Wisconsin Public Library Consortium
Technology Collaboration Steering Committee Minutes
September 9, 2025 | 3:00 PM
via zoom

Attendees: Kristen Anderson (WRLS), Melissa Aro (DPI), Bryan Durkee (OWLS), Katherine Elchert (NWLS), Brittany Larson (Bridges), Vicki Teal Lovely (SCLS)

Absent: Wyatt Ditzler (PLLS), Steve Heser (MCFLS), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS), John Thompson (IFLS)

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

1. **Call to order**
   The meeting was called to order at 3:05 without a quorum by V. Teal Lovely, chair.

2. **Review Agenda – changes or additions**
   No changes or additions were suggested.

3. **Approval of Technology Steering Committee minutes** – June 3, 2025 and July 14, 2025
   Due to a lack of quorum, approval of meeting minutes will be moved to the next meeting.

4. **Reports: Workgroup and Community of Practice Updates**
   a. Technology Backup Workgroup - no meeting update
   b. Digital Archives Backup Workgroup - June 16, 2025
   c. Tech Community of Practice - V. Teal Lovely
   The System Technology Community of Practice (Tech Talk) held an in-person meeting on August 20. Consultant Rachel Arndt led the group in a two-hour session to discuss technology standards for public libraries (from the public library system perspective). This included a Broad SWOT analysis of tech access and tech equity in Wisconsin libraries. There were large group and small group discussions, and participants were engaged. R. Arndt will provide a summary of the discussions, which will be shared with this committee. The South Central Library System is funding the cost of this project. The group also discussed a variety of other topics, including Office and issues with BadgerNet.
   d. WPLC Board Update – K. Elchert
   Highlights from the meeting held on August 4:
   - The Historical and Local Digital Collections Committee will be co-hosting a Historical Newspapers Think Tank in collaboration with Recollection Wisconsin on Tuesday September 23rd in Milwaukee.
   - The Website Workgroup has begun their work on the new website!
   - A Board Nominations Committee was created to recommend a slate of officers for 2026.
   - The Board approved the 2026 Delivery budget.
   - The Board continued their work on drafting WPLC values statements.
   - The Board was receptive to the Data Dashboard findings report and there was general interest in this project continuing.

5. **Action: Form Nominations Committee - V. Teal Lovely**
   V. Teal Lovely asked for three volunteers to serve on the nominating committee to identify candidates for the chair, vice chair, and community of practice liaison positions. These positions will be elected by the committee members at the December meeting. V. Teal Lovely and J. Thompson (via email) volunteered to serve on the nominating committee.

6. **Discussion items**
   a. **Digital Archives Backup AP Trust Pilot Update and Future Planning - K. Whitson**
      Link to slides
      The group received an informational update on the current state and future direction of WPLC's digital preservation work. No binding decisions are needed at this stage, but feedback will help prepare for a decision later this year.

      Since 2019, WPLC has coordinated statewide efforts around shared backup and digital archives, moving under WPLC governance in 2022 with WiLS as project manager. A pilot project with servers at SCLS/LEAN WI showed proof of concept, with two-thirds of systems plus Recollection Wisconsin participating. However, existing servers are at end-of-life and the upload process proved cumbersome.

      Funding: About $66,000 remains, recommended for use in the next solution.

      Proposed Model:
      WPLC continues to provide governance.
      Recollection Wisconsin acts as central administrator and "loading dock."
      Digital files are deposited with APTrust, a national preservation consortium providing right-sized, use-based service.

      This model builds on existing RW–WPLC collaboration and mirrors centralized digital preservation approaches in other states.

      Benefits: A standardized, sustainable service, reduced burden on systems, alignment with regional models, and cost-effective long-term preservation beyond simple backups. Costs: Estimated at ~$27,000 per year ongoing (APTrust $20,000, plus software and WiLS support). Current funds cover through FY27 and partially into FY28. Future funding could be shared through WPLC, use-based contributions, or hybrid models.

      Next Steps:
      Recollection Wisconsin to decide on participation (Sept 2025).
      APTrust pilot concludes (Oct 2025).
      Digital Archives Workgroup to recommend path forward (Oct 2025).
      Tech Steering Committee to discuss and potentially approve (Dec 2025), with MOU possible if approved.

      It was asked whether the proposed model and governance structure fit their needs and what additional information might be required at December's decision.

      The group found this proposal promising.

K. Anderson asked if the $27,000 was for the entire state, all participants. K. Whitson noted that it should cover the costs of the needs that have been identified by all current participants. Is there any chance this was talked about at the IT meeting last week? It was not, but the SCLS perspective is that this is a relief to have this out of the systems' hands.

B. Larson asked if there is any type of top down list of different projects that are being proposed right now that may cost money. It was noted while there isn't a list, it is the Boards purview to approve and identify priority of all WPLC projects.

b. **Next steps in Data Dashboard project - J. Chamberlain**
Following up on the directive from this committee at the July special meeting, J. Chamberlain prepared a [draft project plan](#) for the committee to review and discuss. The project plan is designed to advance the understanding and use of data in libraries. In essence, this committee's project focus shifts from data dashboard exploration and research to supporting libraries in using data visualization tools, both the piloted dashboard (LookerStudio) and SCLS Tableau dashboard as well as any other publicly available library data dashboard effectively and successfully. The desired outcomes include expanded awareness and use of readily available data visualization tools, enhancing the data confidence and competence of Wisconsin Public Librarians, and improving their advocacy efforts by strengthening their storytelling through data.

The committee reviewed the three potential activities: providing improved access to tools and training materials, designing a toolkit to host on the new WPLC website, and planning a data symposium or roundtable at a pre-existing event. This last item could be stretched into two years, with this year's focus on planning and research about what an event could look like.

The group was asked if this overall project plan contains the right set of activities? It was noted that the timing would be off to utilize a meeting at the WiseLearn conference. Instead of Activity 3, a roundtable at WISEData, the group could do a simpler event/meeting, possibly virtual, hosted by the WPLC or a system.

There were a few suggestions for clarification, including that the data focus is public library annual data and clarification on budget expenses.

Updates will be made to the plan, and discussion will continue at the December meeting.

c. **Year Two Strategic Plan Activities - M. Clark**
The WPLC is already partway through the first year of the new [WPLC Strategic Plan](#). The group was reminded that they can see updates to the activities in the [Plan Activation and Assessment Worksheet](#). It was shared that to ensure that the Board makes the best decision about what work should look like in Year 2, the Steering committees are being asked to weigh in. A short video has been prepared summarizing the work to date. The

group watched the video and then was asked, while keeping the work of the steering committee in mind, to fill out a short questionnaire.

It was noted that the results of the questionnaire will be taken to the Board for discussion at their next meeting in October. The group was asked to fill out the questionnaire shared with the Technology Steering lens. Members can fill out the form here: https://forms.gle/ubTAPHyojHkzPGUP7

7. Committee information sharing and questions
No additional information was shared.

● Report to the Board from this meeting
The group agrees that the main items to share to the board from this committee meeting are:
    ○ Update on the Technology Community of Practice discussion
    ○ The group is in support of the Digital Archives Backup proposal
    ○ The group is also in support of and will continue to discuss the next steps for the data dashboard.

8. Next Meeting Date and Adjournment
The next meeting will be held on December 2, 2025 at 3:00 pm.

Meeting ended at 4:24 pm