

# The History of the WPLC

The [Wisconsin Public Library Consortium](#) (WPLC) was formed in 2001 as an organization in Wisconsin where library systems could partner on projects that move libraries forward through experimentation and R&D. Let's take a brief walk through the history of the WPLC, which has at its center, Wisconsin's Digital Library.



# WPLC Timeline

2003 : Shared collection began with audiobooks from NetLibrary



2005: First order of audiobooks placed with OverDrive



2009: First ebook order placed in October 2009



2010: Shared Collection Budget is \$92K annually



# WPLC Evolution Timeline

➡ **2011** was a busy year for the WPLC

**May:** Statewide Ebook Summit

**July:** Committee formed to discuss feasibility of a statewide buying pool for the WPLC



# Results of the Statewide Ebook Summit: Formation of the Digital Media Buying Pool

WPLC creates committee charged with developing a funding mechanism for a digital media buying pool as a result of ebook summit recommendations, May, 2011 Committee recommends:

- \$1,000,000 statewide pool (5% of statewide materials expenditures for 2009)
- Fund at system level based on 50% of system share based on population 50% of system share based on usage



# Further WPLC Development

2012: Digital Media Buying Pool is approved at \$1 million



2012: Statewide Selection Committee of 2 members per system is formed



2013: WPLC Digital Steering Committee is formed

- Comprised of members from each library system with a max of 25 members.
- Makes budget and policy recommendations related to Wisconsin's Digital Library to the WPLC Board for approval, and makes all decisions relating to the day-to-day operation of the Digital Library.



# Expanding Possibilities

2015: Newspaper Digitization Project began with a pilot



2016: Local Historical Collections Committee formed



2019: [WPLC Roundtable](#) held in to provide an opportunity for members to meet face to face



2021: Technology Collaborative was established.



# A Home For Technology Collaborations

- Arose out of a need for a governance home for two system backup projects that emerged out of SRLAAW
- Public Library System Redesign effort played in encouraging statewide technology collaborations through its technology workgroup report produced in April 2018.
- There was a need for a more permanent governance structure for both of these projects, and the WPLC was tapped as the ideal home for these projects and any future shared technology project



# The Purpose of the WPLC

- Sharing costs and decision-making to **support public library cooperation**
- Providing Wisconsin citizens with **access to a robust digital collection**
- Undertake collaborative services or projects concerned with the **advancement of public libraries**
- Increase **public awareness** of the Consortium's resources
- Increase stakeholder understanding of Consortium projects through **training**





# Equitable Governance

