

WPLC Year in Review 2016-2017

The WPLC Year in Review outlines the decisions made and work done by the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium from June 2016 through May 2017.

Governance

Bylaws Revision

Based on feedback from the 2016 annual meeting, a committee has been working on a revision to the WPLC bylaws. The revision will clarify the relationships among the governing bodies, among other things, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Formula Workgroup

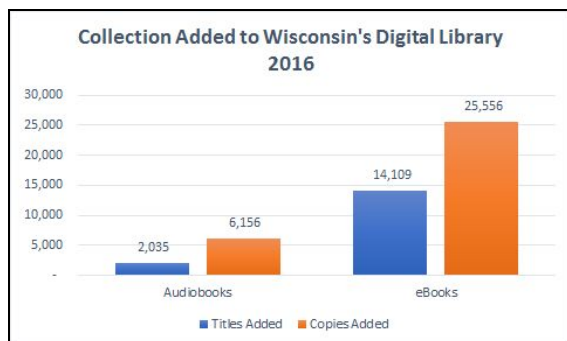
With the addition of \$150,000 to the buying pool, a workgroup was formed to determine if the formula for dividing the buying pool amount among the partners should be revised. The group developed a formula where the additional \$150,000 is to be allocated to Advantage accounts for each partner based on holds, while the \$1,000,000 will still be allocated by population and circulation. The Board approved this new formula in April 2017.

Wisconsin's Digital Library

Collection Statistics

Wisconsin's Digital Library continues to be extremely popular. From 2015 to 2016 the collection saw an increase in circulation of almost 400,000. Both audio and ebook circulation increased from 2015 to 2016. Periodicals were also very popular, however, they were removed in 2016 as they were no longer supported by the vendor. There was a slight decrease in video circulation, most likely due to the decision to no longer purchase video materials.

Wisconsin's Digital Library Circulation		
	2015	2016
Audiobooks	1,029,752	1,315,175
eBooks	2,490,836	2,549,711
Video	12,497	9,934
Periodicals	45,360	101,114
Total	3,578,445	3,975,934



Not counting the Consortium's Advantage accounts, WPLC has purchased almost 70,000 different titles and has almost 200,000 copies for checkout. On average, in 2016, there were 208,798 holds on items and on any given day an average of 2052 individuals with items checked out. At the end of 2016, the WPLC has seen a lifetime of 15,061,647 circulations and 7,713,603 holds.

Digital Collection Workgroup 2016 Recommendations

[These recommendations](#) from the WPLC Digital Collection Workgroup were implemented in early 2016. The goal of these recommendations was to address the issue of high holds on many titles in an earnest attempt to reduce the average wait time for our patrons. Knowing significant funding increases were not possible for Wisconsin's Digital Library in 2016, the Digital Collections Workgroup developed practices to help reduce holds and otherwise improve the Wisconsin's Digital Library collection without the need for additional funding.

- Improved automated purchasing to help reduce holds in the collection, including a weekly \$5000 maximum purchase of ebook titles with a holds to copies ratio higher than 10 to 1 and a weekly \$5500 maximum purchase of audiobook titles with a holds ratio of more than 20 to 1.
- Improved monthly reporting to identify titles with a holds to copies ratio of more than 10 to 1 and a cost of less than \$20 per copy.
- Developed a new monthly report to identify titles with 100 or more holds AND with a publication date in the last two years or pre-publication within a month of release. This list is reviewed and copies are purchased until at least a 20 to 1 holds to copies ratio is met.
- Began the process to limit the lending period for all titles with a higher than 10 to 1 holds ratio to 14 days maximum.
- Dedicated two Selection Committee members to selecting pre-publication titles on a monthly basis.

Termination of OverDrive Magazines

In October 2016, the 89 OverDrive magazines that had been available as part of a WPLC pilot project were removed from the collection due to the termination the previous July of the partnership between OverDrive and Barnes & Noble.

Upgrade to Wisconsin's Digital Library

In October and November of 2016, Wisconsin's Digital Library was upgraded to the new OverDrive experience. The rollout of the new site was a five week process which began with a WPLC-only preview of the new site and feedback period, several training sessions with OverDrive to acquaint the WPLC community with supporting the new site, a patron preview, the updating of support and training documentation, and the eventual switch from the old site to the new.

Other Committees and Workgroups

Statistics Workgroup

In 2016, the Statistics Workgroup was tasked with identifying WPLC member's statistical needs and the corresponding templates and instructions to make it easy for those users to run and present their own statistics. The templates and instructions have been created and tested and are now available on the WPLC website for members to use. They can be accessed here:

<https://www.wplc.info/reports/statistics>.

Historical Newspapers and Collaborative Digitization

The Historical and Local Digital Collections Committee was formed in 2016, building on the recommendations of the Collaborative Digitization Work Group. This standing committee is charged with two main areas of focus: guiding the development of the historical newspapers project and exploring further collaborative efforts around digital access and preservation for historical and local collections.

In August 2016, 85,000 pages of historical newspapers from 12 communities around the state were added to the Archive of Wisconsin Newspapers, available through BadgerLink. This pilot project demonstrated the viability of a centralized statewide access solution for historical newspapers and resulted in formalized partnerships among WPLC, Wisconsin Newspaper Association, and the Wisconsin Historical Society. Funding for the pilot project was provided by WPLC and Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds awarded to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

WPLC, WNA, and WHS are now continuing, together with individual public libraries, to digitize and add more historical newspapers to the Archive. Development is underway to enhance the database's user interface and to improve the process for onboarding new library contributors. More content -- 100,000 pages from six communities -- will be added this summer.

The Digital Projects Toolkit, a train-the-trainer-style self-guided online course funded by WPLC and created by Recollection Wisconsin, launched in December. The pre-recorded course consisted of 5 modules to help participants get started with digitization. Eighteen people, primarily library system staff, completed all or a portion of the course. A live discussion webinar in March 2017 offered participants the chance to connect with each other and ask questions of digitization experts. Other resources created to help facilitate collaboration around historical and local digital collections included a Google Community, information about grants for digital projects posted to the WPLC blog, a list of digitization vendors and a related tip sheet for working with vendors.

User / Non-User Research Program

In August and September of 2016, the WPLC User / Non-User Survey Workgroup solicited proposals from survey service providers to develop and implement a statewide survey of library users and non-users in order to implement and improve library service in Wisconsin. The Workgroup received three proposals and accepted one from Morrill Solutions Research in which the service provider helped to educate the community to develop their own local research projects through an award program, the WPLC User / Non-User Research Program. The Program consisted of a series of four webinars, held in April 2017, followed by a call for proposals to the WPLC community for local research projects. The funded projects were selected in May 2017 and awarded with two hours of consulting time with Morrill Solutions Research to refine instruments and interpret research results. Another community-wide webinar on data analysis will be held in Fall 2017 and all research materials, instruments, and resulting data will be shared with WPLC members.

On the Horizon: The Next Year for the WPLC

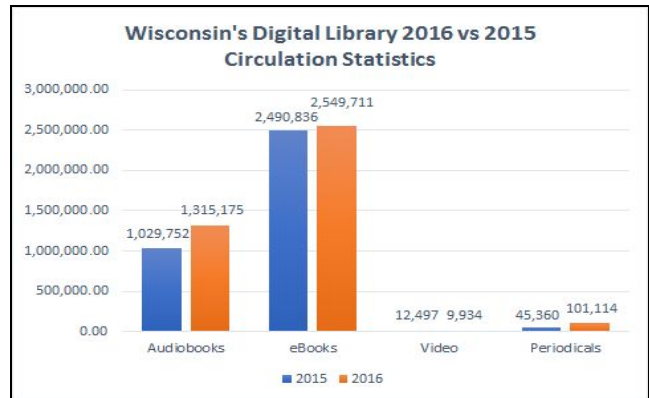
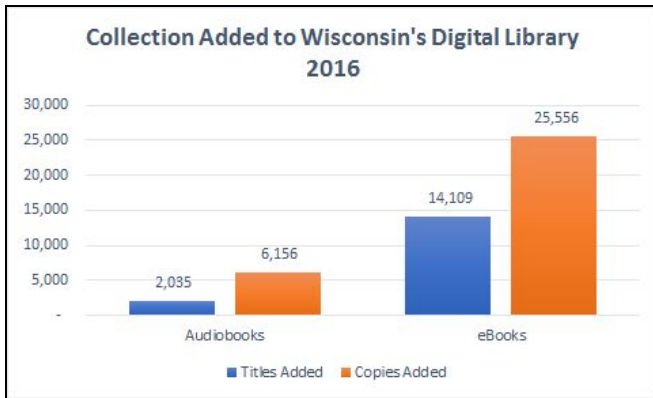
The bylaws revision and the remainder of the the User / Non-User Research Program will move forward into the next year. In addition, the Digital Collection Workgroup has made the following recommendations for 2017:

- To not purchase materials in languages other than Spanish and English and to put \$5000 towards adult popular Spanish materials.
- To not purchase adult literacy materials.
- To not pursue another vendor/platform at this time but to keep apprised of the changes the vendors offer.
- Implement a plan the Workgroup is creating to address the holds issue and promote better communication and collaboration among selectors and Advantage selectors.
- Buying pool budget remain at \$1,150,000 for 2018.
- In late May, OverDrive announced the arrival of its new mobile app - Libby. The WPLC will prepare for that transition to happen gradually over the next year through training and documentation. The WPLC also continues to investigate Advantage Plus, an OverDrive program which allows transfer of availability from Advantage only to the statewide collection.

WPLC Year in Review: At A Glance

- In 2016, circulation in Wisconsin’s Digital Library grew to nearly 4 million, a 400,000 increase over the previous year.
- The WPLC worked to reduce holds and wait times by implementing changes to purchasing processes and reporting.
- An additional \$150,000 was added to the 2018 budget for Wisconsin’s Digital Library to be allocated to WPLC Advantage collections based on each accounts holds.
- Digital magazines were removed from the collection due to the termination of partnership between OverDrive and Barnes & Noble.
- Wisconsin’s Digital Library got an overhaul with an updated website.
- [Instructions and templates](#) were created to help WPLC members more easily run and present their own OverDrive statistics.
- 85,000 pages of historical newspapers from 12 communities around the state were added to the Archive of Wisconsin Newspapers.
- The Digital Projects Toolkit, a train-the-trainer-style self-guided online course to help library systems get started with digitization, was created and launched.
- Four webinars were created and presented for WPLC members on how to develop research questions and gather quality data from library users and non-users.
- WPLC Bylaws revision began in order to, among other things, clarify the relationships among the governing bodies and will be completed by the end of 2017.

Wisconsin’s Digital Library Statistics



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