

Wisconsin Public Library Consortium
Technology Collaboration Steering Committee Minutes
June 3, 2025 | 3:00 PM
via zoom

Attendees: Melissa Aro (DPI), Wyatt Ditzler (PLLS), Bryan Durkee (OWLS), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Steve Hesel (MCFLS), Karol Kennedy (Bridges), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS), Vicki Teal Lovely (SCLS), John Thompson (IFLS)

Absent: Kristen Anderson (WRLS), Ben Miller (DPI)

Project Managers: Jennifer Chamberlain (WiLS), Melody Clark (WiLS)

Guests: Kim Kiesewetter (WiLS), Joshua Klingbeil (WVLS)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 by V. Teal Lovely, chair.

2. Review Agenda – changes or additions

No changes or additions were suggested.

3. Approval of Technology Steering Committee minutes – [March 18, 2025](#)

J. Thompson moved to approve the minutes, K. Kennedy seconded. No changes were made. Motion carried.

4. Reports: Workgroup and Community of Practice Updates

- Technology Backup Workgroup - March and June meetings cancelled
 - The Tech Backup has a subgroup that has been working on finding a next-gen replacement. They have been discussing products with Dell and Unitrends. Dell is working out pricing estimates for three different options, including Data Domain, Apex, and PowerVault. Unitrends conducted a demo of their Recovery Series backup appliance and will be sending them price estimates as well.
- Digital Archives Backup Workgroup - [March 17, 2025](#)
 - Since the workgroup's last meeting, a no-cost pilot with APTrust has kicked off, to explore how a cloud-based backup and preservation solution with APTrust could work for Wisconsin's Digital Archives Backup project. Recollection Wisconsin is acting as the pilot lead, and will report back to the workgroup their findings and recommendations.
- System IT and Technology Community of Practice - W. Ditzler
 - The group met last on April 15th. The group will meet in person on Wednesday, August 20th, and there is interest in discussing IT technology standards. The group will next meet virtually on June 17th.
- WPLC Board Update – J. Chamberlain
 - The Board reviewed the draft 2026 budget. The group will vote on the budget at their next meeting in June.
 - The Board approved definitions of R&D and Reserves related to the budget:

- RESERVES: The WPLC Reserves are a dedicated fund set aside for future use as determined by the WPLC board.
- R&D: The WPLC R&D fund supports defined research and development projects in line with the mission and goals of the WPLC and its members.
- The Board approved the changes to the WDL Collection Development Policy.
- The Board discussed the formation of a communications committee and determined the makeup. They will discuss populating the group at their next meeting.
- After the meeting, a values questionnaire will be sent out to the Board to begin identifying values for the WPLC.
- The board tabled discussion of a dedicated WPLC director/advocacy staff member until their October meeting.

5. Discussion Items

a. Plan for the remainder of the original LSTA funds for backup collaboration - V. Teal Lovely

As of 8/14/2024, SCLS account has a remaining balance of \$66,419.53 after covering the remainder of the Dell Backup Collaboration Maintenance Extension. Teal Lovely proposes that it be used to fund the next generation of the Digital Archives Backup project for public library materials.

B. Durkee asked if there were any alternative projects to which this money could be allocated. J. Thompson noted that the large amount of funds allocated to the two solutions primarily went toward the main backup solution. If the two are split, the intent of the LSTA grant should be kept in mind, and it should be allocated toward the statewide digitization backup project.

S. Hesser supports using it for the digital archives backup project as well. W. Ditzler agreed.

J. Klingbeil shared that the backup originally was the sole focus and the archive component came later due to the appliance that was procured from Dell.

It was shared that the potential need for the APTrust arrangement could be for the service fee for the platform and project coordination. APTrust is designing this service for consortia with a single point of contact to streamline workflows.

V. Teal Lovely will verify with DPI on the use of the funds, and this can come back to the Steering Committee at a future meeting after we learn more about the viability of the APTrust solution.

b. Facilitator to discuss Developing ILS/Tech Standards at the August Technology Community of Practice/TechTalk meeting - V. Teal Lovely

Two hours will be devoted to this topic at the in-person meeting. SCLS is willing to hire and pay for a facilitator. The group agreed with this process.

It was asked how the outcome of this conversation would be shared with the Steering Committee. V. Teal Lovey noted that it would come back to this body.

M. Aro shared that two DPI staff members are working on reviewing public library standards, and if anything that comes out of these conversations and standards development that may be relevant to public library standards, let DPI know.

c. **WPLC Dashboard Pilot Extension, 2024 Data, and Next Steps - Project Managers**

J. Chamberlain updated the committee on the current project status: the extended access is scheduled to end June 30. The new 2024 data set was added to the dashboard last week, and a related announcement was shared on wispublib, the WPLC announcements, board, and tech steering committee lists, along with a reminder of the June 30 timeframe and an additional call for feedback. Kim Kiesewetter will revise the draft findings report per any further responses.

J. Thompson would like to figure out a way to move this forward for public libraries.

V. Teal Lovely shared that the SCLC dashboard takes the state data and visualizes it, however, their data analyst can create any visualization that is in the pilot. This is a product that SCLS will continue to maintain, and any library can use without a fee. V. Teal Lovely would like to see a comparison done with what is in the pilot and what is available in SCLS's dashboard.

S. Hesser would support that comparisons should be done. He emphasized that there needs to be something that is sustainable. MCFLS uses a homegrown dashboard that the code is old.

M. Aro noted concerns about as data grows can Tableau Public handle the amount of data needed in order to allow for multi-year comparisons.

J. Klingbeil shared that LeanWI is working on a dashboard solution that includes all of the DPI data, and storage is not an issue.

M. Aro also noted that the data dashboard exploration workgroup that reviewed and selected the pilot dashboard reviewed all available statewide dashboards, including SCLS'.

J. Thompson asked if individual library staff/directors would be able to create their own reports or would the request need to go to Tim Drexler at SCLS? It was noted that you can compare two libraries, but it is uncertain whether more can be compared without admin interaction. V. Teal Lovely indicated SCLS staff would determine developments to their dashboard.

K. Kiesewetter shared that she has updated the LookerStudio (pilot) dashboard with the 2024 DPI data and is working on updating the cohorts. She will also send out the feedback form every two weeks until the pilot closes. She will then update the findings to be shared back with the committee.

It was noted that there is a significant amount of training information on the current pilot dashboard to help new users. These ancillary pieces are important outputs from the pilot.

J. Thompson reiterated that the group should determine a way to provide a dashboard moving forward.

It was noted that the pilot period is ending June 30th, and exploring the concept of a dashboard and access to one is what the group needs to determine.

J. Klingbeil shared that the primary value he sees in a WPLC-governed Data Dashboard project is in the deduplication of effort for the 80-90% of common, relevant data available to all libraries, and in the addition of customizations of views being made available to all others. It doesn't prevent "power users" or "resourced institutions" from developing their own BI and data viz/dashboard tools, but it does create a singular service to focus resources that can support all libraries and systems.

It was noted that the group needs to determine when the report should go to the board and what the next steps should be.

S. Heser noted that he would like to see the finished report before making a recommendation.

K. Elchert added that she is concerned about cutting off access to a tool (June 30) that she knows her libraries are using and is more accessible perhaps than using the SCLS dashboard. She would like to encourage the committee to keep the dashboard access open until the committee can make a final recommendation. V. Teal Lovely added that to compare the two dashboards, access to both Looker Studio version and the SCLS version need to be publicly available.

S. Heser moved to recommend to the board to use reserve funds to extend access to the WPLC LookerStudio dashboard for six months while this committee determines next steps, funding formulas, and ultimately a recommended statewide platform.

B. Durkee seconded the motion. Motion passed.

6. Committee information sharing and questions

No additional information was shared.

7. Report to the Board from this meeting

The Dashboard extension request will go to the Board at their June meeting. Additionally, the Board should note that the System IT and Technology Community of Practice (formerly Tech Talk) will be discussing the development of System ILS and Technology Standards, and that the Technology Steering committee will be considering the use of the remaining LSTA funding to support Digital Archives Backup/Preservation for a year or two as funds allow.

8. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2025, 3:00 PM.

The group decided to meet before September to discuss the next steps for the data dashboard.
Project managers will send out a meeting poll for July.

Meeting ended at: 4:40 pm.