

Updates from previous meetings/projects WPLC Board, October 2018

Historical and Local Digital Collections Committee

The Committee met on September 10 and had discussions about:

- Historical newspapers and BadgerLink: At their next meeting, the committee will discuss how to educate people more about the historical newspaper project.
- LSTA funded digitization kits: Tamara Ramski from SCLS is working with DPI on deploying and training for these digitization kits. She will be pulling together existing resources from Recollection Wisconsin and WPLC, including the series of webinars that WPLC did. She will keep the committee up to date.
- Newspaper platform usability testing and evaluation: The group discussed a usability testing plan and protocol to evaluate the current newspaper platform, which will be used with 10-15 people. The results and next steps will be discussed at the committee's next meeting.
- Sharing Recollection Wisconsin outreach materials: The group discussed this via email.

More details can be found in the [notes from the Committee's meeting](#).

Formula Workgroup

The Formula Workgroup met on October 15 to discuss issues that may impact the buying pool formula for 2019. The three issues they discussed, along with a summary of the discussion for each, is below.

Issue #1: Advantage Plus

With Advantage Plus, Advantage titles that meet certain criteria are available to any patron to use. If a patron from the partner that purchased the Advantage title circulates it, it is counted as an Advantage circulation. If a patron from another partner circulates it, it is counted as a consortium circulation. These can be distinguished in the circulation statistics. Each circulation has a field to show the branch associated with the borrower and the account associated with the purchase and those can be matched to determine if it is an Advantage Plus circulation.

The group discussed and felt it would be acceptable to include Advantage Plus circulations in dividing the cost of the buying pool because circulation would only be counted for individuals outside of the system that purchased the title. For 2018, WiLS will separate out the Advantage Plus circulation in order to provide some data on the program. They will track the amount of time it takes to generate this data to determine if it's something the consortium wants to continue to do in the future.

We may see changes in the amount of Advantage Plus circulation in subsequent years because 2018 was the first year of the program. A large number of titles were available to the shared collection at that time, so there may be a spike in usage. The Advantage Plus program also impacts the buying pool because shared collection copies of Advantage Plus titles may need to be added if the titles have high holds.

Issue #2: Buying pool funds in Advantage accounts

A portion of the buying pool funds (currently \$150,000) is being given to partners' Advantage accounts to purchase titles to help with local holds, etc. When calculating the buying pool amounts, we currently look only at shared collection circulation, not Advantage circulation. We cannot know the number of circulations on Advantage titles purchased with buying pool funds because we do not know which titles are purchased with buying pool funds and which are purchased with funds from the partner.

The group discussed and felt that it was acceptable not to include the circulation because the partners are putting in the extra money that is going back to Advantage and counting these circulations would essentially be double-counting. Also, the formula used for dividing this money is focused on holds, not circulation, so it is different.

Some systems do create separate carts for these funds and their own system expenditures on Advantage titles. If the consortium would ever want to do some sampling, it may be possible. It may also be interesting to know what percentage of these titles go through to Advantage Plus.

Issue #3: Instant Digital Cards (IDC)

The Steering Committee is debating the use of Instant Digital Cards, so this may be an upcoming issue. If this does move forward, it is likely that residents using IDC will be able to check out a limited number of titles, will not be able to place holds, and will not be able to use Advantage titles. All circulation from IDC will go into a separate branch specifically for IDC and circulations will not transfer once a full library card has been issued and the IDC patron has been associated with a library. We will know only the area code associated with the IDC.

The group discussed and felt that it was something to keep an eye on to better understand the use of IDC. We may not want to assign the circulation for purposes of the formula, but we want to be able to identify areas of the state that are seeing a surge of IDC and may be otherwise underserved. On the other hand, we may not see much use at all. Tracking the use of the program as it starts will be important to understand its value and impact.

BiblioBoard Update

Project managers have been working to promote the BiblioBoard suite beyond the Author Project now that the contest is closed - Pressbooks, SELF-e, and BiblioBoard Library. We've seen a substantial increase in opens across collections (+54%) but particularly in Popup Picks and BiblioBoard Core. There has also been an increase in use of Pressbooks but SELF-e submissions have dropped off with the close of the Author Project. The winner and runner-up of the Wisconsin Author Project will be included in the WLA Awards Ceremony Thursday evening. Project managers met with Minnesota staff managing their state author contest to understand how they promote the project in preparation for the 2019 round, which will open on April 1st.

Local Music Projects Update

WPLC project managers spoke with Kelly Hiser of Rabble and learned about their platform, MUSICat, and which Wisconsin libraries are currently participating. There are two levels of MUSICat. First is Partner, which serves larger populations and currently consists of the [eight initial libraries](#). Recently, Chorus was launched in order to allow smaller libraries to participate with more affordable pricing, drawing on the development work already completed with the Partners. Madison Public Library is a partner with the [Yahara Music Library](#) and Appleton Public Library and LE Philips Public Library are recent Chorus subscribers. The product is sold through a subscription model, based on the number of collections, and includes a startup fee based on population served. There currently is not a consortia model, but Rabble is interested in creating one and just needs the use case to do so. Rabble provides support for the platform as well as support for the process of reaching and working with artists, legal and licensing help, and promotion. They are also continually developing the product based on user feedback.

WPLC project managers also spoke with staff at Madison Public Library about their experience with Rabble and in building the Yahara Music Library. Madison has been providing this service to South Central Library System's service area for five years. The project initially launched with seed funding from an investment and in-kind contribution of staff time in partnership with the UW Humanities Council. It took a year of planning to line up 40 albums and hammer out the legal details for a collection to launch. Yahara Music Library worked out license agreements and paid artists \$200 per album contributed to the collection and the first few years of the project generated a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. While the project generated new partnerships and reached new user communities, the library found challenges in identifying and obtaining ongoing funding and staffing for the project and new content, licensing agreements and legal support, and communications and marketing with artists and local music communities.

Transparent Languages Update

As of this writing, WPLC project managers have responses from 8 partners, and will share updated information at the meeting.

YTD budget review

The YTD budget is progressing as expected. There is nothing unusual to report!