Digital Preservation With WPLC

Background and Next Steps

WPLC
Wisconsin Public Library Consortium

BACKGROUND: ORIGINS

- 2019: Wisconsin public library systems launched two initiatives:
  - Backup Collaboration Project
  - Digitization Archives Storage Platform Project
- Both currently rely on infrastructure at SCLS & LEAN Wisconsin data centers
- Funded primarily with LSTA funds through DPI
- Recollection Wisconsin Storage Working Group formed to explore cost-effective shared digital preservation storage
- **Digital preservation = long-term, sustainable access to cultural heritage collections (beyond simple backups)**

BACKGROUND: IMPLEMENTATION

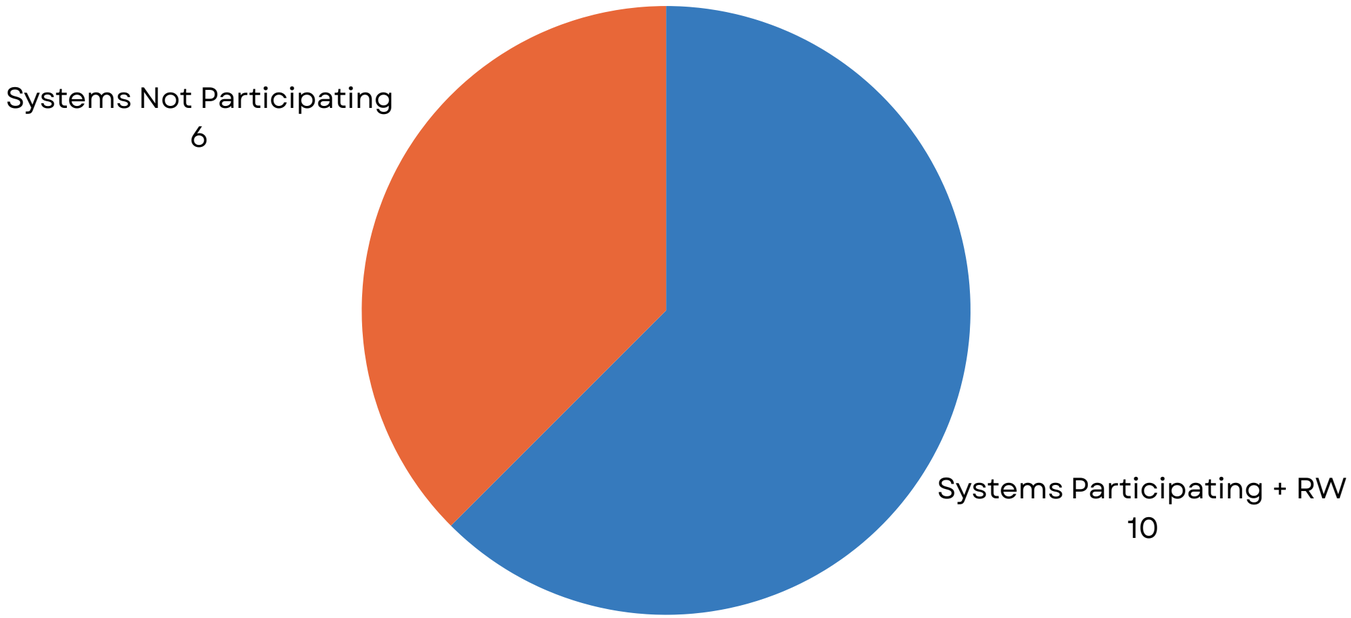
2022: Projects moved under WPLC governance, WiLS contracted as project manager for onboarding

2023: Planning & documentation for onboarding began

2024: Onboarding of library systems underway and ongoing

PILOT IMPLEMENTATION

- WiLS contracted to run pilot
- 16 possible participants (15 library systems + Recollection Wisconsin)
- 10 signed on to digital preservation solution
- Challenge: too much server space purchased, upload process complex
- Servers now at end of service contracts



REMAINING FUNDS

- ~$66,000 in remaining project funds
- WPLC Technology Steering Committee recommends using funds for next preservation solution

PROPOSED NEXT SOLUTION

- Partnership with APTrust
- Recollection Wisconsin as central administrator
- “Loading dock” for library systems to drop off materials
- RW staff bags & uploads to APTrust
- WPLC proposed as project governance support, ensuring long-term coordination and funding

APTRUST

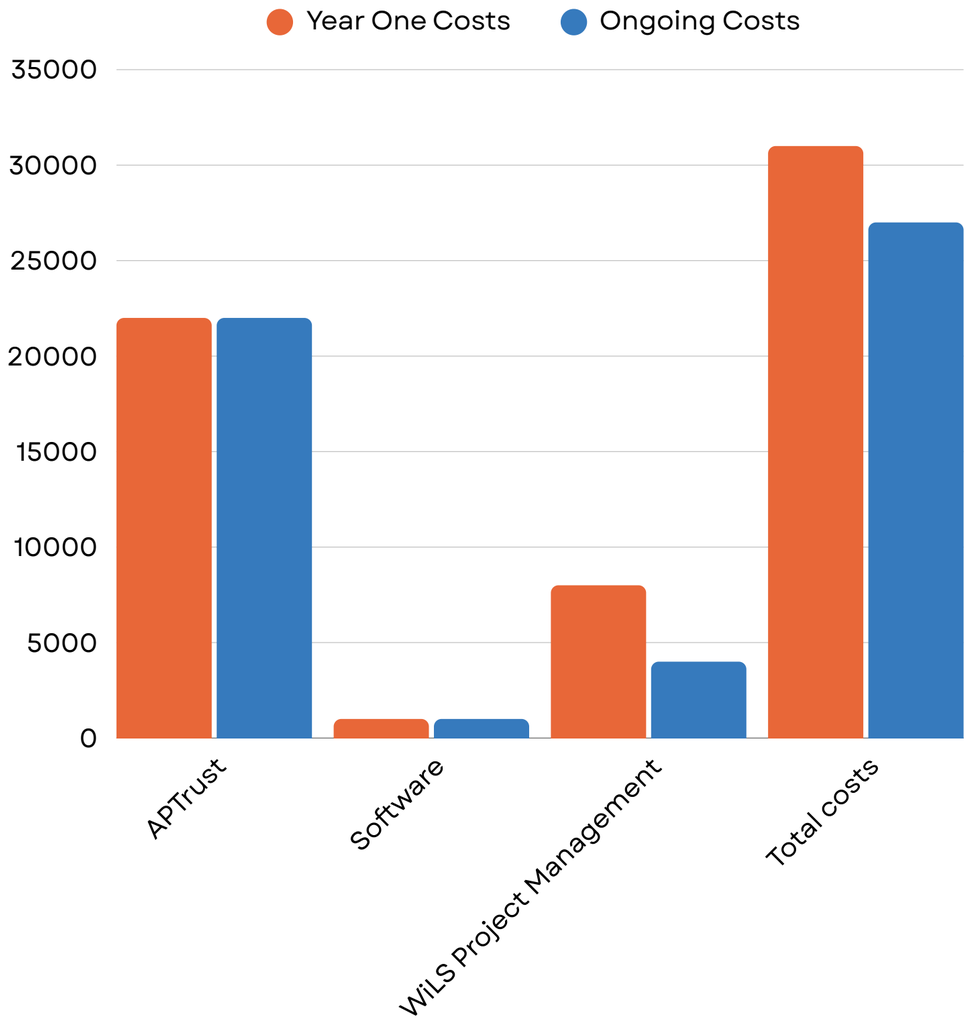
- **APTrust (Academic Preservation Trust)**: A consortium-based digital preservation service hosted at the University of Virginia, providing long-term, redundant storage for academic and cultural heritage content.
- **Proposed model:** Sustaining membership with 10 TB included, plus cost-effective Deep Archive storage for additional data.
- **Why it matters:** Goes beyond backup – ensures trusted, long-term stewardship and access. The digital preservation work of verifying, duplicating, maintaining and recovering digital files is outsourced to a trusted partner for much less money/work than each system could achieve on their own.

BENEFITS OF CENTRALIZED SERVICE

- Standardized, sustainable approach
- Reduced burden on individual systems
- Aligns with models in MN & MI (their DPLA hubs are central hubs for digital preservation too)
- Recollection Wisconsin is a logical “home” - with WPLC as the project governor - for centralized service

COSTS OVERVIEW

- APTrust: $20,000 / year base, more per TB
- Loading dock software: ~$1,000/yr
- WiLS initial load: ~$8,000 (one-time)
- WiLS ongoing maintenance: ~$4,000/yr
- Total ongoing costs: ~$27,000/year



FUNDING OUTLOOK

Existing funds of ~$66k cover:

- FY 26 ($31k)
- FY 27 ($27k)
- Part of FY 28 (~$8k, depending on actual APTrust costs)

Potential funding models might include:

- Centralized funding through WPLC, with each system contributing a percentage
- Each participating system contributing based on use
- WPLC and Recollection Wisconsin contributing a set amount, with each participating system contributing based on use
- A combination of the above or some other idea

NEXT STEPS

- Recollection Wisconsin will approve participation at annual meeting September 22, 2025
- APTrust pilot will conclude in October 2025
- Digital archives workgroup will discuss and recommend path forward in October 2025
- Tech Steering Committee will discuss and potentially approve path forward in December 2025
- If approved, an MOU for project management could be signed at that time

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Questions or concerns about the proposed model?

- What other information might this group need for its December 2025 meeting?

THANK YOU