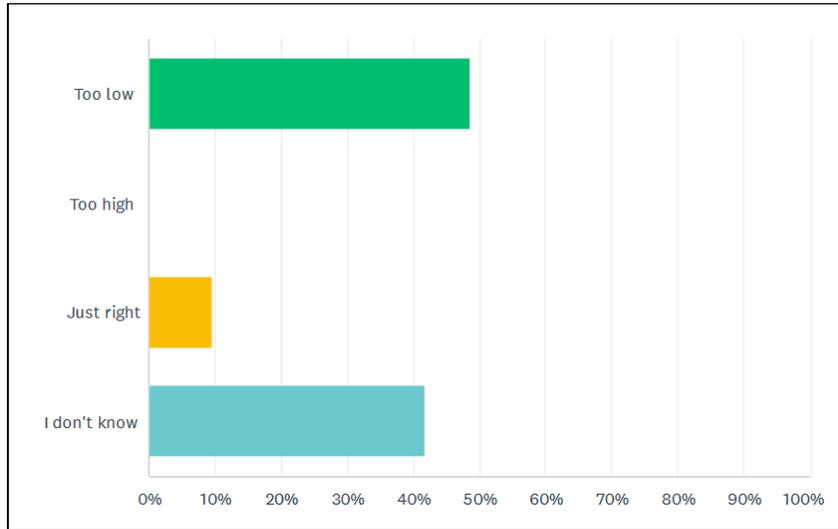
In addition, Wisconsin Library staff members were asked how supportive would they be of allocating more of their collection budget to digital materials. 72.4% were supportive or very supportive of allocating more of their collection budget to digital materials and only 6.8% were unsupportive or very unsupportive.

Knowing that 2019 statewide spending on OverDrive content was 3.8% of the total collection expenditure for all libraries, and OverDrive checkouts account for 6.9% of statewide circulation, how supportive would you be of allocating more of your collection budget to digital materials?
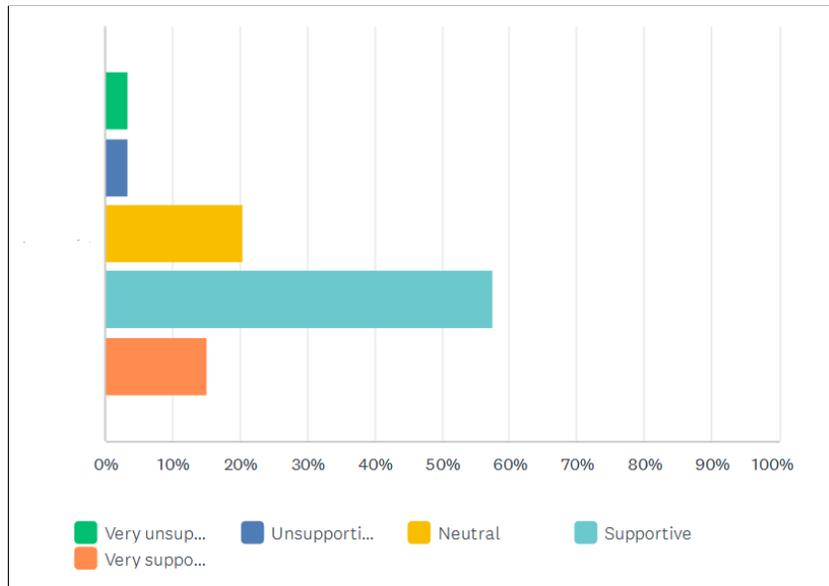
The Collection Development Committee recommends the following activities:
- **Increase the 2023 Buying Pool budget by $66,722, approximately a 5% increase to the base amount, with no increase to the Hold Reduction amount.**

Below are the approximate buying pool costs for next year, by system, showing a comparison of 2022 and 2023. *(*Note these amounts are approximations. The actual buying pool amounts for each system are calculated each year based on a percentage of previous year's circulation and population. The amount does not include the annual Partner fees or the cost of magazines.)*

System	2022	2023
Arrowhead Library System	$27,351	$28,739
Bridges Library System	$135,338	$142,006
IFLS Library System	$122,310	$128,412
Kenosha County Library System	$29,927	$31,433
Lakeshores Library System	$51,954	$54,569
Manitowoc-Calumet Library System	$19,297	$20,277
Milwaukee Co. Federated Library System	$147,215	$154,611
Monarch Library System	$95,878	$100,662
Nicolet Federated Library System	$93,912	$98,611
Northern Waters Library Service	$42,323	$44,443
Outagamie Waupaca Library System	$54,469	$57,191
South Central Library System	$288,431	$302,500
Southwest Wisconsin Library System	$27,062	$28,428
Winding Rivers Library System	$64,859	$68,120
Winnefox Library System	$79,133	$83,076
Wisconsin Valley Library Service	$61,485	$64,588
Total Buying Pool Amount	**$1,340,944**	**$1,407,666**