

## An Explanation of the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) Budget January 2025

There are three components to the WPLC budget:

1. Digital buying pool
2. WPLC member shares
3. Magazines

Each component has a different purpose and a different decision-making process as described below.

### **Digital Buying Pool**

The digital buying pool is used to purchase content for Wisconsin's Digital Library. For 2025, the buying pool amount has been set at \$1,541,110. The buying pool is divided into a “base” amount that is applied to share collection and a “holds reduction” amount that is contributed to an Advantage account for each system. For 2024, the base amount is \$1,383,610 and the holds reduction amount is \$157,500.

Each of the public library systems contributes to the buying pool based on a formula that involves the following steps:

1. Determine each system's percentage of the total population of the state (using the Extended County Population from DPI).
2. Determine each system's percentage of the previous year's circulation of Wisconsin's Digital Library shared collection materials.
3. Multiply the percentage of the previous year's circulation by 3 (to weigh it at 75% of the total) and add the system's percentage of the total population of the state.
4. Divide the number by four to find the percent of the buying pool base that the system will contribute.
5. Multiply that percentage by the buying pool base amount for the dollar figure.
6. Determine each system's percentage of the previous year's holds in Wisconsin's Digital Library.
7. Multiple that percentage by the holds reduction amount for the dollar figure.
8. Add the two dollar amounts together to determine the total contribution for the system.

Let's walk through an example of the steps:

1. Determine each system's percentage of the total population of the state.  
*For purposes of this example, let's say the system has 25% of the total population of the state.*
2. Determine each system's percentage of the previous year's circulation of Wisconsin's Digital Library materials.  
*Again, for purposes of this example, let's say the system has 15% of the previous year's circulation.*

3. Multiply the percentage of the previous year's circulation by 3 (to weigh it at 75% of the total) and add the system's percentage of the total population of the state.

$$(15 * 3) + 25 = 70$$

4. Divide the number by four to find the percent of the base buying pool that the system will contribute.

$$70 / 4 = 17.5\%$$

5. Multiply that percentage by the base buying pool amount for the dollar figure.

$$17.5\% * \$1,383,610 = \$242,132$$

6. Determine each system's percentage of the previous year's holds in Wisconsin's Digital Library.

*For the purposes of this example, let's say the system has 10% of the previous year's holds.*

7. Multiple that percentage by the holds reduction amount for the dollar figure.

$$10\% * \$157,500 = \$15,750$$

8. Add the two dollar amounts together to determine the total contribution from the system.

$$\$242,132 + \$15,750 = \$257,882$$

The process to determine the total buying pool amount involves multiple bodies and provides the opportunity for feedback from the entire community. It begins with the Collection Development Committee, which reviews issues and requests related to the collection, asks for feedback from patrons and library staff, and analyzes usage statistics to create a recommendation for the following year's buying pool amount. This recommendation is proposed to the Digital Library Steering Committee, which either accepts or modifies the recommendation and then sends the recommendation to the WPLC Board, which incorporates the recommendation into the following year's budget.

Opportunities for feedback are provided for member libraries and system staff prior to the Digital Library Steering Committee meeting, where the recommendation is acted upon.

A complete schedule of the budget process is included on the following page.

### **WPLC Partner Shares**

The WPLC partner shares budget is used to *provide support and funding for the WPLC consortium itself*. The partner shares pay for project management, the consortium's website, platform fees, a designated fund for research and development, and a designated reserve fund. In 2025, the amount of the partner shares is \$121,680. The amount is divided equally among the 15 systems.

The annual WPLC partner shares amount is determined by the WPLC board.

## WPLC Magazines

In 2021, Magazines were added to Wisconsin's Digital Library. The total cost for 2025 is \$100,000. The cost for magazines is split among the systems using a 25% population and 75% magazine usage formula. The formula for the cost of magazines will be determined every year.

## Budget Schedule

The table below outlines the activities for the WPLC budget process. The Budget and Collection Development Committee convene every two years to set and create budgets for the next two years. The Board approves the Budget annually.

WPLC Collection Development Committee begins work on creating a recommendation for the buying pool amount.	October
WPLC Board creates Budget Committee to discuss member shares.	February
WPLC Collection Development Committee sends recommendations to the Digital Library Steering Committee and the Digital Library Steering Committee reviews and provides feedback.	February
Collection Development Committee makes necessary changes based on the DL Steering Committee's feedback and requests.	March
Buying pool amounts for each system are calculated and distributed to the Board.	Mid-April
Digital Library Steering Committee discusses the final recommendations.	April
Digital Library Steering Committee takes action on the recommendation.	May
WPLC Board approves complete budget for following year.	June