



**COUNTY OF MARATHON
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN**

OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

**A meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees,
Monday, July 17, 2023, at 12:00 noon
Library Headquarters, Wausau Community Room.**

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by computer or phone may log or call into the **meeting beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following website <https://meet.goto.com/964195677> or number [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679). Access Code for dialing in 964-195-677.**

When you enter the meeting, **PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPUTER AND PHONE ON MUTE!**

AGENDA

- 1. (12:00 p.m.) Call to Order**
- 2. Acknowledgement of Visitors**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
- 4. Bills and Services Report**
- 5. (10 minutes) Public Comments** *(Anyone addressing the Library Board is asked to do so in a respectful, professional, and courteous manner. The "Public Comments" portion of this meeting is offered as an opportunity for concerned citizens of Marathon County to be heard. The Board, however, is under no obligation to provide this forum. As such, any misuse could result in the removal of these privileges. Any person who wishes to address the Library Board during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings may only provide comment pertaining to an item on the agenda. He or she must sign in or e-mail their name, address, and the topic they wish to present to the Library Personnel Specialist no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting library-administration@mcpl.us)*
- 6. (15 minutes) Reports Regarding Recent Meetings and Communications. For Discussion and Informational Purposes Only. No Action will be taken.**
 - A. President**
 - B. Other Board Members**
 - C. Library Director**
 - D. Board Committees**
 - E. Friends of the Library**
 - F. MCPL Foundation**
 - G. Wisconsin Valley Library Service**
- 7. (10 minutes) Lost and Unattended Items Policy – For Discussion and Possible Action**
- 8. (15 minutes) Book Challenge Appeal for *Let's Talk About it: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human* by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan – For Discussion and Possible Action**
- 9. Announcements**
- 10. Request for Future Agenda Items**
- 11. Next Meeting Dates**
 - Monday 08/21/2023
 - Monday 09/18/2023
 - Monday 10/16/2023
 - Monday 11/20/2023

12. Adjourment

Signed: 
Library Director or Designee

*All times are approximate and subject to change

*Any person planning to attend this meeting who need special accommodations in order to participate should call the Library Administration Office at 715-261-7213 or e-mail library-administration@mcpl.us one business day before the meeting

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and
EMAILED TO: Other Media Groups
EMAILED BY: S. Martell
EMAILED DATE: July 11, 2023
EMAILED TIME: 3:00p.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

BY: _____
DATE: _____
TIME: _____

Regular meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, June 19, 2023.

Present: Kari Sweeney, Becky Buch (remote), Gary Gisselman, Brent Jacobson, LeeAnn Podruch, Reid Rayome, Andrea Sheridan, Leah Giordano

Absent:

Others: Alexander Johnson, Katelyn Sabelko, Heather Wilde, Stephanie Martell, and David Hahn Remote visitor: Marla Sepnafski

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Kari Sweeney.
Kari Sweeney acknowledged visitors at the meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRENT JACBOSON; SECONDED BY GARY GISSELMAN TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 15, 2023 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LEANN PODRUCH; SECONDED BY REID RAYOME TO APPROVE THE MAY, 2023 BILLS AND SERVICES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments – None

President – None

Other Board Members – None

Director's Report – Presented in the Board packet and by Director Leah Giordano. The Summer Library Program is off to an exciting start. The recent reptile show was a big hit with around 400 people at the Wausau location, 200 at Rothschild and almost 100 people at Edgar.

Board Committees – None

Friends of the Library – The Friends of the Library continue their monthly sales. They are moving from bi-monthly board meetings to monthly meetings.

MCPL Foundation – The next Foundation meeting is in July.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service – The WVLS Board met on May 20th and will meet again in August. The 2023-2025 state budget and library aid was approved. Trustees are encouraged to participate in Trustee Training Week, August 21st-25th. The webinars will be recorded and archived for those unable to attend live.

Lost & Unattended Items Policy- Discussion of this policy is postponed until “Finders/Keepers” state statutes can be evaluated to ensure that the policy follows these requirements.

Athens New Building Update- The Director and Branch Coordinator were able to view the building and get a feel for the space as the new walls were going up. There is a space for an internal book drop and the purchase of a new book slot is being examined. The move in dates are not finalized yet, so staff will continue to plan programs as normal and move them as needed.

Library Service Highlight: Technology Services – presented by Ben Krombholz, Library Specialist

- Computers with common software, free Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi hotspots are available at all MCPL locations.
- Staff can help patrons through one-on-one Tech Time appointments. Often patrons want help with job searches and applications, learning new devices, accessing e-books or help with social media.
- Tech classes are a way for staff to work with several people at one time on a specific technology topic.
- Electronic devices including laptops, tablets, E-readers, Playaways, and AV equipment are available for checkout.
- Photocopiers and scanners are available at all of the branches while other equipment is at limited locations.

Announcements- The Board was provided with the 2022 Systems Information and Public Library Statistics from WVLS.

Request for Future Agenda Items- The Board will revisit the Lost and Unattended Items policy at a future meeting.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRENT JACOBSON; SECONDED BY ANDREA SHERIDAN
TO ADJOURN AT 12:29 P.M.**


Library Director or Designee

Note: These minutes are subject to approval at the next Library Board meeting scheduled for July 17, 2023.

Regular meeting of the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees, Monday, May 15, 2023, taking place at the MCPL- Rothschild Branch.

Present: Kari Sweeney, Becky Buch, Gary Gisselman, Brent Jacobson, LeeAnn Podruch, Reid Rayome, Andrea Sheridan, Leah Giordano

Absent:

Others: Alexander Johnson, Katelyn Sabelko, Heather Wilde, Stephanie Martell, David Hahn, Laura Wood, Taylor Weinfurter and one additional visitor. Remote visitor: Marla Sepnafski

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Kari Sweeney.
Kari Sweeney acknowledged visitors at the meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRENT JACOBSON; SECONDED BY ANDREA SHERIDAN TO APPROVE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 17, 2023 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY LEEANN PODRUCH; SECONDED BY BECKY BUCH TO APPROVE THE APRIL, 2023 BILLS AND SERVICES REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comments – None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY REID RAYOME; SECONDED BY LEEANN PODRUCH TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION. MOTION CARRIED.

- A. Pursuant to §§ 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to wit: evaluation of strategic plan consultant proposals.

- B. Roll call vote to go convene in closed session:
 - Andrea Sheridan yes
 - Becky Buch yes
 - Gary Gisselman yes
 - Kari Sweeney yes
 - LeeAnn Podruch yes
 - Brent Jacobson yes
 - Reid Rayome yes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY KARI SWEENEY; SECONDED BY BRENT JACOBSON TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. MOTION CARRIED.

Announcement/Action from closed session

MOTION WAS MADE BY REID RAYOME; SECONDED BY BRENT JACOBSON, TO HIRE WILS TO GUIDE MCPL THROUGH THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS. MOTION CARRIED.

President – None

Other Board Members – None

Director's Report – Presented in the Board packet and by Director Leah Giordano.

- The new sorter is in place and installation went smoothly with issues that were easily remedied.
- The self- checkout machines are wearing out and may need replacement soon.
- The closed border meeting with Marshfield will take place on June 13th.
- A nursing station may be added at the Wausau headquarters in the children's area for new mothers.
- Programming is going well.

Board Committees – None

Friends of the Library – The Friends most recent quarterly sale was May 3rd – 6th and made \$5133.75 in sales.

MCPL Foundation – The Foundation met May 11th and donations are on track with last year's donations.

Wisconsin Valley Library Service –The next meeting is May 20th.

Athens Relocation Commitment Letter – The Athens Village President would like a commitment from the library before they move forward with renovation. A draft letter was presented and edits discussed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDREA SHERIDAN; SECONDED BY BRENT JACOBSON TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A LETTER TO THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT OF ATHENS. MOTION CARRIED.

Library Service Highlight: 2023 Summer Library Program- presented by Taylor Weinfurter, Youth Services Librarian

- Planning for the summer program is a year-round process including hiring performers in fall, buying supplies in winter, and doing school outreach programs in spring.
- Activity books have arrived and include themed artwork, reading program information and a schedule of events.
- This year performers will entertain kids with snakes, raptors, dinosaurs, outdoor skills, and music (including polka music).

- The library is partnering with the county and city parks departments for story times in the parks and a pool day.
- Other summer activities include visits from therapy dogs and Lego clubs.

Announcements – After the meeting staff will be available to provide a tour of the Rothschild branch.

Request for Future Agenda Items - None

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRENT JACOBSON; SECONDED BY BECKY BUCH TO ADJOURN AT 12:45. MOTION CARRIED.



Library Director or Designee

Marathon County Public Library Bills for Approval June, 2023

Library		
52131 Financial, Banking and Investment Services	Unique Management Services Inc	58.25
	Financial, Banking and Investment Service	58.25
52250 Telephone, Internet and Cable		
	Charter Communications	621.27
	Frontier	621
	Telephone, Internet and Cable	1242.27
52990 Sundry Contractual Services		
	Baker & Taylor Company	2278.73
	Frances L Simek Memorial Library	16.29
	Rockford Map Publishers Inc.	11.95
	Tomahawk, City	9.99
	Sundry Contractual Services	2316.96
53161 Books Library		
	Amazon Capital Services	1780.86
	Baker & Taylor Company	14157.77
	OverDrive Inc	2581.19
	Rockford Map Publishers Inc.	127.5
	Books Library	18647.32
53168 Audio-Visual Materials		
	Amazon Capital Services	773
	Baker & Taylor Company	3792.04
	Blackstone Publishing	49.99
	Midwest Tape LLC	865.76
	Playaway Products LLC	1879.69
	Audio-Visual Materials	7360.48
53190 Office Supplies		
	Amazon Capital Services	778.44
	Discount Paper Products	1338
	Nassco	65.88
	Staples	288.32
	WI Valley Library Service	2323.8
	Office Supplies	4794.44
53220 Subscriptions		
	Tumbleweed Press Inc	2160
	WI Media	1132.74
	Subscriptions	3292.74
53240 Membership Dues		
	WI Valley Library Service	6900
	Wisconsin Library Association, Inc.	255
	Membership Dues	7155

53260 Advertising		
	Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce	300
	Multi Media Channels LLC	525
	Advertising	825
53321 Personal Auto Mileage		
	Staff	189.55
	Personal Auto Mileage	189.55
53410 Meeting Expenses		
	The Mint Café Inc	208.81
	Meeting Expenses	208.81
53494 Technology Supplies		
	Amazon Capital Services	71.9
	CDW Government Inc	174.9
	Technology Supplies	246.8
55320 Building/Offices Rent		
	Marathon City, Village of	380.46
	Mosinee, City	90.54
	WI Public Service Corporation	282.43
	Building/Offices Rent	753.43
Library - Gifts/Donations		
53161 Books Library		
	Baker & Taylor Company	676.92
	Books Library	676.92
53168 Audio-Visual Materials		
	Amazon Capital Services	86.12
	Baker & Taylor Company	17.99
	Audio-Visual Materials	104.11
53494 Technology Supplies		
	WI Valley Library Service	10128
	Technology Supplies	10128
53936 Other Supplies		
	Amazon Capital Services	834.26
	Baker & Taylor Company	28.79
	Snake Discovery, LLC	846
	Tank Mates LLC	691
	Other Supplies	2400.05
CIP Library		
53494 Technology Supplies		
	Envisionware, Inc.	54702.25
	Harder Technologies LLC	2896.75
	Technology Supplies	57599

53936 Other Supplies	
Amazon Capital Services	322.58
Cardio Partners Inc	1641.41
Demco	2242.4
Other Supplies	<hr/> 4206.39

Grand Total for all cost centers	122205.52
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Marathon County Public Library Budget vs Actual (Library cost center) for June, 2023

Ledger Account	Amended Budget	Actuals (Current Period)	Actuals (YTD)	Budget Remaining
<u>Library Cost Center</u>				
Personnel Expenses				
51111 Salaries and Wages	\$ 2,087,903.00	\$ 152,701.48	\$ 965,867.00	\$ 1,122,036.00
51120 Overtime	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
51390 Other Special Pay	\$ (69,000.00)	\$ 1,709.78	\$ 10,485.92	\$ (79,485.92)
51580 Unemployment Compensation	\$ 2,085.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,085.00
51510 Social Security	\$ 159,783.00	\$ 11,036.94	\$ 69,896.64	\$ 89,886.36
51520 Retirement Employers Share	\$ 131,080.00	\$ 9,592.33	\$ 48,435.06	\$ 82,644.94
51541 Dental Insurance	\$ 12,651.00	\$ 918.09	\$ 5,157.90	\$ 7,493.10
51550 Life Insurance	\$ 943.00	\$ 37.49	\$ 201.05	\$ 741.95
51560 Workers Compensation	\$ 1,283.00	\$ 263.06	\$ 1,329.50	\$ (46.50)
51590 Other Employer Contributions	\$ 37,998.00	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 23,439.46	\$ 14,558.54
51593 Health Insurance	\$ 500,900.00	\$ 34,883.55	\$ 200,040.28	\$ 300,859.72
55182 Dental Insurance Premium	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
55183 Health Insurance Premium	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
55184 Life Insurance Premium	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Personnel Expenses Totals	\$ 2,865,626.00	\$ 212,822.72	\$ 1,324,852.81	\$ 1,540,773.19

Operating Expenses

52130 Accounting and Audit Services	\$	1,300.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,300.00
52131 Financial, Banking and Investment Services	\$	1,300.00	\$	58.25	\$	442.70	\$	857.30
52192 Other Professional Services	\$	6,500.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	6,500.00
52250 Telephone, Internet and Cable	\$	15,000.00	\$	-	\$	51.27	\$	14,948.73
52250 Telephone, Internet and Cable	\$	10,000.00	\$	1,242.27	\$	6,993.37	\$	3,006.63
52990 Sundry Contractual Services	\$	56,000.00	\$	2,316.96	\$	17,939.12	\$	38,060.88
52420 Machinery/Equipment Maintenance Services	\$	6,500.00	\$	-	\$	6,059.00	\$	441.00
52932 Copier Charges	\$	-	\$	-	\$	454.20	\$	(454.20)
52561 Reimburse County	\$	5,000.00	\$	-	\$	5,005.00	\$	(5.00)
52140 Technology Services	\$	27,500.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	27,500.00
53110 Postage and Courier	\$	2,500.00	\$	-	\$	14.34	\$	2,485.66
53130 Printing and Forms	\$	10,000.00	\$	-	\$	3,651.00	\$	6,349.00
53142 Software - IT	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,705.20	\$	(1,705.20)
53161 Books Library	\$	280,326.00	\$	18,647.32	\$	103,228.20	\$	177,097.80
53168 Audio-Visual Materials	\$	60,527.00	\$	7,360.48	\$	24,126.18	\$	36,400.82
53169 E-Books Library	\$	29,100.00	\$	-	\$	29,088.59	\$	11.41
53190 Office Supplies	\$	28,800.00	\$	4,794.44	\$	12,996.41	\$	15,803.59
53220 Subscriptions	\$	40,000.00	\$	3,292.74	\$	17,431.32	\$	22,568.68
53240 Membership Dues	\$	104,701.00	\$	7,155.00	\$	104,181.84	\$	519.16
53250 Registration Fees/tuition	\$	4,000.00	\$	-	\$	974.00	\$	3,026.00
53260 Advertising	\$	4,000.00	\$	825.00	\$	875.00	\$	3,125.00
53321 Personal Auto Mileage	\$	3,000.00	\$	189.55	\$	640.33	\$	2,359.67
53350 Meals	\$	400.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	400.00
53360 Lodging	\$	400.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	400.00
53410 Meeting Expenses	\$	2,000.00	\$	208.81	\$	461.30	\$	1,538.70

53494 Technology Supplies	\$	10,000.00	\$	246.80	\$	1,349.80	\$	8,650.20
53936 Other Supplies	\$	13,000.00	\$	-	\$	1,272.32	\$	11,727.68
53916 Other Personal Effects	\$	-	\$	-	\$	69.75	\$	(69.75)
55190 Insurance Other Premiums	\$	44,961.00	\$	-	\$	-	\$	44,961.00
55320 Building/Offices Rent	\$	65,000.00	\$	753.43	\$	23,672.76	\$	41,327.24
Operating Expenses Total	\$	831,815.00	\$	47,091.05	\$	362,683.00	\$	469,132.00
Total Expenditures	\$	3,697,441.00	\$	259,913.77	\$	1,687,535.81	\$	2,009,905.19
Less expected Revenue	\$	473,153.00						
Net budgeted	\$	3,224,288.00						

Marathon County Public Library Budget vs Actual (additional cost centers) June, 2023

	Amended Budget	Actuals (Current Period)	Actuals (YTD)	Budget Remaining
Library - Gift/Donation Cost Center				
Total Revenues	167,326.00	6,891.00	53,746.29	(113,579.71)
Total Expenditures	167,326.00	13,309.08	32,882.57	134,443.43
Library - Gift/Donation Cost Center Net	0.00	(6,418.08)	20,863.72	20,863.72
CIP- Library Cost Center				
Total Revenues	639,835.00	0.00	0.20	(639,834.80)
Total Expenditures	639,835.00	61,805.39	111,782.27	528,052.73
CIP-Library Net Change	0.00	(61,805.39)	(111,782.07)	(111,782.07)

TOTAL CIRCULATION STATISTICAL SUMMARY

For the month of June 2023

Branch	2022 CURRENT MONTH	2023 CURRENT MONTH	% CHANGE	2022 YEAR-to-DATE	2023 YEAR-to-DATE	% CHANGE
ATHENS	1,062	1,398	31.64%	7,939	10,189	28.34%
EDGAR	1,807	1,394	-22.86%	9,620	7,951	-17.35%
HATLEY	2,260	2,315	2.43%	9,397	10,852	15.48%
MARATHON	3,077	2,621	-14.82%	16,431	15,142	-7.84%
MOSINEE	2,469	2,702	9.44%	14,259	15,076	5.73%
ROTHSCHILD	8,100	9,248	14.17%	46,832	48,670	3.92%
SPENCER	1,149	1,036	-9.83%	6,786	6,626	-2.36%
STRATFORD	2,123	2,325	9.51%	11,370	12,407	9.12%
WAUSAU	33,075	33,018	-0.17%	166,981	179,367	7.42%
WAUSAU DRIVE UP	1,933	1,920	-0.67%	11,831	11,020	-6.85%
HOMEBOUND	1,102	684	-37.93%	5,610	3,792	-32.41%
ILL	195	134	-31.28%	1,045	1,058	1.24%
OVERDRIVE	13,742	15,114	9.98%	82,961	91,676	10.50%
GRAND TOTAL	72,094	73,909	2.52%	391,062	413,826	5.82%

ON-SITE CIRC TO NON-RESIDENT CUSTOMERS

June 2023

	CUSTOMER STATISTICAL CLASSES								TOTAL NON-RESIDENT CIRC	TOTAL CIRC	% of CIRC by BRANCH
	WVLS-CLARK	WVLS-LANGLADE	WVLS-LINCOLN	SCLS-PORTAGE	NFLS-SHAWANO	WVLS-TAYLOR	SCLS-WOOD				
ATHENS	91	0	18	0	0	399	0	508	10,189	4.99%	
EDGAR	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	9	7,951	0.11%	
HATLEY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,852	0.00%	
MARATHON	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	15,142	0.03%	
MOSINEE	1	0	0	56	0	0	2	59	15,076	0.39%	
ROTHSCHILD	4	0	5	53	0	1	4	67	48,670	0.14%	
SPENCER	201	0	0	0	0	15	1	217	6,626	3.27%	
STRATFORD	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	12,407	0.02%	
WAUSAU	80	0	1,573	122	0	33	0	1,808	179,367	1.01%	
WAUSAU DRIVE UP	0	0	78	0	0	0	0	78	11,020	0.71%	
MISC*									96,526		
TOTAL MCPL	381	0	1,683	231	0	451	7	2,753	413,826	0.67%	
% of CIRC by COUNTY	0.09%	0.00%	0.41%	0.06%	0.00%	0.11%	0.00%				

*MISC=HOMEBOUND,WVLS-D,WVLS-L,III, OVERDRIVE

TOTAL MONTHLY CUSTOMER COUNT

For the month of June 2023

	2022 CURRENT MONTH	2023 CURRENT MONTH	% CHANGE
MARATHON COUNTY			
RESIDENT ADULT	65,857	59,048	-10.34%
RESIDENT CHILD	8,146	8,502	4.37%
HOMEBOUND	170	98	-42.35%
STAFF	65	68	4.62%
TEMPORARY	461	579	25.60%
TOTAL FOR MARATHON COUNTY	74,699	68,295	-8.57%
NON-COUNTY ON SITE BORROWERS			
ADULT	2,960	2,860	-3.38%
CHILD	219	230	5.02%
TEMPORARY	23	28	21.74%
TOTAL FOR NON-COUNTY ON SITE BORROWER	3,202	3,118	-2.62%
INTERLIBRARY LOAN			
ILL	402	410	1.99%
GRAND TOTAL	78,303	71,823	-8.28%



Marathon County Public Library

Director Report

July 2023

Highlights

Mosinee Branch Historical Items

MCPL staff have created an action plan with the City of Mosinee City Administrator and the Mosinee Historical Society to preserve the historical items that are housed in the library. Items that are original to the building will be labeled as “Property of the City of Mosinee” and will be displayed for the public to see. The hope is that all items will fit in the first-floor space so that the public can view them during any of the library’s normal hours. Items that are not original to the building and are not relevant to the library’s purpose will be given to the Historical Society.

Library Services

June was a busy month for Library Services. Summer programming is in full swing! We were thrilled to welcome hundreds of families into the library this month and see so many young people excited about reading. We have given away over 100 books already to kids who are participating in our Summer Reading Program. Story times at our local parks have been a hit with over 50 people in attendance at each event. Our teen D&D weekly event has drawn a solid group of young adults into the library each week—one teen got his first library card after playing and many are making new friends. We welcomed three popular performers to Wausau during the month of June: Snake Discovery, Dinosaur Dimensions, and Pint Size Polkas. Each program drew a large crowd and got kids and families excited about reptiles, dinosaurs, and music.

For adults, we continued to offer our Let’s Talk! Social Hour program, a movie night, and a craft swap. We were thrilled to begin library tours and plan programming for a group from Adaptive Communities, a service for adults with disabilities in Wausau (see below). We look forward to their return for fun programming in July and August!

Adaptive Communities Visiting MCPL

Recently a representative from Adaptive Communities, a social activity center for adults with special needs, inquired with one of our librarians about creating programming specifically for their group.

We reached out and planned two tours for any interested clients. We had a total of 23 people over those two tours! In addition to a library tour, attendees were also given a quick presentation about the fish tank and its inhabitants, and had a chance to ask questions.

In July and August, we will continue programming for this group with four story and craft time meetings. We are very excited to offer both the story time and the craft opportunity, where we plan to do crafts like resistance painting with sponges, making and using puffy paint, creating a sea shell ornament and a planet ornament.

We've also started looking at continuing our programs with them into the fall. It's been great to have the opportunity to work with their community and we hope they enjoy their visits to the library.

Branches

Summer has been a fun and busy time across all of our locations. It would be impossible to share all of the wonderful things happening in all of our locations this summer, but here are some highlights. As always, additional information (and photos!) can be found on our social media and in the Branch Statistics and Activities segment of this report.

In Edgar and Rothschild, the Snake Discovery reptile show was a huge hit! We welcomed over 300 people and many kids (and our branch coordinators!) loved interacting with Banana Bread the python and Doug the boa.

Athens and Spencer hosted a Call of the Wild program where children had fun learning outdoor survival skills, and Pint Size Polkas concerts that got everyone dancing.

In Marathon City and Stratford, the Raptor Education Group from Antigo presented "Winged Wonders". The knowledgeable ladies gave the students valuable information about rescued raptors and shared 5 live beautiful birds for everyone to see. Summer school students and the public were there with over 250 people attending in Marathon and over 100 in Stratford. "Hey Justin, What's the Weather Going To Be?" was another big hit in Spencer. Justin Loew came with so many interesting facts and opened up the entire hour to questions and answers. Photos taken during the presentation were featured on WAOW Channel 9 that day on the 5pm newscast and also as part of the weather at 6:30pm.

In Mosinee, our popular Plant Swap was again a huge success, and brought in approximately 161 patrons exchanging over 225 plants. Sarah, Mosinee branch coordinator, had lots of fun propagating 42 plants for the swap!

Book Club and Story Time continue to be well attended at many of our locations. Patrons have also visited our locations for a variety of craft weeks, Lego events, sidewalk chalk parties, and educational programs. Creative book displays were featured at all locations including ones like "All Together Now," "Fishing for a Good Book," and "Books Unite Us."

Multiple locations hosted Valerie from the Women's Community, who provided information to patrons about Elder Abuse Awareness month. This was a great way for Valerie to spend time in the community and connect with residents.

In staffing news, interviews were held for the open 30 hour branch assistant position on 6/21. Megan V., our current branch assistant in Marathon City, was selected and will begin in

Rothschild on 7/24. We are excited to welcome her to the team! Due to this promotion, the 20 hour branch assistant position is now open in Marathon City. Nikki F., our Athens Branch Coordinator, will be resigning her position to return to teaching. We will be sad to see her go, but we know that the students will be lucky to have her in the classroom! The open positions in Athens and Marathon City are posted and will close in mid-July.

Special thanks to Stephanie M., Katelyn S., Julie K., and Laura W. for your contributions!

Library Services Statistics & Activities

News

- Ben attended a webinar for WVLS website administrators on June 5
- Chad and Elizabeth met with the Central Wisconsin Book Festival committee on June 5
- Ben attended Marathon County's "Super User" website training on June 13
- Allycia watched two webinars in June: "Homeless De-Escalation 501: Verbal tools for conflict" and "In Search of the Obscure: Using Library & Online Sources to Find Resources that are Out of the Ordinary"
- Julie and Jailin gave tours to 23 people with the Adaptive Communities group at MCPL Wausau
- Tara attended a webinar titled "Developmentally Appropriate Collection Development" on June 14th
- Elizabeth gave a tour to a group from the EEA Learning Academy on June 26 at MCPL Wausau
- Julie met with the WLS Best Book Committee on June 29
- Kate and Tara explored Ingram's iPage to determine its potential value to MCPL
- Allycia made her first television appearance as MCPL Marketing Specialist June 19 on WSAW to discuss library events
- Katelyn attended the Life Report launch event at UWSP-Wausau on June first
- Katelyn held interviews for the open part-time position on the Library Services team June 14th and 15th
- Katelyn attended the monthly Team Leads meeting on June 14th
- Katelyn attended the Library Board meeting on June 19th
- Katelyn and Laura W. held interviews for the open 30-hour Rothschild Branch Assistant position on June 21st
- Katelyn attended virtual WLA Leadership Development Institute sessions on June 14th and 28th
- Katelyn wrote and delivered Midyear reviews to the Library Services team and Branch Coordinators
- Katelyn held rounding with individual staff throughout the month
- MCPL study rooms were booked 74 times in June
- Notary: 19 appointments
- Proctoring: 1
- Tech Time: 8 appointments
- Homebound Services:
 - Items sent out: 450
 - Volunteer deliveries completed: 15
 - New (or recently returned) HB patrons: 3
 - Active HB accts at the start of the month: 87
 - Reading slips, letters, or notes received: 32
- Weeding:
 - Wausau: Easy Readers, Beginning Chapter Books, Adult Fiction, Adult DVD
 - Mosinee: Easy Readers
 - Rothschild: Adult Non-Fiction

- Spencer: Easy Readers

Events and Programs

Youth Events

Story Times:

- June 6: Story Time at Rib Mountain State Park 10am—90
- June 6: Story Time at Rib Mountain State Park 11am—35
- June 8: Family Story Time—30
- June 12: Story Time at Oak Island Park—75
- June 13: Family Story Time—30
- June 14: Play and Learn Story Time—8
- June 14: Play and Learn Story Time—40
- June 15: Family Story Time—25
- June 20: Family Story Time—15
- June 21: Play and Learn Story Time—6
- June 21: Play and Learn Story Time—36
- June 22: Family Story Time—28
- June 26: Story Time at Brockmeyer Park—60
- June 27: Family Story Time—25
- June 29: Play and Learn—16
- June 29: Play and Learn—30

Other Programs:

- June 6: Snake Discovery at Oak Island Park—400
 - June 6: Teen Dungeons and Dragons—19
 - June 8: Read to a Therapy Dog—33
 - June 8: LEGO Club—28
 - June 11: 4H Good Thymes—5
 - June 13: Pokémon Club—55
 - June 13: Teen Dungeons and Dragons—18
 - June 15: Read to a Therapy Dog—27
 - June 15: LENA Lunch—8
 - June 19: Dinosaur Dimensions at Oak Island Park—375
 - June 20: Teen Dungeons and Dragons—16
 - June 22: LENA Lunch—7
 - June 22: Read to a Therapy Dog—22
 - June 22: LEGO Club—27
 - June 26: EEA Teen Group Tour—12
 - June 27: Teen Dungeons and Dragons—16
 - June 28: Pint Size Polkas—64
 - June 28: Tween Book Club—1
 - June 29: Read to a Therapy Dog—42
 - June 29: Teen Trivia—8
 - June SLP BINGO Card Young Child—12
 - June SLP BINGO Card Child—54
 - June SLP BINGO Card Young Adult—4
-
- **Number of June Youth Services programs – 39**
 - **Total attendance for June Youth Services programs – 1831**

Adults/All Ages Events

- June 8: MCPL Movie Night: “The Banshees of Inisherin” – 13
- June 14: Let’s Talk! Social Hour – 9
- June 17: Craft Swap – 10
- June 21: Extension Gardening Series: Gardening for Pollinators (2 sessions) – 4
- June 24: Climate Fiction Reads book club - 2

- **Number of June programs and activities – 6**
- **Total attendance/participation for June programs – 38**

Media Summary

Social Media Statistics:

- Facebook (MCPL): 4,930 followers (+50)
 - New likes (+28)
 - Unfollows (0)
- Twitter: 1,225 followers (-3)
- Pinterest: 969 followers (+0)
- Goodreads: 327 friends (+1); 1,455 reviews (+2)
- Instagram: 1,086 followers (+4)
- YouTube: 517 subscribers (-2)

Hot Happenings in the River District (email newsletter)

- June 14 – Craft Supply Swap
- June 21 – Gardening for Pollinators
- June 28 – July Grab & Go Craft Kits

WOAW Channel 9

- June 2 - Cooling centers in the area as temperatures rise https://www.waow.com/news/cooling-centers-in-the-area-as-temperatures-rise/article_a6345cb0-0195-11ee-b956-a3b44e65d947.html

WSAU 550 AM

- June 3 – Area cooling centers open as temps rise <https://wsau.com/2023/06/03/area-cooling-centers-open-as-temps-rise/>

WSAW Channel 7

- June 13 – Marathon County Public Library program bringing reading to community’s [sic] <https://www.wsaw.com/2023/06/13/marathon-county-public-library-program-bringing-reading-communitys/>
- June 13 – Marathon County Public Library entertaining families with story time at the parks <https://www.wsaw.com/video/2023/06/13/marathon-county-public-library-entertaining-families-with-story-time-parks/>
- Same video as above, with corrected title, but no article attached
- June 19 – Plethora of Events for Children this Summer at Marathon County Public Library <https://www.wsaw.com/video/2023/06/19/plethora-events-children-this-summer-marathon-county-public-library/>

City Pages

- June 1
 - Highlights – Story Time at Rib Mountain
 - Out & About – All locations: Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots available at MCPL; Wausau: Check Out State Parks at Your Library, Movie Night, Family Story Time; Athens: Book Club “Little Fires Everywhere”; Edgar: Book Club “The Girls in the Picture,”; Hatley: Book Club “Just Mercy,” Marathon City: Book Club “Maid,” Friendship Bracelets; Mosinee: Crafts & Games Social Hour, Plant Swap, Yoga & Meditation, Sticky Note Window Art, Sidewalk

Chalk Art, Kindness Rocks!; Rothschild: Summer Lego Block Party; Stratford: Friendship Bracelets

- June 8 – Out & About – All locations: Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots available at MCPL, MCPL Craft: Friendship Bracelets; Wausau: Check Out State Parks at Your Library, Movie Night, Social Hour for Adults, Craft Supply Swap, Play & Learn Story Time, Family Story Time, Read to a Therapy Dog, Summer Lego Block Party, Good Thymes with Extension Marathon County, Story Time in the Park; Athens: Book Club “Little Fires Everywhere,”; Edgar: Book Club “The Girls in the Picture,”; Hatley: Book Club “Just Mercy,” The Music of Ken Lonquist; Marathon City: Book Club “Maid,” Bee Kind Story Time, Summer Lego Block Party, Friendship Bracelets; Mosinee: Plant Swap, Book Club “Such a Fun Age,” Sidewalk Chalk Art, Kindness Rocks!; Stratford: Friendship Bracelets
- June 15 – Out & About – All locations: Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots available at MCPL, MCPL Craft: Friendship Bracelets; Wausau: Check Out State Parks at Your Library, Craft Supply Swap, Gardening for Pollinators, Play & Learn Story Time, Family Story Time, Read to a Therapy Dog, Dinosaur Dimensions, Summer Lego Block Party, Story Time at the Park; Athens: Sidewalk Chalk Art, Family Story Time; Edgar: Dinosaur Dimensions, Family Story Time; Hatley: Outdoor Story Time, LED Paper Flowers; Marathon City: Family Story Time, Summer Lego Block Party, Make a Magic Wand, Kindness Rocks!, Winged Wonders with the Raptor Education Group; Mosinee: Book Club “Such a Fun Age,” Rothschild: Book Club “Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law,” Kindness Rocks!, Family Story Time; Spencer: What’s the Weather with Meteorologist Justin Loew; Stratford: Book Club “The Storied Life of AJ Fikry,” Elephant & Piggie Party, Winged Wonders with the Raptor Education Group
- June 19
 - Kids Corner – All Locations: MCPL Craft Flowergrams; Wausau: Summer Lego Block Party, Play & Learn Story Time, Family Story Time, Story Time at the Park, Pokemon Club, Tween Book Club, Create a Butterfly Headband, Prehistoric Facts w/Dino Chris, All About Rockets; Athens: Family Story Time, Kindness Rocks!; Edgar: Friendship Bracelets, Family Story Time; Hatley: Outdoor Story Time; Marathon City: Summer Lego Block Party, Family Story Time, The Music of Ken Lonquist, Elephant & Piggie Party; Mosinee: Friendship Bracelets, Stories & “Tails” w/the Marathon County Humane Society; Rothschild: Summer Lego Block Party, Make a Magic Wand, Family Story Time; Spencer: Magnet Craft, Bee Kind Story Time; Stratford: Kindness Rocks!, The Music of Ken Lonquist
 - Out & About – All Locations: MCPL Craft: Friendship Bracelets, MCPL Craft: Flowergrams, Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots available at MCPL; Wausau: Check out State Parks at your Library, Social Hour for Adults, Climate Fiction Book Club “Greenwood,” Play & Learn Story Time, Family Story Time, Read to a Therapy Dog, All Together Now: Teen Trivia, Story Time at the Park, Pokemon Club; Athens: Book Club “In Five Years,” Kindness Rocks!; Edgar: Book Club “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,” Hatley: Book Club “The Silent Patient,” Fair Time: The History of the Marathon County Fair, Outdoor Story Time; Marathon City: Book Club: “Where’d You Go, Bernadette,” Family Story Time, Summer Lego Block Party, The Music of Ken Lonquist; Mosinee: Yoga & Mediation Class, Crafts & Games Social Hour, Book Club “A Week at the Shore,” Friendship Bracelets, Stories & “Tails” w/the Marathon County Humane Society; Rothschild: Book Club “The Lioness,” Family Story Time, Summer Lego Block Party, Make a Magic Wand; Spencer: Pint Size Polkas, Magnet Craft; Stratford: Book Club “Rock, Paper Scissors,” Kindness Rocks!, The Music of Ken Lonquist

Hub City Times

- Marshfield area paper
- June 14 – MCPL Spencer to host WAOW Meteorologist Justin Loew
<https://hubcitytimes.com/2023/06/14/mcpl-spencer-to-host-waow-meteorologist-justin-loew/>

Mosinee Times

- June 15

- MCPL Youth Events Starting June 16 – Wausau: Dinosaur Dimensions, Read to a Therapy Dog, Summer Lego Block Party; Athens: Sidewalk Chalk Art; Edgar: Dinosaur Dimensions; Hatley: Kindness Rocks!; Marathon City: Summer Lego Block Party; Rothschild: Kindness Rocks!; Stratford: Elephant & Piggie Party
- MCPL Book Clubs June 2023 – Mosinee “Such a Fun Age,” Stratford “The Storied Life of AJ Fikry,” Rothschild “Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law”
- June 22 – MCPL Youth Events – Wausau: Pint Size Polkas, Tween Book Club, Read to a Therapy Dog; Teen Trivia; Athens: Pint Size Polkas; Hatley: LED Paper Flowers; Marathon City: Summer Lego Block Party, Make a Magic Wand, Winged Wonders; Mosinee: Straw Weaving Bookmarks & Bracelets; Spencer: Pint Size Polkas; Stratford: Winged Wonders
- June 29
 - MCPL Mosinee to Host Gentle Yoga & Meditation Class, July 5
 - MCPL Mosinee Branch Crafts & Games Social Hour, July 6

Record Review

- June 7
 - People – All Locations: Central WI Book Festival Community Read; Athens: Book Club “Little Fires Everywhere,” Story Time; Edgar: Book Club “The Girls in the Picture,” Story Time; Marathon City: Friendship Bracelets, Story Time, Bee Kind Story Time, Book Club “Maid”; Stratford: Friendship Bracelets, Book Club “The Storied Life of AJ Fikry,” Elephant & Piggie Party
 - Community Calendar: Lego Block Party (Marathon City)
- June 14 – People – Athens: Sidewalk Chalk Art, Pint Size Polkas Story Time; Edgar: Dinosaur Dimensions, Story Time; Marathon City: Winged Wonders w/Raptor Education Group, Make a Magic Wand, Summer Lego Block Party, Friendship Bracelets, Story Time; Stratford: Winged Wonders w/Raptor Education Group, Friendship Bracelets, Book Club “The Storied Life of AJ Fikry,” Elephant & Piggie Party
- June 21 – People – Athens: Pint Size Polkas; Marathon City: Winged Wonders w/Raptor Education Group, Make a Magic Wand, Summer Lego Block Party; Stratford: Winged Wonders w/Raptor Education Group
- June 28 – People – All Locations: Grab & Go Craft; Athens: Book Club “In Five Years,” Story Time; Edgar: Book Club “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,” Friendship Bracelets, Story Time; Marathon City: Make a Magic Wand, The Music of Ken Lonquist, Summer Lego Block Party, Book Club “Where’d You Go, Bernadette,” Elephant & Piggie Party, Story Time; Stratford: Kindness Rocks!, The Music of Ken Lonquist, Story Time, Book Club “Rock Paper Scissors”

Wausau Pilot & Review

- June 1 – Marathon County Public Library programs
<https://wausapilotandreview.com/2023/06/01/marathon-county-public-library-programs-37/>
- June 9 – Marathon County Public Library programs, youth (June 16-30)
<https://wausapilotandreview.com/2023/06/09/marathon-county-public-library-programs-youth/>
- June 16 – Marathon County Public Library programs
<https://wausapilotandreview.com/2023/06/16/marathon-county-public-library-programs-38/>
- June 19 – Marathon County Public Library Story Times: July
<https://wausapilotandreview.com/2023/06/19/marathon-county-public-library-story-times-july/>
- June 25 – Marathon County Public Library book clubs: July
<https://wausapilotandreview.com/2023/06/25/marathon-county-public-library-book-clubs-july-4/>
- June 26 – Marathon County Public Library Programs, adults
<https://wausapilotandreview.com/2023/06/26/marathon-county-public-library-programs-adults/>

Wausau Daily Herald

- May 27 – Marathon County Historical Society presents History Speaks – The Vietnam War: One Veteran’s Story https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/things-to-do/events/?_ev_id=1693166_marathon_county_historical_society_presents_history_speaks_-_the_vietnam_war_one_veteran_s_story_-

Wausau Times/Buyers Guide

- June 14 – Out & About – All Locations: Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots available at MCPL; Wausau: Play & Learn Story Time, Family Story Time, Read to a Therapy Dog; Marathon City: Family Story Time, Summer Lego Block Party; Mosinee: Sidewalk Chalk Art, Kindness Rocks!; Rothschild: Family Story Time

Materials

Youth

	2023 Annual Budget	Rollover from 2022	Total Appropriation	Monthly Allotment	Free Balance	Spent as of 7/05/2023	% Spent
Juvenile Audiobooks	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$750.00	\$4,555.53	\$4,444.47	49%
Juvenile CDs	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$41.67	\$310.86	\$189.14	38%
Juvenile DVDs	\$8,500.00	\$22.48	\$8,522.48	\$708.33	\$5,916.62	\$2,605.86	31%
Juvenile Video Games	\$2,300.00	\$30.68	\$2,330.68	\$191.67	\$1,100.92	\$1,229.76	53%
Young Adult Audio Books	\$1,650.00	\$70.35	\$1,720.35	\$137.50	\$1,040.46	\$679.89	40%
Juvenile e-books	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$125.00	\$705.01	\$794.99	53%
Youth AV Subtotal	\$23,450.00	\$123.51	\$23,573.51	\$1,954.17	\$13,629.40	\$9,944.11	42%
Juvenile Fiction	\$25,500.00	\$55.72	\$25,555.72	\$2,125.00	\$12,217.28	\$13,338.44	52%
Juvenile NonFiction	\$27,500.00	\$57.47	\$27,557.47	\$2,291.67	\$15,264.74	\$12,292.73	45%
Juvenile Picture Books	\$30,000.00	\$104.35	\$30,104.35	\$2,500.00	\$15,611.06	\$14,493.29	48%
Juvenile Spanish	\$1,400.00	\$0.00	\$1,400.00	\$116.67	\$457.93	\$942.07	67%
Juvenile Standing Order Print	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$625.00	\$2,438.15	\$5,061.85	67%
Young Adult Fiction	\$12,000.00	\$43.96	\$12,043.96	\$1,000.00	\$5,435.39	\$6,608.57	55%
Young Adult Graphic Novels	\$3,500.00	\$142.16	\$3,642.16	\$291.67	\$1,607.92	\$2,034.24	56%
Young Adult NonFiction	\$3,400.00	\$0.00	\$3,400.00	\$283.33	\$1,827.49	\$1,572.51	46%
Youth Print Subtotal	\$110,800.00	\$403.66	\$111,203.66	\$9,233.33	\$54,859.96	\$56,343.70	51%
Youth Services TOTAL	\$134,250.00	\$527.17	\$134,777.17	\$11,231.43	\$68,489.36	\$66,287.81	49%

Adult

	2023 Annual	Rollover from	Total w/carryover	Monthly Allotment	Free Balance	Spent as of July 1, 2023	% Spent

	Budget	2022					
Adult Audiobooks	\$12,000.00	\$549.01	\$12,549.01	\$1,090.91	\$6,143.07	\$5,856.93	48.81%
Adult Music CD	\$5,500.00	\$699.42	\$6,199.42	\$500.00	\$2,733.72	\$2,766.28	50.30%
Adult DVD	\$17,500.00	\$1,043.69	\$18,543.69	\$1,590.91	\$7,031.83	\$10,468.17	59.82%
Adult Video Games	\$1,550.00	\$119.98	\$1,669.98	\$140.91	\$744.11	\$805.89	51.99%
Adult AV Subtotal	\$36,550.00	\$2,412.10	\$38,962.10	\$3,322.73	\$16,652.73	\$19,897.27	54.44%
Adult Paperbacks	\$3,035.00	\$164.63	\$3,199.63	\$275.91	\$2,052.99	\$982.01	32.36%
Adult Paperbacks S.O.	\$2,415.00	\$0.00	\$2,415.00	N/A	\$1,450.00	\$965.00	39.96%
Adult Fiction	\$47,000.00	\$429.81	\$47,429.81	\$4,272.73	\$19,334.60	\$27,665.40	58.86%
Adult LT Fiction	\$7,500.00	\$74.55	\$7,574.55	\$681.82	\$2,964.13	\$4,535.87	60.48%
***Adult LT S.O.	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$545.45	\$4,420.15	\$1,579.85	26.33%
Adult Non-fiction	\$67,000.00	\$2,592.19	\$69,592.19	\$6,090.91	\$27,929.55	\$39,070.45	58.31%
Adult Non-fiction S.O.	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	N/A	\$1,212.98	\$787.02	39.35%
Adult Biographies	\$12,000.00	\$336.33	\$12,336.33	\$1,090.91	\$5,367.49	\$6,632.51	55.27%
Adult Spanish	\$750.00	\$66.43	\$816.43	\$68.18	\$598.16	\$151.84	20.25%
Adult Hmong	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$68.18	\$489.58	\$260.42	34.72%
Overdrive - ebooks	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$1,363.64	\$8,564.82	\$6,435.18	42.90%
Adult Print Subtotal	\$163,450.00	\$3,663.94	\$167,113.94	\$14,859.09	\$74,384.45	\$89,065.55	54.49%
Adult Services TOTAL	\$200,000.00	\$6,076.04	\$206,076.04	\$18,181.82	\$91,037.18	\$108,962.82	54.48%

Support Services Statistics & Activities

Circulation Team

- New library card applications processed by the Circulation Team: 264
- Circulation total for Wausau First Floor: 33,018
- Ashley H processed 134 Interlibrary Loan items
- Homebound checked out 684 items
- June Passports News:
 - 23 Adult Passport Books
 - 12 Minor Passport Books
 - 4 Both Card and Book

The MCPL Passport team accepted a total of 39 passport applications accepted at \$35.00 each and 50 photos were taken at \$10.00 each for a total of \$1,865 recorded. We also assisted with 15 renewal applications.

- 6/14/23 & 6/27/23 Leads attended Team Lead meetings with Director and Managers

- Circulation Team is in charge of OutWIGo park pass distribution. MCPL has distributed an average of 4 single-day state park passes each week.
- Ashley H
 - 6/1/23 Updated step-by-step ILL instructions for new users for website
 - 6/8/23 Trained Maggie B on outgoing MCPL ILL items
 - 6/29/23 Ryan Dowd webinar: Homeless De-Escalation 201: Nonverbal tools to eliminate conflict
- Olivia B
 - The D&D program has been going well. We have 18 regular attendees.
 - Met with Jailin, Katelyn, and Julie to talk about organizing future D&D one day events as well as something for National Board Game Week.
 - Met with Katie Zimmerman about getting the Mark Damaged button up and functioning and making some billing standards.
 - Working on a Damaged Items Status project and trying to track down all items in the system with that status that are paid and withdrawing them.
 - We now have a grommet tool so we can make the Traveling Tales Kits more secure and hopefully rip fewer bags.
- Maggie B
 - Homebound Services backup while Jailin P is out of the building.
 - Has trained with Ashley H on outgoing ILL items
- Erin Q
 - Wrote up a Magazine/Newspaper/Mail guide for back up - pictures will be added in the future for more reference
 - Co-DM with Julie for teen D&D program, more involved in planning
 - Placed outlet covers around 1st floor with Olivia
- Over the course of the month, three patrons were asked to leave the library for the day due to minor policy violations, and one was banned for a greater length of time due to other policy violations.

Support Services Team

- Chris L served as proxy representative for Kitty R at V-Cat Council on 6/1. V-Cat Council approved the 2024 V-Cat budget. Other topics included: Sierra updates with release 5.6 and the Aspen Detailed Location Facet. Also, WVLS staff will soon purge adult patron records that are expired and inactive over 5 years with no fines or fees. This is in keeping with DPI requirements that patron records be purged at least once every three years for libraries which report the number of registered users in the annual report (as MCPL does).
- Kayla K is now doing the location stamping on MCPL materials.
- Alexander, Chris L and James B attended V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting on 6/8. The Koha Evaluation Survey results had identified 4 areas with a number of outstanding questions: Acquisitions, Cataloging, Reports and Offline circulation. The committee reviewed additional information and is working on a list of questions for the Bywater rep who has been invited to the July meeting. In the area of Cataloging, the committee decided to invite several catalogers of varying experience levels to a short workshop for testing. In Reports, the committee concluded that some additional training from Bywater is necessary before the Reports function can be evaluated.
- Chris L and James B met with WVLS's Rachel M for additional discussion of Koha cataloging on 6/12.
- Team Leads met with Leah 6/14
- Chris L, James B and Rachel M met again 6/15 to review other cataloging topics: Book Discussion Kits, Magazine bibs, On Order browse category in Aspen.

- Kayla K updated the instructions for the Missing Monthly, High Demand – Book and High Demand – DVD reports.
- The ILS Evaluation/Review Cataloging workshop for Koha testing was held on 6/20. Attendance was light but included a mix of experienced and less-experienced catalogers. The group reviewed Koha MARC editing tools (Basic and Advanced), viewing 2 or more bibs at the same time, overlaying, merging, item records.
- Kayla K relabeled and replaced broken cases on all of the Wausau Juvenile DVDs.
- All remaining Juvenile Paperbacks have been relabeled and recoded to Juvenile Fiction. This will make them easier for patrons (and staff doing shelving, inventory and pull list) to find as they have been inter-shelved with Juvenile Fiction for some time.
- Support Services Team leads met with Alexander 6/27.
- Circulation total for Wausau Drive Up: 1,920.

Page Team

- Switched location codes from old paperback location to regular juvenile fiction for remaining juvenile paperbacks in storage.
- Inventory is progressing slowly but surely. Adult non-fiction audiobooks are fully completed. Adult fiction audiobooks through CD HYD were completed during June.
- Remaining easy readers in the old location code were slowly switched over as they were returned throughout the month. We have 21 holdouts as of June 30th.
- An adult fiction weeding list was completed.
- Shifting in adult non-fiction is an ongoing, thanks in large part to Maggie K., and we are nearly to the end of the 600's with lots of ground gained so far.
- Two additional adult DVD weeding lists were completed.
- Ollie completed multiple smalls lists of items with stuck holds sent from Katie Z. at WVLS.
- We searched for all items on the Missing or Missing in Inventory April 2023 list but found nothing.
- Ollie did some work on better organizing the seasonal storage collection at Wausau.
- Over the course of June the page team shelved approximately 29,500 items. 12,363 of those items were regular children's collections (i.e. all non-new items and all juvenile AV). Additionally the team handled 3,460 more items for holds or transits to home libraries.

Information Technology

- Staff computers at the branches have been moved to the new print server. This move allows us to disable 9 more GPOs (Group Policy Objects) on our domain controllers that were previously controlling this deployment. Once the patron computers are replaced we will have disabled/replaced 25 separate GPOs that were controlling printer deployment along with 1 GPO that handles deployment of all printers.
- Added a GPO that should eliminate any bloatware that may end up on our computers (currently in testing)
- Leah and David had the opportunity to visit the new building that the Athens branch will be occupying. We have a good idea of the layout and any necessary network connections that will need to be installed.
- Josh (from WVLS) and David have run into some snags the WDS (Windows Deployment System) server that would allow us to clone branch computers rather than configuring them one by one.

We hope to have this fixed soon so that deployment of the new computers can begin for the branch staff.

- Several projects remain ongoing:
 - Continued organization of the IT work area and server areas.
 - Creating technology tutorials for staff.
 - Investigate what needs to be done to continue outdoor Wi-Fi antennae installation at remaining branches.
 - Athens: Pending approval to install in new building.
 - *Edgar: Installed*
 - Hatley: Pending install
 - Marathon City:
 - *Mosinee: Installed*
 - Rothschild: Need written permission to install
 - Spencer:
 - *Stratford: Installed*

- Additional projects are on the horizon:
 - Plan a deployment date for Windows 11. (Will be deployed with new patron computers)
 - Plan a deployment date for new patron computers. (*Q3 or Q4 of 2023 or Q1 of 2024*)
 - Investigate having the branches use IP phones like the ones used in Wausau.
 - Investigate moving library to Office 365 licensing instead of the current Office 2013 in use.
 - Investigate hosting Teams phones on our own Microsoft tenant.
 - Investigate hosting mcpl.us email on our own Microsoft tenant.
 - Investigate replacing CASSIE. (*Pharos?*) (*WVLS Server*)
 - Investigate Wireless printing options. (*Princh?*) (*cloud based service*)
 - Investigate a way to better secure our public computers' configurations.
 - Continue investigating upgrade to fiber internet at branches. Thanks to the new Infrastructure bill and a grant WVLS was able to secure, fiber lines are being scheduled to be run to the branch locations. Ground breaking for this is scheduled for spring of 2024.
 - Athens:
 - Edgar:
 - *Hatley: Integrated to WCAN (Wausau Community Area Network)*
 - Marathon City:
 - Mosinee:
 - Rothschild:
 - Spencer:
 - Stratford:
 - *Wausau: Integrated to WCAN (Wausau Community Area Network)*

Branch Statistics & Activities

Athens Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Book Club: This month the Athens Book Club read *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. A lively discussion was held on June 13 with 7 patrons attending.

- Athens held three Summer Library Programs during the month of June: Call of the Wild Youth Outdoor Skills had 14 attendees, Pint-Size Polkas had 15 attendees, and our Sidewalk Chalk Art week-long event had 7 participants.
- Upcoming Programs: The Athens Book Club will be reading *In Five Years* by Rebecca Serle for July. Book Club meets on Tuesday, July 11 at 2:00pm in the Board Room of the Athens Village Hall.
- Family story time during the summer will continue on the following dates: 7/17, 8/1, and 8/15
- The week of July 10-15 come to the Athens library for our Kindness Rocks event!

Circulation Statistics

- Athens had a total of 0 curbside appointments in the month of June.
- In June, Athens circulated a total of 1,398 items. This is a 31.6490% increase from June of 2022. In 2023 year-to-date, Athens has circulated 10,189 items. This is a 28.34% increase from 2022.

Library News

- This month's adult displays included "Beach Reads" featuring a variety of books to read outside that take place in the summer, and "Outdoor Wisconsin" showcasing books on hiking and camping places in Wisconsin.
- We had up a children's display for dinosaurs and a general interest display to celebrate Father's Day.
- We continue to do our own replacement of faded labels on books.
- We have had many patrons taking SLP booklets, but have yet to have them return their bingo sheets for their prize books.
- Shahara helped out extra hours at Athens this month while Nikki helped out at Rothschild, Mosinee, and Hatley.

Facilities

- Leah and David came out to Athens to visit the new library space with Nikki and talk about furniture placement and discuss measurements.
- The Athens branch received a new book cart and a new display cart for new children's materials.

Edgar Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- A Snake Discovery event was held on the 6th at Oak St. Park with about 90 people in attendance
- A Dinosaur Dimensions was held event on the 19th at Oak St. Park with 60-70 people in attendance
- Book club discussed the book *The Girls in the Picture*
- Story time was held on the 6th with 4 adults and 12 children and on the 20th with 3 parents and 7 children followed by a dinosaur craft (7)
- 15 children participated in SLP with a total of 19 books being given out and 12 secret word prizes

Circulation Statistics

- The circulation statistics for the month of June were 1,394 items checked out. This is a 22.86% decrease for the same month last year. A total of 7,951 items have been checked out so far this year. This is a 17.35 % decrease from 2022.
- There were 0 curbside pickups for the month.

Library News

- Hannah filled in at Marathon on the 12th
- Hannah filled in at Rothschild on the 23rd and the 27th
- Hannah filled in at Stratford on the 24th

Facilities Updates

- None at this time.

Hatley Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Book Club discussed *Just Mercy*. We had a total of 7 participants.

- Grab N Go programs
 - Grab n Go – Create Your Own Stamp – we had a total of 40 to start the Quarter off with and gave out 14 kits in June leaving us with 0 at the end of the quarter.
- Story Time is held weekly on Tuesdays @ 10:30a
 - June 6th we did books on Friends/Friendship and had a total of 13 participants show up. 3 adults and 10 children.
 - June 20th we did books on Summer and had 23 participants show up. 6 adults and 17 children.
 - June 27th we did books on 4th of July/Fireworks and had 6 participants show up. 2 adults and 4 children.
- SLP Performer Ken Longquist came on the morning of June 13th and sang songs to a total of 31 patrons, 12 adults and 19 children. This program was scheduled to be outdoors but because of the forecast of rain we changed it being indoors the day before which may have impacted the amount of people in attendance.
- LED Paper Flowers had 8 participants, 1 adult, 6 children, and 1 teen. Despite the fact that none of the batteries I had worked all of the patrons were happy with creating the flowers and creating the circuit to be able to add their own battery at a later time.
- The Kindness Rocks SLP craft program ran June 19th through the 24th. Over the course of the week we had 32 total patrons come in a paint their own rock. 3 adults, 23 children and 1 teen.
- In June we had a total of 20 kids turn in Bingos with us giving out a total of 28 books. 5prek, 13k-5, and 2teen.
- Upcoming Programs
 - Book Club on July 11th will discuss *The Silent Patient*
 - Grab N Go Crafts – Flowergrams and Friendship Bracelets
 - SLP Call of the Wild on July 12th
 - Magic Wands will be July 17th – 22nd
 - Fair Time (History of the Fair) on July 20th
 - Story Times are EVERY Tuesday morning at 10:30a outdoors unless it is in raining.

Circulation Statistics

- Hatley circulated 2,315 for the month of June. This is a 2.43% increase. Year to date is 10,852 items. This is a 15.48% increase from last year.

Library News

- Robin and Heather both helped in Rothschild
- Wanda, Julie G and Sarah all helped cover shifts.
- Heather completed her mid-year eval with Katelyn.
- Robin completed her mid-year eval with Heather B.
- We continue to send in items to be labeled and cleaned
- Inventory is currently paused until given the OK from WVLS

Facilities Updates

- Talk of village getting 3 Library Guests Only parking signs to try and help keep those spots open when the community room is booked and we are open.

Marathon City Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Book Club: Megan and 9 patrons had a thoughtful discussion of the memoir *The Maid* by Stephanie Land. The book club meets on the second Monday of the month from 5:45-6:45 pm. The next book club session will meet on Monday, July 10th with a discussion of the book *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* by Maria Semple.
- Story Time: Our 30-45 minute family story time programs are held on Thursday mornings at 10:30 am. We had 50 caregivers and children join in the fun with themed stories, songs and activities during 3 regular events this month. The themes we focused on in June were vegetable and flower gardens and butterflies. We also hosted a special story time to kick off the Summer

Library Program. It was called “Bee Kind.” This story time focused on kindness and bees and featured stories, songs, finger plays, and a cute bee craft. We had a great turn out with 25 caregivers and children attending. We are looking forward to many more fun-filled summer story time events. Some of the themes will focus on kindness, friendship, community, sharing and animals including bugs and frogs

- We held two DIY craft weeks in the month of June, including a DIY friendship bracelet with 52 participants and a DIY Magic Wand week where 60 people came in to create some very “magical” wands. Our weekly Lego Block Party is being held on Fridays from 1:00 – 3:00 during the summer. We had 25 block builders come during 4 sessions. On Tuesday, June 27 The Raptor Education Group from Antigo presented “Winged Wonders” at Marathon Elementary. The knowledgeable ladies gave the students valuable information about rescued raptors and shared 5 live beautiful birds for everyone to see. Summer school students and the public were there with over 250 people attending.
- In July, our monthly book club, weekly story times and Lego block parties will be held, as usual with one special story time event happening on Thursday, July 20 at 10:30 am. We will be hosting an Elephant and Piggie Party for those who love these wondering books/characters. Stories, activities, songs, and a craft will be happening! On Tuesday, July 11 at 10:00 at Marathon Elementary, singer Ken Longquist will entertain the crowd. And...on Wednesday, July 12 we will hold an adult/teen DIY program. Folks can bring in a photo or use our supplies to decorate a ceramic tile to make a cool drink coaster. Our special craft week, “Kindness Rocks” will give children of all ages a chance to decorate a rock with a special kind and uplifting message. These rocks can be taken home or hidden throughout the community for people to find and enjoy. This event will be held during the week of July 24-29. We will also be offering two Grab & Go activities. Flower Grams and Friendship Bracelet kits can be picked up at any of the 9 MCPL locations during the month of July.

Circulation Statistics

- Marathon circulated 2,621 items during the month of June, which is a 14.82% decrease from this time last year. So far in 2023, Marathon has circulated 15,142 items. This is a 7.84% decrease over last year.

Library News

- Children are beginning to bring in their bingo cards to receive their reading reward for the SLP reading club.
- Lisa and Megan attended the branch bonding dinner this month.
- Lisa will be attending the bi-monthly coordinator’s meeting on July 21.

Facilities Updates

- None at this time.

Mosinee Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Book Club: 4 patrons joined this month for a lively discussion of *Such a Fun Age* on the 19th.
- Our first monthly Yarn and Games Social Hour at the adjusted time of Thursdays 1-7 brought in a patron who volunteered to teach games to participants, but unfortunately no other patrons joined us this session.
- Unfortunately we also had no patrons help decorate our library using their creativity and sticky notes the first week in June.
- Our first week in June we had several fantastic programs to kick off the summer! Our popular Plant Swap was again a huge success, and brought in approximately 161 patrons exchanging over 225 plants, which Sarah had lots of fun propagating 42 plants for! We also had 11 patrons decorate our handicap ramp with sidewalk chalk and 47 patrons decorate kindness rocks in honor of our Summer Reading Program’s Theme All Together Now.
- We also held the first of 2 Gentle Yoga and Meditation programs with a total of 4 participants this month on the 7th. It was such a fun program to do in our spacious upstairs space!

- Our first Summer Reading Program performer Ken Lonquist performed music that fit our reading theme on the 13th to 34 patrons despite the last minute venue change due to inclement weather.
- We finished out the month with a Straw Weaving Program that had 3 patrons make unique bookmarks.
- Passive Programs: For the summer we're encouraging patrons to lift each other up by writing positive messages on balloons. We've had 23 patrons so far write wonderful messages for each other.
- Upcoming Programs: Our Crafts and Games Social Hour and Book Club will continue as usual, with a new extended time of Thursdays from 1-7. We'll also be hosting the second Gentle Yoga and Meditation program on Wednesday July 5th in our spacious second floor space, and host Book Club on the 17th on the second floor as well. Other programming includes a Friendship Bracelet craft week and grab and go kit, as well as a Flowergram grab and go. We'll also be hosting two more programs at River Park, our popular Children's Obstacle Course program on the 27th and a Call of the Wild outdoor adventure program on the 18th. Finally, we're really excited to welcome the Marathon County Humane Society for a special story time on the 11th, and will be finishing off the month with a magic wand craft week.

Circulation Statistics

- Mosinee circulated 2,702 items in June 2023. This is a 9.44% increase. Mosinee has circulated 15,076 items in 2023. This is a 5.73% increase.

Library News

- Displays: We swapped our displays over to fit our Summer Reading Program theme of All Together Now. Our display behind the circulation desk reminded patrons that "Books Unite Us", while our adult fiction section held books in honor of community heroes like nurses for a "Not All Heroes Wear Capes" display. Our picture books held friendship and kindness themed books in honor of our All Together Now theme, and our juvenile fiction section encouraged readers to "Be a Rainbow in Someone's Else's Cloud". Finally, our large display by the computers held a "One World, Many Stories" display so readers could learn different perspectives, and our historic fireplace held nonfiction and fiction stories in honor of "Man's Best Friend".
- Our microfilm machine was used again this month, with our meeting room rented out once.
- Sarah and Katie put together new metal cabinets for our upstairs Library storage space, which will help tidy our area and keep items secure when the room is being rented out by the public.
- Curbside services continued throughout the month with 2 patrons really appreciative of the service.
- Staff continued sending in items that needed new spine labels, and appreciate all the hard work Support Services is doing!
- Sarah covered the Hatley branch on the 6th.
- On June 5th we hosted Valerie from the Women's Community, who provided information to patrons about Elder Abuse Awareness month. We appreciate this organization's dedication to such an important cause.

Facilities Updates

- We are still waiting on A&A Lock Services to redo our entrance locks.
- We are still waiting to hear on the timeline for our historic window restoration.

Rothschild Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- Summer has been a fun and busy time at the library! So far, we have had 26 kids participate in our summer reading bingo and we have handed out 30 books. Our Snake Discovery program at Gaska Park was a huge hit! Over 200 people attended this event to learn about reptiles and even hold a few snakes! It was very well received.

- Story time is scheduled for every other Tuesday during the summer. In June, we had 46 participants. A local preschool class also visited us to read a kindness story and paint kindness rocks.
- In June, book club met and 4 members discussed Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law by Mary Roach. In July, the club will discuss The Lioness by Chris Bohjalian.
- 9 people joined us for Lego Block Party and were thrilled to use their imaginations and build interesting creations in the library. The theme for June was summer celebrations and we saw some awesome creations! We also held a craft week for kids where 64 people painted kindness rocks to share with the community.
- Valerie from The Women's Community held advocacy hours in the library on 6/12. This was a great way for her to get out in the community and have a chance to talk with community members. This session focused on elder abuse.
- In June, we had various book displays around the library including ones featuring snakes, dinosaurs, vegetable gardens, and kindness.

Circulation Statistics

- In June, Rothschild circulated 9,248 items. This is 14.17% increase from last year. In 2023, Rothschild circulated 48,670 items. This is 3.92% increase from last year.
- We had 0 curbside pickups.

Library News

- Laura attended a hiring meeting on 6/5 and the team leads meeting on 6/14.
- Interviews were held for the open 30 hour branch assistant position on 6/21. Megan V., our current branch assistant in Marathon City, was selected and will begin in Rothschild on 7/24. We are excited to welcome her to the team!
- Midyear reviews were completed for all staff.
- Heather, Katie, Nikki, and Hannah all covered shifts in Rothschild. Thank you so much for the help! Julie and Wanda both covered shifts in Hatley.
- Rothschild staff completed many collection maintenance tasks. We weeded the adult nonfiction and continued with the disc cleaning and relabeling projects.

Facilities Updates

- The village installed a new paper towel holder in the bathroom.

Spencer Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- On June 1st, the first grade classes from Spencer Elementary School came to the library to learn about the Summer Reading Program. There were so many questions, and excitement. After that Audrey read them a story. 45 were in attendance.
- On June 7th, Jeremy Ray presented a program called, "Call of the Wild Outdoor Skills". Jeremy showed how to build a shelter, create a trap, tie a knot that wouldn't slip and other survival skills. A total of 9 had fun at this program.
- June 14th the Spencer Library hosted a program called, "Apron Strings". Anna Chilsen Straub from the Marathon County Historical Society showed us many aprons that were worn through the years, not only by women but also men. 17 ladies were in attendance and many brought their aprons to share stories about, including a lady who brought her aprons from Germany when she was a small child.
- On June 20th, Justin Loew was our guest speaker. Justin's program, "Hey Justin, What's the Weather Going To Be Tomorrow?" was very informative as he showed us how to create a tornado using bottles, showed us a portion of a weather balloon, and did a Q & A for most of the program. Audrey took photos that WAOW requested. WAOW highlighted those photos of Justin and our audience at the 5Pm newscast as well as the 6:30AM weather. 26 attended and was very happy with the program Justin gave.

- On June 29th, Gary Gisselman from the Marathon County Historical Society did a presentation, "Logging & Sawmills In Western Marathon County". The program was well received with 22 in attendance.
- Pint Size Polkas Music & Magic Friendly performed in Spencer on June 29th. Mike Schneider did a fantastic job. 32 children and 31 adults enjoyed the toe tapping music.
- Also, on June 29th, Lue did a story time for the Rookie Rockets and Kids Group of Spencer. This outdoor story time was held in the Lion's Park behind the library with 32 in attendance.
- During the Summer Reading Program, all children checking out items received Legos to add to the creation of other children. They are working together to see what they can build this summer. For each item checked out, they receive one Lego, up to 7 pieces. In the month of June, 39 children worked on the Lego Tower.
- In the month of June, Spencer gifted 12 books to children and young adults you completed the BINGO card in the SLP Activity book.
- Blooming Together is a summer project in the Spencer Library. Children are asked to color a picture of a flower, which we have on hand. When they return the colored flower we add it to our "blooming together" hanging quilt. 13 colored flowers have been added to our quilt.

Circulation Statistics

- Spencer has circulated 1,036 items in the month of June. This is a decrease of 9.83%. Spencer has circulated 6,626 items in 2023. This is a decrease of 2.36%.
- Spencer had two curbside pickups for the month.

Library News

- June is Dairy Month and the Spencer Library did displays of "dairy" books and had a list of Dairy Breakfasts in neighboring towns to attend.
- Audrey and Katelyn did a rounding on June 6th.
- Audrey and Lue did a rounding on June 14th.
- The Spencer Library was closed on Saturday, June 10th for Spencerama Days.
- Audrey wrote an article for the Village Voice of Spencer, listing all the upcoming events, SLP and the library hours.
- Adult new books were changed from 14 days to 21 days and shelved accordingly.
- Spencer received a new shelving unit for in the Children's area. Thank you to all that made this possible and for Stephanie M. for the delivery. This was a very welcomed addition to the Children's area.
- On June 27th, Audrey received her mid-year review from Katelyn S.
- Books needing new spine labels were sent to Wausau for repair.

Facilities Updates

- None at this time.

Stratford Monthly Report

Events and Programs

- We held our first Summer Library Program event on June 7. Seventy-four people attended our Tractor Story Time. The event included tractor books, tractor action songs, tractor crafts, games, and a visit with real tractors, thanks to Riesterer & Schnell!
- Our second SLP was an Elephant & Piggie Party on June 21. This attracted 69 fans of the Mo Willems' books who were delighted to listen to two interactive readings of his books and sing a couple fun songs about elephants and pigs. Children also made Elephant or Piggie hats and enjoyed playing with a new parachute game we have at our branch.
- Our Youth Volunteer Team was a great help at both of the above events, singing and dancing along to the action songs to encourage the children in the fun. They also assisted with crafts and games, plus helped us set up and break down both events. Three volunteers were present at the June 7 event and four at the June 21 event. Their help and energy is deeply appreciated!!
- Fifteen patrons enjoyed our Friendship Bracelet Craft Week.

- Eight people attended our Book Club on June 24 to discuss *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin.
- Almost 100 people attended the June 27 Winged Wonders program presented here by the Antigo-based Raptor Education Group. The four educators brought along five Avian Ambassadors, including owls, falcons, and hawks, and they did not disappoint the crowd. The educators were very informative and entertaining, and the birds stole the show!

Circulation Statistics

- We circulated 2,325 items in June. This is a 9.51% increase from last year. So far in 2023, we circulated 12,407 items. This is a 9.12 % increase from 2022.

Library News

- We provided a Great Outdoors Month book display for adults. We also had several displays for our 2023 Summer Library Reading Program.
- Hannah kindly subbed for us on Saturday, June 24 so we could each attend a personal family event. Not only did she sub for us, but while here, she spent a lot of time and effort fixing our paper jam on our Staff Printer!!
- We sent in books to Support Services for relabeling.
- We sent in discs to Support Services for disc clean up.
- MJ delivered Darla's Mid-Year Performance Appraisal to her on June 28.
- Katelyn delivered MJ's Mid-Year Performance Appraisal to her on June 28.

Facilities Updates

- We weeded our juvenile easy readers.

Director's Report

WVLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

May 20, 2023

CORRESPONDENCE

2023 Aid Payment

WVLS was notified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction that our second (final) 2023 State Aid Payment for \$283,919.50 was approved. This payment allows WVLS to continue to carry out activities in the 2023 WVLS Plan approved by the WVLS Board of Trustees in September 2022 and later reviewed by DPI's Library Services Team. WVLS received its first 2023 payment of \$851,758.50 in November 2022. Public library system funding is provided through the Universal Service Fund.

Cost per Circulation and County Funding Information

WVLS Business Manager **Brenda Walenton** and Administrative Assistant **Susie Hafemeister** recently sent member libraries their 2022 Cost Per Circulation calculations along with additional information needed if they elect to seek payment from adjacent counties for serving its non-residents (county residents who live outside of a community with a library). According to Wis. Stat. 43.12, libraries must submit invoices to the clerks in adjacent counties by July 1, 2023. In turn, the adjacent county must make payment of at least 70% of the cost for service to those libraries by March 1, 2024.

PEOPLE / LIBRARIES / SYSTEMS IN THE NEWS

New Leader for DPI's Division for Libraries and Technology

State Superintendent Jill Underly has announced the appointment of **Dr. Darrell L. Williams** as the Assistant State Superintendent for the Division for Libraries and Technology. Dr. Williams succeeds Dr. Barbara Van Haren, former Assistant State Superintendent for the Division for Learning Support, who selflessly stepped out of retirement to return to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as the interim division leader.

Prior to his appointment, which started on January 17, 2023, Governor Tony Evers chose Dr. Williams as the Administrator of the Division of Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM). Dr. Williams led the COVID-19 response throughout Wisconsin for WEM – the lead state agency charged with coordinating the state's efforts for all natural and man-caused disasters.

Prior to joining WEM, Dr. Williams served more than 25 years in the field of education as a teacher and administrator, including as Interim Superintendent of Schools in Beloit. He was recognized as the 2017 UAW Local 95 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Service Award honoree and the 2013 National Principal of the Year honoree from the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

As a strong advocate for libraries and technology in education, Dr. Williams said, *“Our libraries are one of the most important places in our schools and communities. It is the only place where our children can go everywhere without having to go anywhere. We must use all of our technology and other precious resources to bring learning to the homes and fingertips of every child to reduce equity gaps in access and success for ALL Wisconsin students.”*

Congratulations, Dr. Williams!

(Edited from *WI Libraries for Everyone*; January 30, 2023)

WVLS Staff News

WVLS recently said a very fond farewell to Public Library Services Consultant **Anne Hamland** following her decision to step away from her professional career and WVLS. Hired in July 2016 as the WVLS Communications Coordinator, Anne became the WVLS Public Library Services Consultant in 2017, a position she held until her resignation.

Prior to working for WVLS, Anne served as the Director of the Frances L. Simek Memorial Library, a position she held since January 2014. Before becoming a library director, she worked as a Research and Information Services Intern and student Supervisor-Circulation Assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Golda Meir Library.

Anne was a team leader, collaborator, and advocate for colleagues both within the system and throughout the state. Motivated, self-disciplined, and able to efficiently and skillfully advance projects, Anne was an esteemed colleague, accomplished consultant, and integral member of the WVLS and LEAN WI teams. Anne’s last day with WVLS was April 28.

On Monday, April 3, WVLS welcomed **Erica Brewster** to the WVLS team. Initially WVLS was going to hire Erica for project-based work following her resignation from the Demmer Library, but there was a bit of an "opportunity whirlwind" for us to apply her enthusiasm and aptitude for tech-related projects more fully and to address the Technology Support Specialist position that had been unfilled for several months and Public Library Services Consultant position that had just opened.

Prior to working in Three Lakes from 2014-2023, Erica was a Family Living Agent and department head for Oneida County UW-Extension. Erica holds an undergraduate degree in biology from Luther College and a Master’s in Public Health from Loma Linda University in California.

Erica prioritized her time in April to learn more about the website service curriculum and to work alongside Anne Hamland when/where it makes sense to do so. She also drafted 2022 System Information and Public Library Statistics booklet shared in this meeting’s information packet as **Exhibit 17**. Going forward, Erica will focus on technology support and public services consulting in such areas as strategic planning, project management, and data aggregation and analysis.

Welcome, Erica!

Oshkosh Public Library/Winnefox Director Plans to Retire

After almost two decades of service, the director of the Oshkosh Public Library and Winnefox Library System, **Jeff Gilderson-Duwe**, has announced that he will be retiring from his shared roles on June 2. He explained that personal and professional considerations have convinced him that now is the right time to make the change.

“Both Oshkosh Public Library and Winnefox Library System have staff of amazing knowledge and skill,” said Gilderson-Duwe. *“It has been a privilege to work with them since 2005, and I’m proud of my role in supporting the excellence they bring to library and system services every day.”* He expressed his gratitude to the Oshkosh community and both boards of trustees for their steadfast support.

In this new chapter, Gilderson-Duwe is looking forward to spending more time with family and relaxing with a good book.

Sommersmith Named New Director of Winnefox Library System. Earlier this month, the Winnefox Library System Board voted unanimously to appoint Winnefox Library System Assistant Director **Clairellyn Sommersmith** to be the system’s first full-time Director since its establishment in 1976. Prior to joining the Winnefox Library System in October 2019, Sommersmith was the director of the Princeton (WI) Public Library.

WVLS and Area Library Staff Outreach

Matzcak to Participate in iSchool Advocacy Crash Course Series. WVLS Continuing Education Consultant Jamie Matczak was asked to participate in an [Advocacy Series](#) this August for the iSchool at UW-Madison. The series will focus on different facets of advocacy, including community engagement, outreach, social media strategies, data visualization and presentation skills. Matczak’s webinar, “Fine-Tuning Your Presentations,” will be held at 12 p.m. on Thursday, August 17.

Blomberg Presents at 2023 WAPL Conference. Rib Lake Public Library Director Tammie Blomberg was a presenter at the 2023 Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference held at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh April 26-28. In her presentation ***“My End of the Boat is Sinking,”*** Tammie shared what she learned about teamwork and library leadership throughout her diagnosis of and treatment for Stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer and Stage 1 Lung Cancer, and following a stunning loss of a long-time employee just three weeks after her diagnosis.



Racine Public Library's Medical Kits Target Community Health Issues

Nearly half of American adults have hypertension, the medical term for high blood pressure, and only one in four of those have their condition under control, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Having high blood pressure poses a risk for heart attack and stroke.

As a way of responding to this nationwide health epidemic, Racine Public Library (RPL) began offering kits last June that include a blood pressure monitor and information about community resources. RPL was one of several Wisconsin libraries approached by a local chapter of the American Heart Association to partner on blood pressure kits. In collaboration, RPL created five kits, including one in Spanish, to help address the county's comorbidity rates. Racine County is among the least healthy counties in the state, according to recent data collected from the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

RPL's social worker **Ashley Cedeño** says adoption of the kits has been slow, but staff members hope checkouts will increase as more patrons learn of their availability. Staff have promoted them on the library's website, in local media, and at a local health fair.

The long-term goal, Cedeño says, is to empower patrons and improve their community's well-being. Local nurses in training also regularly come to the library from Carthage College in Kenosha to perform basic health screenings, including checking vision, blood sugar, weight, and blood pressure.

"A library is no longer just a book repository; we are a hub," Cedeño says. "We [are always] trying to think of ways we can offer these resources when there are so many people who can't afford health care."
(edited from "A Checkup for Checkout: Medical Kits aim to target community health issues;" [American Libraries Magazine](#) March 1, 2023)

GRANT and SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

WVLS Awards ALA Annual Conference Scholarships

Two WVLS member librarians were awarded scholarships to attend the 2023 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, held June 22-27 in Chicago. Recipients are Marathon County Public Library Director **Leah Giordano** and Tomahawk Public Library Children's Librarian **Annette Miller**. This is the world's largest library event, offering programs, an exhibit hall, networking opportunities and author visits. The WVLS scholarship is valued at \$3,800, and covers costs such as conference registration, lodging, round-trip mileage and meals. Conference reports from Leah and Annette will be shared with the WVLS Board in August.

2022 LSTA Improved Discovery Solutions Grants

LSTA Cooperative Cataloging Grant. Eight Wisconsin Public Library Systems were awarded an LSTA grant to investigate current and potential cataloging standards across the state as suggested during the multi-year Public Library System Redesign (PLSR) study. Colleagues from each system worked with WILS consultants to design survey and focus group processes that were completed in February.

WiLS will use data analysis from the survey and focus groups to create a final report.

In an effort to wisely use unencumbered LSTA grant funds, WVLS and the other participating systems have been brainstorming ways these funds may be directed toward cataloging improvements that would be of benefit across all eight systems.

[LSTA Joint ILS Consortium Exploration Project](#). The grant for the WVLS/NWLS ILS Consortium Exploration has been awarded. A name for the project has been selected, Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE). With the announcement of the grant award, a NICE Team was formed. The NICE Team met on March 21 and April 16. Highlights of these meetings and recent NICE Team activities are shared in this meeting packet as **Exhibit 16**.

2023 Grants

Wisconsin received \$3,250,330 in LSTA Grants to State Funds for the upcoming LSTA year. This is a slight increase over the previous year due to a federal increase in funding of \$180 million to the nationwide Grants to States program. DPI's Library Services team staff are currently drafting a budget and guidelines for the upcoming LSTA 2023 cycle.

2023 Technology – Increase Capacity for Technology Tools and Resources Sparsity Aid.

LEAN WI partners received unofficial notification that they would receive **\$75,297.00** in aggregate in 2023. LEAN WI partners are planning utilizations for this funding pending official notice of award.

2023 Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) - Extension of services for existing mobile hotspot devices and additional devices and services.

LEAN WI partners were awarded an aggregate of **\$309,832.45** across three applications for continuity of existing mobile hotspot data services through 2023 and for additional devices and funding of services through 2023. LEAN WI partners are working with Kajeet to extend existing services seamlessly and to add capacity. An assessment and final decision regarding the procurement of additional awarded devices and service plans will follow the take rate review.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Three Northern Library Systems Advocate for State Library Aid

At 7 a.m. on Wednesday, April 26, library advocates stood in line outside Lakeland Union High School (LUHS) in Minocqua. They were there to register for an early testimony slot representing the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) at the final 2023-2025 state budget public hearing before the legislative Joint Finance Committee (JFC). Thanks to their efforts, 22 librarians and trustees from WVLS, Northern Waters Library Service and Nicolet Federated Library System secured a prime spot in the first three rows of the LUHS theater. The three WLA speakers – **Kris Adams Wendt** (WVLS), **Dominic Frandrup** (Door

County Library) and **Kristie Hauer** (Shawano County Library) – stepped to the mic and shared five minutes of testimony during the first hour of the hearing. A copy of the testimony is shared with this document as [Exhibit 11a](#).

The Minocqua delegation was organized by Site Captains **Sherry Machones** (NWLS), **Kathy Pletcher** (NFLS trustee), and **Wendt**, all three members of WLA’s Library Development and Legislation Committee (LD&L). A photo page from the Minocqua hearing is shared with this document as [Exhibit 11b](#).

Wendt also coordinated statewide WLA efforts for similar hearings managed by site captains from LD&L and SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin) at Waukesha, Eau Claire, and Wisconsin Dells earlier in April. WLA testimony video and photos from all four JFC hearings, as well as additional information about the state budget process and WLA requests [can be found here](#) on the WLA website. An aggregate total of 75 library supporters participated statewide. Attending the Eau Claire hearing on April 11 from WVLS were **Janay Ziebell** (Neillsville Public Library) and **Nancy Amacher** (Withee Public Library trustee).



Figure 1 Clockwise: Kris Adams Wendt (WVLS), Erica Brewster (WLVS), Peggy O’Connell (Minocqua PL), Virginia Roberts (Rhineland District Library), Marla Sepnafski (WVLS), Mike Otten (WVLS trustee), Dominic Frandrup (Door Co. Library)

The JFC will meet through the end of May to debate and vote on various pieces of the budget bill. **Senator Mary Felzkowski** (R-Irma) and **Representative Tony Kurtz** (R-Wonewoc) have committed to introducing a motion to include the state library aid items championed by WLA. After JFC changes to the current budget are sent to the Senate and Assembly for floor votes in each house, the legislature usually delivers its final product to the governor by the end of June. The governor completes his veto review within 30 days of receiving the bill, and then signs it into law.

Wendt received several notes of appreciation from fellow advocates across the state. Samples include:

- *“Thanks so much for all the work you do, Kris!”* – **Hannah Good Zima**, Nicolet Federated Library System Outreach Coordinator
- *“Hey Kris, I also wanted to say how much I appreciate all your hard work that you put into the JFC hearing and the LLD events. I feel like all I need to do is show up as you have the rest covered. It makes my job so much easier knowing that you’ve taken care of all the backend. It’s truly wonderful and awesome. Thank you.”* – **Dominic Frandrup**, Door County Library Director
- *“Thank YOU, Kris! You are simply amazing. I was proud to be in Minocqua with you.”* – **Molly Lank-Jones**, Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library Director (Hayward)
- *“Dear Kris, I’m thinking baseball – your detailed preparations helped the delegation hit one out of the park!”* – **Mike Otten**, WVLS Trustee

V-CAT and ILS ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

Key Projects

WVLS performed a system upgrade to Sierra to 5.6 on Tuesday, May 2. The upgrade went smoothly. A new feature/workflow for handling damaged materials is available.

Aspen Format Work. To best understand how Aspen interprets format information from the bibliographic record, WVLS ILS and Database Support Specialist **Rachel Metzler** collaborated with MCPL employees **Chris Luebbe** and **James Bauer** to assess unique formats in Aspen. Rachel, Chris, and James met with the Aspen team to provide feedback. The Aspen team reacted quickly, changing the code in the meeting and for the next upgrade. As a result of this effort, Aspen is now responding in a more expected way for books + disc and blu-ray/DVD combo formats.

Aspen Record Grouping Training was held Monday, May 15. This training will covered grouping and ungrouping record results in Aspen to provide patrons with a great searching experience. An in-person training day is scheduled for Thursday, October 5. Other fall training dates are available [here](#). Library staff are encouraged to reach out to WVLS with any training needs.

Cataloging. Rachel Metzler provided three virtual cataloging trainings in March. Four attendees from one library at Item Attachment Training on March 8, four attendees representing two libraries attended a Marc Alert Training on March 15, and six attendees representing three libraries attended a z39.50 training on March 22. Rachel also provided an in person z39.50 training to Neillsville Director Janay Ziebell on April 6. These trainings are available twice yearly and by request.

Council and Committee Meeting Highlights

V-Cat Council. During its meeting on April 6 the V-Cat Council approved the January-February financial reports and draft updates to the following V-Cat Recommendations as suggested by the V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee:

- [Billable Noted Missing Pieces Form](#) - to include checkout library information.
- [High Demand Items](#) - to clarify information about hold overrides.
- [Overrides](#) - to clarify information about hold overrides.

A draft V-Cat library card application and proposed required fields was presented. While the draft application is a work in progress, the final application, when approved, is intended to be a standard form for all V-Cat libraries to use. V-Cat Council approved the use of V-Cat Special Project Funds to seek legal counsel review of the draft form and respond to questions related to patron records. Library directors were asked to review the draft application/proposed fields and submit questions/suggested edits by Friday May 12. The V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee will be reviewing submissions at their next meeting.

A proposed 2024 V-Cat Budget, approved by the V-Cat Steering Committee, was presented for member libraries to review.

[V-Cat Top 10 Accomplishments of 2022 \(Exhibit 11c\)](#) were highlighted.

WVLS and Backstage Library Works updated diacritics in 4171 bibliographic records. Work continues to correct an additional 252 records.

The Council reviewed how to handle items in Sierra with an in transit message, and a status other than 't' in transit to maintain accurate information for library staff and patrons.

V-Cat Bibliographic and Interface Committee. The Committee met on May 9 to discuss catalog utility vendors, cataloging jigsaw puzzles, Aspen formats, and other cataloging matters.

V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee. The Committee hosted three virtual site visits with libraries using Koha in April and May. Committee members met on May 11 to review information gathered during the site visits, determine additional information needs, and discuss final report requirements.

V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee. The Committee will meet in May or June to discuss tools for damaged and missing pieces workflows, standard library card application and patron record guidelines, and extended loan periods.

MARKETING PROJECTS

Website Services Projects

Erica Brewster began training with Anne Hamland to transition the website services support in April 2023. Brewster participated in the routine website office hours and worked one-on-one to learn the processes for supporting LEAN WI websites. Hamland completed the design for the Vaughn (Ashland) Public Library (NWLS) website and following final approval from the library staff, Brewster will work with the LEAN WI support team to make the website go live in May.

Several new tools were rolled out to help libraries manage their websites more efficiently. One new tool is a plugin for setting expiration dates to posts so a web manager doesn't need to go back into the website to manually remove information about an event after it is over. Several web site staff expressed their gratitude for the new tool. Examples include: *"Oh my goodness this is awesome! You just saved me loads of time. Thank you so much for the tip,"* from **Diana Shore** (Tomahawk Public Library). *"This is a super cool plugin! What a time saver!"* from **Rebecca Kilde** (Communications and Outreach, IFLS Library System). *"OH LOVELY! I have been wondering why in the world there is a post scheduler without an end date. You are saving me minutes of my life! Thank you so much for passing this along!"* from **Tracy Sorenson** (Menomonie Public Library Communications Specialist). *"I am soooo EXCITED for this feature! Thank you! It is going to make my life so much easier with all those posts."* from **Brandi Smith** (Chippewa Falls Public Library).

Brewster continues to familiarize herself with the current status of services for 94 websites across three library system to determine a sustainable level of support that assures current information and regular technical updates for security and consistency of service.

Hot off the Press!

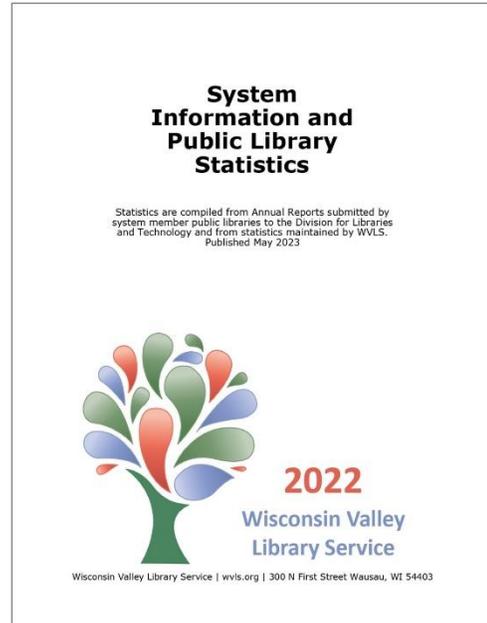
Printed just in time for the May WVLS Board of Trustees meeting, the **WVLS 2022 System Information & Public Library Statistics booklet** (shared later in the agenda as [Exhibit 17](#)) presents member library service trends with data recorded in members' annual reports, and highlights how libraries benefited their communities in 2022. The booklet also shares the benefits of the system/member library partnership.

WVLS Newsletter Highlights

Published during the first week of each month, the WVLS newsletter showcases ways that member libraries are providing service and support to their communities, national library news, WVLS updates and more. Recent articles include:

- [May 2023](#) - "Three Northern Library Systems Advocate for State Library Aid," "Using NovelList Plus to its Fullest Potential," "10 Things to Know About MCPL's Kitty Roesler," "Colby Holds Peeps Diorama Contest," "WLA Conference Call for Proposals Open," "Registration Open for Lake Superior Libraries Symposium," "NICE Team Update."
- [April 2023](#) - "Celebrate National Library Week 2023," "New Staff Member at WVLS," "Spring Webinar Series Focuses on Racial Equity," "Seed Libraries Starting to Grow," "Registration Still Open for WAPL Conference," "Three Lakes Hosts Fireside Chats with Candidates," "NICE Team Update."

Thank you to all area library staff for sharing news from their libraries!



TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS OVERVIEW

LEAN WI Core Infrastructure

The partnership is in the process of reviewing core switching update options for the datacenter and working on a joint bulk procurement of networking equipment for as-needed replacements of failing equipment and proactive replacement of end-of-life equipment at libraries. Routers and certain network equipment for libraries are still on backorder or in limited supply so the partnership is reviewing new product generations to ensure seamless replacement. A joint document listing current stock of equipment and specific equipment needs from each partner is in place to help us better understand our collective resources and upcoming needs. The partnership continues monitoring supply for opportunities to procure operational and lifecycle replacement equipment.

A combination of Windows Server updates in mid-2022 and current mode of backbone connectivity between the WVLS office and the LEAN WI Datacenter have hobbled the ability for WVLS to utilize the

LEAN WI Windows Deployment Services (WDS) to quickly “image” new or re-image existing computers. Prior to mid-2022, WVLS was able to simultaneously image up to 6 computers in parallel without issue, but the WDS-affecting Windows Updates now cause the connection between WVLS and the Datacenter to overload in some cases when even a single computer is being imaged. When this happens, it affects both WVLS staff and MCPL staff access to the Sierra ILS and other network resources hosted at the LEAN WI Datacenter.

IFLS has helped in some cases with WVLS sending PCs to IFLS for imaging and then having them sent back or directly to libraries, a practice which is still faster than manual provisioning but infeasible and untenable for the long term. This situation is catalyzing core routing equipment and config updates for the WVLS segment of the LEAN WI network. **Kris Schwartz** (IFLS), LEAN WI Engineering Lead, will be helping WVLS stage new routing equipment and testing WDS services over a new path isolated from the primary WVLS network path. In the short term, this should reenables WVLS’ ability to perform computer imaging processes without adversely affecting the legacy path and Sierra connectivity for WVLS or MCPL staff. In the longer term, this process represents the first stage of a long-overdue upgrade of WVLS’ routing equipment and connectivity strategy to the datacenter which aligns with the overall LEANWI blended WAN strategy utilized by IFLS and NWLS.

LEAN WI Service Explorations

Tony Kriskovich (NWLS), LEAN WI Support Lead, researched and presented the partnership an application version management utility which integrates with our existing enterprise management toolset. Licensing was procured for the partnership in late April as part of a joint effort intended to consolidate Antivirus licensing, client management, and common application updates support. This solution represents an alternative strategy for IFLS and NWLS which were using different tools previously, and an additive strategy for WVLS which had not yet incorporated application version management into core services.

Libraries Win Services

At the end of March, Dell released its new generation of desktop and laptop computers. Prior to the pandemic and global supply chain issues affecting computer manufacturing and availability, there was typically a long overlap (from several quarters to a year or more on occasion) where the previous generation and newer generation of computers were simultaneously available.

This new generation release is different in that it almost entirely replaced the previous pre-negotiated quotes and configurations overnight. An updated WVLS procurement form has been drafted and shared with a few libraries that had already put in procurement requests during the first quarter of 2023, or indicated they wanted to.

Brenda Walenton will be more integral to the WVLS computer procurement and provisioning process going forward as will **Erica Brewster** with our goal being to have all parts of procurement, staging, and deployment handled between the two of them as primaries with **Joshua Klingbeil** supplementing any part of the process when necessary as their backup.

WVLS Internal Projects, Library Projects, and Core Services Support

A comprehensive WVLS IT assets tracking process is underway. Spearheaded by **Brenda Walenton**, this process has led to an extensive weeding of old equipment and cabling that has been taking up considerable storage space. Asset tracking documentation has also been updated to reflect current assets. A joint experimentation of the Snipe-IT asset tracking application across LEAN WI partners is being considered.

Erica Brewster began work and training for technology support and has completed several site visits to libraries with deferred technology work due to the vacancy in the technology support position. A technology equipment and services assessment tool is being developed to evaluate the current status of computers and other equipment at each member library as well as begin the conversation of future needs, planning and budgeting. This coincides with overhauling the equipment procurement process as well as the announcement of end-of-support for Windows 10 (2025). Starting these conversations now will help libraries:

- plan and budget for replacing computers that won't support and upgrade to Windows 11,
- assess the status of Deep Freeze and other essential security tools on public and staff computers,
- determine if a system-provided program (e.g., Pharos computer timing software, Princh print management services, Kajeet hot spots) is working or would benefit a library and what is needed to continue that support, and
- generally improve communication between WVLS technology support and member libraries around the evolving topic of public and staff technology equipment and services.

PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT SERVICES

WPLC Board and Committee Meetings

Rachel Metzler attended several WPLC-related meetings specifically for the Budget Committee, Digital Library Steering Committee, Digital Library Selection Committee, and the in-person annual membership meeting and WPLC Board meeting. Highlights from these meetings include a draft WPLC budget being presented to the Board for review, to be voted on at the next WPLC board meeting on June 12. At the annual membership meeting, WPLC project managers from WiLS staff shared a review of the usage of Digital Library from the previous year. In addition, feedback was requested from the members about the magazine subscription, a plan for a visioning session was made, and DPI shared plans for the statewide delivery management.

At the Board meeting, the board agreed to renew the magazine subscription for two years at \$100,000 annually. This cost is in addition to the buying pool. A 501c investigation workgroup has been formed. This workgroup will be looking into the benefits of WPLC becoming a 501c and this work will start sometime this summer. [The Backup Technology Five-Year Plan](#) presented by the Technology Backup and Digital Archives Steering Committees was approved by the board.

Inclusive Services Consulting Report

Sherry Machones, NWLS and WVLS Inclusive Services Consultant, conducted orientations on inclusive services with the new directors at the T.B. Scott Library and Antigo Public Library. And, she continues to share a monthly *Inclusive Services Update* with each system's member libraries.

The **April Update** shared a Chinese American and Diasporic reading list from the American Library Association, articles covering UW Madison's new Institute for Diversity Science, circulating medical kits, a list of diverse holidays, and more.

The **May Update** highlighted the two new webinars in the Wisconsin Libraries Talk About Race series. May 4th's webinar was [How to Move Past Midwest Nice Towards Safety and Belonging](#) and the 17th's webinar was [Build Skills & Take Action to Stand Up for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#). Several other continuing education opportunities were listed as well as resources on poetry from disabled authors and current services from the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW! Trustee Trainings via United for Libraries

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Library Services Team is close to rolling out a new statewide program to provide access to a suite of trustee trainings from United for Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. [The mission of United for Libraries](#) is to support those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for all types of libraries.

The Learning Live webinars are the hot items right now, as they feature timely topics. These webinars have been added to the DPI professional learning calendar that is shared on the WVLS Continuing Education website. Free attendance to the 3-day 2023 United for Libraries Virtual Conference from August 1-3 is included with this new program. [Follow this link and register](#) before participating in any learning activities. Note that it may take longer than one business day to get registered for the program.

As part of the service rollout, Public Library Administration Consultant Shannon Schultz has created an email distribution list for all public library trustees in the state. Shannon has sent an announcement to that list, and periodic updates about this new program will continue to be shared.

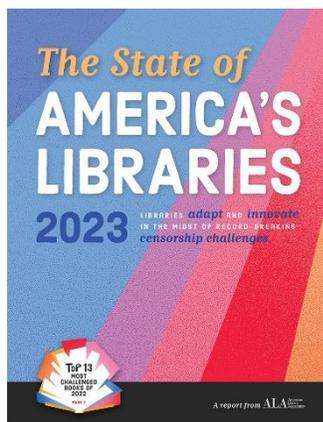
WVLS Director's Retreat

Due to COVID-19, WVLS will host its bi-annual Director's Retreat for the first time since 2019. The theme for the Retreat is "Coming Together" and it will be held on Friday, September 15 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Wausau. 'Save the Dates' have gone out to WVLS directors and plans are underway for a full day of programs and discussion. More information will be shared with the WVLS Board in August.

Another Children’s Book Fest in the Books

The 35th annual Children’s Bookfest was held in Rhinelander on May 1 and 2 featuring presenters and a display of award-winning books provided by the **Cooperative Children’s Book Center** (CCBC). Children’s Book Fest began as a WVLS youth services workshop that became an annual event. Following our example, similar events are now held throughout the state. School and public librarians, reading specialists, teachers and parents attending both the evening and day programs are enthusiastic about the opportunity to hear book talks by CCBC staff, and examine books from the CCBC Choices list. Those who attended the event also received a unique opportunity to learn how the CCBC’s nationally requested intellectual freedom services can help libraries. Approximately 44 people attended the events held over the two-day period.

INFO TO GO



State of America’s Libraries Report

Released annually during National Library Week in April by the American Library Association, this year’s issue, “**2023 State of America’s Libraries**” highlights the challenges U.S. libraries faced in the third year of the pandemic, and as political, economic and digital divides grew; and book challenges and bans surged across the country. But despite all these challenges, libraries thrived, pivoting to offer new and updated services to their communities. Adaptation and innovation shined in 2022, providing that there truly is “more to the story” at libraries. Read more here:

<https://www.ala.org/news/state-americas-libraries-report-2023>

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- May 1-2 – **WVLS Children’s Book Fest**
- May 2 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Directors
- May 2 – Public Library System Marketing Cohort meeting
- May 2 – WVLS Tech Support, Clark County
- May 3 - **WVLS Executive Committee meeting**
- May 4 – **WVLS Trustee Orientations**
- May 5 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Delivery Coordinators
- May 9 – **WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting**
- May 9 – **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- May 9 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Directors
- May 9 - WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- May 9 – WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Technology Steering Committee meeting

- May 9 – Taylor County Broadband Committee meeting
- May 9 – [WVLS Trustee Orientation](#)
- May 10 – Forest County Library Board meeting
- May 10 – [Clark County Libraries’ Advocacy meeting](#)
- May 11 – [WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting](#)
- May 12 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- May 16 – [NICE \(Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration\) Team meeting](#)
- May 16 – Statewide ILS Administrators meeting
- May 18 – [WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours](#)
- May 18 – [Cataloging training, Antigo Public Library](#)
- May 18 – SOMBAW (System Office Managers and Business Administrators of Wisconsin) meeting; WVLS office
- May 18 – Oneida County Library Board meeting
- May 20 – **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- May 24 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- May 29 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- June 1 – [WVLS V-Cat Council meeting](#)
- June 8 – [WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting](#)
- June 9 – [2023 Lake Superior Libraries Symposium – Matter of Fact: Information Literacy in an Age of Fake News](#); University of Minnesota Duluth Campus, Duluth, Minnesota
- June 13 – [WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours](#)
- June 13 – WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- June 15 – [WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours](#)
- June 20 – [NICE \(Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration\) Team meeting](#)
- June 20 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Youth Services Consultants
- June 22-27 – [ALA Conference, Chicago](#)
- June 27 – Library Workforce Connection meeting
- June 28 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- July 4 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**
- July 11 - WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- July 13 – [WVLS V-Cat ILS Evaluation and Review Committee meeting](#)
- July 14 – [WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting](#)
- July 14 – COLAND (Council on Library and Network Development) meeting
- August 1 - [WVLS V-Cat Bibliographic Control / Interface Committee meeting](#)
- August 4 – SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrator’s Association of Wisconsin) meeting; Marathon County Public Library
- August 4 – WPLC (Wisconsin Public Library Consortium) Technology Steering Committee meeting
- August 11 – [WVLS V-Cat Cooperative Circulation Committee meeting](#)
- August 17 – [WVLS Library Advisory Committee meeting](#)

- August 17 - **WVLS/IFLS/NWLS Website Office Hours**
- August 19 - **WVLS Board of Trustees meeting**
- August 21-25 – **Wisconsin Trustee Training Week**
- August 22 - WLA Conference Planning Committee meeting
- August 23 – DPI-hosted meeting of System Continuing Education Consultants
- September 4 – **WVLS OFFICE CLOSED**

Thank you for reading!

Marla

ITEM NUMBER: 7.66
CHAPTER 7: Administrative
Management
Policy
CODE:

Title:	Lost and Unattended Items Policy
Effective Date:	7-2023
Authorized By:	Library Board of Trustees/Library Director
Date of Last Revision:	7-2023

The Marathon County Public Library is not responsible for personal belongings left unattended anywhere on library property. An item is considered unattended if it has been left without a visible owner for two or more consecutive hours in one location on library property. Patrons are solely responsible for their own property and must remain with their belongings.

As a courtesy to our patrons, the Marathon County Public Library will make a reasonable attempt to determine and contact the rightful owner of lost items found inside the library. If the owner of a lost and found item satisfactorily identifies the lost item, the item will be returned. If an owner cannot be identified, found items will be processed as described below:

- Money and items of higher value (jewelry, wallets, IDs, phones, or other items presumed to be valued at \$25.00 or more) will be managed in accordance with Wisconsin State Statute 170.105.
- Unclaimed money under \$25.00 will be kept securely for 90 days and then donated to the Friends of the Marathon County Public Library.
- Items of lesser value (clothing, reusable water bottles, umbrellas, etc.) will be disposed of or donated to a charity after 7 days.
- Unclaimed personal books will be given to the Friends of the Marathon County Public Library after 7 days.
- Suspicious or prohibited items will be turned over to the local police immediately.
- Perishables and personal care items will be disposed of immediately.
- Unattended items found outside the library (bags, backpacks, etc.) will be disposed of at staff discretion or turned over to the local police.
- Bicycles that are chained to a bike rack for longer than 7 days will be removed and turned over to the local police.
- Items that do not fit in these categories will be handled on a discretionary basis.

Materials Reconsideration Review Committee Report

Meeting Date: 07/06/2023

Item Title: *Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human*

Authors: Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan

ISBN: 978-0-593-12531-1

Review Committee:

Julie Kinney, Adult Services Librarian

Kari Sweeney, Library Board President

Kate Sullivan, Adult Collection Development Librarian

Reid Rayome, Library Board Vice President

Tara Hornbeak, Youth Collection Development Librarian

Background:

In considering the patron requests relative to the book *Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human* by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan, committee members spent over 90 combined hours reading, researching, and discussing the issues presented.

Meeting Discussion:

This committee agrees with the recommendations and reasoning of the reconsideration committee as stated in the letter documenting the same dated May 23, 2023.

This committee notes that the book is in line with the Collection Development Policy, Marathon County Public Library Policy 13.01. Relevant excerpts from that policy are as follows:

“The Library recognizes and celebrates that it serves all members of the Marathon County community, regardless of age, political or social views, gender (including gender expression), sexuality, race, ethnicity, or country of origin.”

“The Library has adopted the American Library Association’s Library Bill of Rights, Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights, and the Freedom to Read Statement, as well as the Freedom to View Statement endorsed by the American Library Association. These documents can be found in Chapter 4 of the Marathon County Public Library Operations Manual & Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual and are both adhered to and supported by the Marathon County Public Library. The content of these documents is to be understood as part of this and all other related policies and procedures.”

“Parents and/or guardians of children under the age of 18 have primary responsibility over determining the appropriateness of any given material. Not all materials within the Library can be considered age-appropriate for all users. The Library will not be responsible for determining the appropriateness of any material a child with their own library card chooses to view or check out, and does not adapt selection based on potential access to all materials.”

Marathon County Public Library Policy 4.03 states, “Challenged materials which meet the materials selection policy of the library should not be removed under any legal or extra-legal pressure.”

This committee notes that the patron has NOT specifically requested that the book be removed from the collection of the Marathon County Public Library.

This committee cautions that, to create or adopt a book rating system, as requested by the patron, could potentially lead to a violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. If a rating system were to be used to restrict access to materials based on the age of library users, such a restriction could potentially be found to violate minors’ First Amendment rights. *See Engdahl v. Kenosha*, 317 F. Supp. 1133 (E.D. Wis. 1970).

This committee notes that, to create or adopt a book rating system, as requested by the patron, would violate current policies of the Marathon County Public Library, previously adopted by the Marathon County Public Library Board of Trustees.

Marathon County Public Library Policy 4.04 states, “For the library to add such ratings to the materials if they are not already there, to post a list of such ratings with a collection, or to attempt to enforce such ratings through circulation policies or other procedures constitutes labeling, ‘an attempt to prejudice attitudes’ about the material, and is unacceptable. The application of locally generated ratings schemes intended to provide content warnings to library users is also inconsistent with the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS.”

Marathon County Public Library Policy 4.09 states, “The mission, goals, and objectives of libraries cannot authorize librarians or library governing bodies to assume, abrogate, or overrule the rights and responsibilities of parents,” and that, “‘We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children’s use of the library and its resources and services.’ Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents—and only parents—have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children—and only their children—to library resources. Parents who do not want their children to have access to certain library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their children. Librarians and library governing bodies cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child.”

Marathon County Public Library Policy 4.14 states, “Libraries do not advocate the ideas found in their collections or in resources accessible through the library. The presence of books and other resources in a library does not indicate endorsement of their contents by the library.”

With regard to labeling, Marathon County Public Library Policy 4.14 states, “Prejudicial labels are designed to restrict access, based on a value judgment that the content, language or themes of the material, or the background or views of the creator(s) of the material, render it inappropriate or offensive for all or certain groups of users. The prejudicial label is used to warn, discourage or prohibit users or certain groups of users from accessing the material.”

With regard to rating, Marathon County Public Library Policy 4.14 states, “A variety of organizations promulgate rating systems as a means of advising either their members or the general public concerning their opinions of the contents and suitability or appropriate age for use of certain books, films, recordings, Web sites, or other materials. The adoption, enforcement, or endorsement of any of these rating systems by the library violates the Library Bill of Rights,” and that, “Some find it easy and even proper, according to their ethics, to establish criteria for judging materials as objectionable. However, injustice and ignorance, rather than justice and enlightenment, result from such practices.”

Lastly, this committee notes that any book rating system would appear to be subjective and arbitrary, and that adopting any book rating system could be viewed as an endorsement of the views of the rater(s).

As the patron even acknowledged in the request, “What some parents think is appropriate for their child, another parent may not.”

As stated by the American Library Association, “Any private group’s rating system, regardless of political, doctrinal, or social viewpoint, is subjective and meant to predispose the public’s attitude. The use by libraries, therefore, would violate the Library Bill of Rights. Libraries should remain viewpoint-neutral, providing information that patrons seek about any rating system equitably, regardless of the group’s viewpoint.” “Labeling and Rating Systems Q&A,” American Library Association, May 29, 2007, <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/labelingratingqa>.

Committee Recommendation:

With regard to the book *Let’s Talk About It: The Teen’s Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human* by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan, it is the unanimous recommendation of this committee that the item be retained in the collection of the Marathon County Public Library.

With regard to the patron request that the Marathon County Public Library “develop, adopt and implement a rating system” for books, it is the unanimous recommendation of this committee that the Marathon County Public Library NOT develop, adopt, or implement any such rating system.

Respectfully submitted,
Reid Rayome, Library Board Vice President



[Redacted]

May 23, 2023

Dear [Redacted],

In response to your request on 4/26/23 regarding the book titled *Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human* by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan, I asked a committee of library professionals to review the item and discuss your suggestion of implementing a rating system. The committee met and reported the following actions:

- The form you submitted requesting reconsideration was reviewed by each member.
- Each member read the book in its entirety.
- The committee reviewed the library's policy for collection development.
- Professional reviews of the book were studied by each member.
- The committee considered the American Library Association's Bill of Rights.

The committee wishes to reiterate that libraries have a responsibility to provide free, equal, and equitable access to a broad range of materials that represent a variety of views and opinions. As we acknowledge in our collection development policy, the Marathon County Public Library offers materials to meet the needs of patrons from "diverse backgrounds, cultural heritages, interests, political views, and social values." Since we serve the entire Marathon County community, our collection reflects the diversity in our patrons' beliefs and values. What may be appropriate for one individual or family may not be suitable for another, and we respect the right of parents and guardians to determine what resources are appropriate for their own children.

In their review of *Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human*, the committee found the book to be listed in two H.W. Wilson volumes (Senior High Core Collection and Graphic Novel Core Collection), resources utilized by librarians to help them identify highly-recommended titles. Professional review journals were also consulted, each of which critiqued the material favorably.

According to Publishers Weekly (2021), *Let's Talk About It* provides "vital information, embracing the complexity of relationships and offering comprehensive, no-nonsense

information on sex and sexuality.” School Library Journal (2020) makes a similar observation, stating that it “is loaded with crucial information about consent, respect, consideration and boundaries.” Booklist (2021) calls the book “a frank and open-minded look at sex, relationships and self-understanding” and recommends it “for teens who want an easy-to-follow guide that won’t talk down to them.” Kirkus Reviews (2021) states that the book “offers readers excellent and reassuring information” and praises it for being “noteworthy in a crowded field for its holistic emphasis on human, emotional aspects of sexuality.”

While *Let’s Talk About It* is dedicated to “whoever needs it, whatever your age,” the publisher recommends it for ages 14 and up (Random House, 2023). The committee noted that of the nearly 100 copies of the book currently available in Wisconsin libraries, the vast majority are shelved in the Young Adult/Teen collections. The book is split into short sections that each begin with a question (for example, “What is... body image?”). This accessible format makes it simple for readers to select the topics that interest them and avoid those that do not. Because of the nature of the book, human anatomy is sometimes depicted and discussed.

Since the book was found to meet the library’s selection criteria, the committee turned their attention to your proposal that we create a rating system for the books in our collection. Although we understand your perspective in suggesting this, it would not be appropriate for the public library to implement. Creating and administering a rating system would imply that the library endorses some materials over others. The library, serving as an information source for all 130,000+ residents of Marathon County, must remain viewpoint neutral. Any materials in the library that already contain a rating (such as a DVD) are given their rating by outside organizations or publishers before we purchase them for our collection.

Instead, the library can provide information about private and commercial rating systems (such as book review sites) for parents to reference as they decide what materials are suitable for their family. One of our recommendations is NovelList Plus, a database that the library subscribes to so that Marathon County parents have free access to professional book reviews. However, for those seeking informal reviews from many different perspectives, another free option is Goodreads. In Goodreads, parents can search for book titles, browse broad genre and content tags, and read community reviews. We encourage parents to explore these and other online resources, and we are happy to assist parents in person to find the materials that are right for their family. Our library staff are trained to provide professional, objective readers' advisory for book enthusiasts of all ages. We affirm the right of all parents in Marathon County to decide what is best for their family and form their own opinions about the information that they choose to read or view.

Based on the committee’s research and discussions, their recommendation is that the book you requested for reconsideration be retained by MCPL. The members cited the positive reviews from professional sources, the library’s collection development policy, and the role of parents in determining the suitability of library materials as their reasons for this recommendation.

I have included copies of some of the materials that the committee gathered and reviewed for your reconsideration request. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions that I may be able to help you with.

Enclosures:

MCPL Collection Development Policy

Publishers Weekly (2021)

School Library Journal (2020)

Booklist (2021)

Kirkus Reviews (2021)

ALA – Library Bill of Rights

ALA – Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

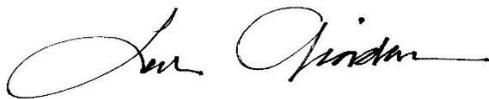
ALA – Rating Systems

ALA – Labeling Systems

ALA – Freedom to Read

ALA – Intellectual Freedom and Censorship Q&A

Sincerely,



Leah Giordano

Library Director
Marathon County Public Library - Wausau Headquarters
300 N. First St., WI 54403
leah.giordano@co.marathon.wi.us | 715-261-7211



ITEM NUMBER: 13.01 a-c
CHAPTER 13: Collection
Development
CODE: Policy
COMPUTER ID: CD-1

Title:	Collection Development Policy
Effective Date:	11-24-86
Authorized By:	Library Board of Trustees/Library Director
Date of Last Revision:	12-2022

Collection Development Policy

The Marathon County Public Library uses a patron-driven collection development model based on a shared collection and centralized selection. Primary authority for selection rests in the hands of the Library Director, who shall establish Collection Development Procedure according to the guidelines set forth in this policy.

Primary Collection Goals:

- *Materials for Lifelong Learning and Life Skills* – We envision a world in which everyone can read, write, evaluate information, and effectively apply technology to lead healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives.
- *Materials that Incorporate Emerging Technologies* – We empower the people of Marathon County with the technology resources to connect to the world and the future.
- *High Interest Materials for All Ages* – We provide current high-interest materials in a variety of formats.

Selection Principles:

The Library recognizes and celebrates that it serves all members of the Marathon County community, regardless of age, political or social views, gender (including gender expression), sexuality, race, ethnicity, or country of origin. As such, the Library further recognizes that its patrons have diverse backgrounds, cultural heritages, interests, political views, and social values. The Library seeks to build a collection to meet the needs of the members of this diverse community, and to that end will routinely gather statistics and community input to determine the characteristics, expectations, and needs of these users. The Library will apply the latest tools and innovations to its collection development practices.

All patrons are free to request materials from the Library, and all patron requests will be evaluated according to the goals, principles, and standards contained in this policy, as well as any procedure for collection development laid out by the Library Director.

ITEM NUMBER: 13.01b

The Library will give highest priority to those materials most needed by our patrons, focusing on circulating materials for our diverse community in a variety of formats. Selectors will emphasize a balance of materials in the shared collection; individual branch collections may vary with local demand. Print reference collections will be reduced in favor of circulating and online resources. New formats of materials will be integrated into the collection as the patron demand increases.

The Library has adopted the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights, and the Freedom to Read Statement, as well as the Freedom to View Statement endorsed by the American Library Association. These documents can be found in Chapter 4 of the Marathon County Public Library Operations Manual & Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual and are both adhered to and supported by the Marathon County Public Library. The content of these documents is to be understood as part of this and all other related policies and procedures.

Selection Standards:

- Artistic or scholarly merit of material
- Popular demand for or interest in subject
- Requests for particular materials
- Timeliness of content
- Appropriateness and relevancy of material to the library's users
- Favorable reviews in standard library reviewing sources
- Reputation, authority, or qualifications of author, artist, producer, editor, or publisher
- Importance of material in relation to existing collection in terms of balance or completeness (including in terms of existing series')
- Accessibility of material by library users (including reading level, ease of use of electronic uses)
- Historical value of material
- Technical quality of A/V materials
- Physical quality of material (packaging, binding, etc.)
- Availability of material through vendors
- Cost of material in relation to the quality and significance of above factors

Collection Maintenance:

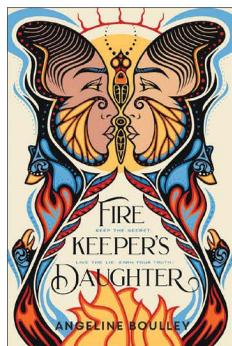
The collection is reviewed and revised on an on-going basis to meet contemporary needs. The level of use of an item in the present will take priority over the possibility that someone may use it someday. Materials containing outdated or superseded information will be removed from the collection. Current relevance and demand will be the

determining factor in how long materials are kept. The collection is neither archival nor research oriented; the Library supplements the collection by borrowing from other libraries as necessary to meet patron demands.

The Way We Do Business:

- We act as good stewards of the public's tax dollars.
- We provide equitable access to a broad array of content, as well as training and assistance to help people successfully navigate and use information.
- We operate as one system; unity provides value. The centralized approach to a shared collection allows staff to concentrate on collections that are maximized around the needs of patrons.
- We routinely gather statistics and community input to determine user characteristics, expectations and needs and will apply the latest tools and innovations to our collection development practices.
- We supplement our collections with additional materials by borrowing through cooperative agreements with other libraries.
- Parents and/or guardians of children under the age of 18 have primary responsibility over determining the appropriateness of any given material. Not all materials within the Library can be considered age-appropriate for all users. The Library will not be responsible for determining the appropriateness of any material a child with their own library card chooses to view or check out, and does not adapt selection based on potential access to all materials.

secrets of his own around a hatred for his familial and political destiny. Translated into clear, appealingly poetic prose, Pettersen's slow-unfolding Nordic fantasy fills wide landscapes with danger, dry humor, and sacrifice. While teen readers may balk at the circular storytelling, this series opener will captivate lovers of Bardugo's gritty situations and Pullman's wide mythic worlds. Ages 12–up. *Agent: Lena Stjernström, the Grand Agency (Sweden).* (Mar.)



after her uncle overdoses on meth and her grandmother has a stroke, she stays closer to her Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., home, negotiating a complex familial situation having to

do with her deceased Anishinabe father. After witnessing her best friend's murder by her meth-reliant boyfriend, she begins looking into the mounting local meth overdoses, using her knowledge of chemistry as well as traditional plants and medicine to source the drug and, amid growing danger, reveal its seller. Featuring prolific use of Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe language), this wonderfully tribally specific story offers powerful messages about what

it can mean to be an Anishinaabe *ewe* (Ojibwe woman): “complex and sometimes exhausted, but mostly brave.” Hitting hard when it comes to issues such as citizenship, language revitalization, and the corrosive presence of drugs on Native communities, this novel will long stand in the hearts of both Native and non-Native audiences. Ages 14–up. *Author's agent: Faye Bender, the Book Group.* (Mar.)

Our Last Echoes

Kate Alice Marshall. Viking, \$18.99 (416p) ISBN 978-0-593-11362-2

Sophia Novak, 18, believes that her mother, Joy, died in Montana 15 years ago, so when Abby Ryder, 17, calls asking about Joy's disappearance from Bitter Rock, Alaska, Sophia tells her she's mistaken. Then Abby emails a picture of Joy and three-year-old Abby standing on the island's shore. According to Abby—the ward of Dr. Andrew Ashford, who investigates “inexplicable phenomena”—Joy is not the first to vanish from Bitter Rock without a trace. Sophia, homeless after aging out of foster care, secures an internship at Bitter Rock's avian research center. Abby also finds an excuse to visit, and with the help of Sophia's boss's 18-year-old son, Liam Kapoor, the girls start searching for answers. Atmospheric writing and an abundance of genuine chills distinguish this spine-tingling work of existential horror from Marshall (*Rules for Vanishing*). Video transcripts and assorted ephemera documenting various experiences on the island—Joy's included—intersperse Sophia's narrative, adding dimension and stoking suspense. Aspects of the plot falter under scrutiny, but by and large Marshall delivers a disturbingly imaginative tale that is both deeply human and truly terrifying. Ages 14–up. *Agent: Lauren Spieller, Triada US Literary.* (Mar.)

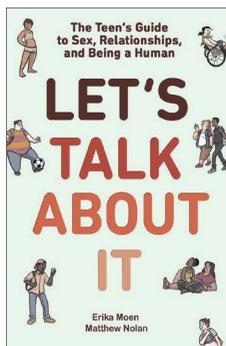
★ **Firekeeper's Daughter**

Angeline Boulley. Holt, \$18.99 (496p) ISBN 978-1-250-76656-4

With sharp turns and charming characters, this debut thriller by Anishinabe author Boulley centers 18-year-old Daunis Fontaine, who loves and fits into her community but yearns for official citizenship in the Sault tribe. Science-minded Daunis had planned on going away for college, but

★ **Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human**

Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan. Random House Graphic, \$23.99 (240p) ISBN 978-0-593-12531-1; \$17.99 paper ISBN 978-1-984893-14-7



Moen and Nolan (*Oh Joy Sex Toy*, a collected volume of their webcomic, for adults) apply their signature corny humor and straightforward handling of sex to this accessible guide that covers the “in-between stages” of intimacy, “from having a crush to... putting a condom on something.” In bite-size sections that each begin with a question (“What is... aftercare?”), teen characters engage in meaningful and nuanced dialogues about aspects of identity and physicality (e.g., body image, gender and sexuality, kinks, and safe sex). Via realistic scenes and conversational dialogue balloons, characters create a blueprint for exploring their own vulnerability (“I haven't done anything before? At all??”) and supporting others (“I'm really glad you told me”). Responsibly representing a wide array of anatomically diverse “generally estrogen-rich” and “generally testosterone-rich” bodies, this guide's pale-hued art also showcases variations in ability, body shape, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, and pairings, creating a refreshingly inclusive read that takes individual desires and needs into account. Though some text-packed pages can be difficult to digest, they nevertheless provide vital information, embracing the complexity of relationships (“We're all constantly learning and growing”) and offering comprehensive, no-nonsense information on sex and sexuality. Useful back matter suggests further reading and resources. Ages 14–up. *Agent: Monika Verma, Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary.* (Mar.)

Comics

Blue, Barry & Pancakes (Blue, Barry & Pancakes #1)

Dan & Jason. First Second, \$12.99 (96p) ISBN 978-1-250-25555-6

A friendly beach excursion turns into a fantastical adventure in this action-filled early reader graphic novel debut reminiscent of Nickelodeon cartoons. Within a three-

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able for research than other resources, but they make inspiring character studies for readers in elementary grades.—*John Peters, Children's Literature Consultant, New York*

MOEN, Erika & Matthew Nolan. *Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human.* illus. by Erika Moen & Matthew Nolan. 240p. Random/Graphic. Mar. 2021. Tr \$26.99. ISBN 9781984893154; pap. \$17.99. ISBN 9781984893147.

Gr9Up—Don't be afraid. Yes, there are drawings of naked bodies in this book (mostly in the "Body Image" section), and, yes, readers will learn about some of the ways the human body is wired for pleasure. And the detailed drawings of genitals are not solely in service of explaining how babies are made. But every panel of this book, every anatomical drawing, every conversation over tea or in a tent, is loaded with crucial information about consent, respect, consideration, and boundaries. A magnificently varied cast of characters confess their insecurities to their best friends, siblings, crushes, lovers, and hookups and in return receive reassurance, information, and practical advice. Readers will learn about a laundry list of activities, including sexting, masturbation, gender,

and fantasies, along with health issues such as safe sex and a couple of the less pleasant aspects of relationships: jealousy and rejection. Moen and Nolan have been making comics about sex for years—their comic *Oh Joy Sex Toy* has even been exhibited at the Tate Modern in London. Moen's richly individualistic characters keep the pages turning, despite some fat word balloons—the result of personality-rich dialogue and precision, which is important when it comes to topics like identity and relationships. A palette of browns, pinks, and grays continues the celebration of bodies of all shades and shapes. A sprinkling of profanity (including the odd F-bomb) must be noted as it may affect a school library's ability to shelve it.

VERDICT Real talk about relationships and sex.—*Paula Willey, Enoch Pratt Free Lib., Baltimore*

NIKOLAVITCH, Alex. *The Disney Bros.: The Fabulous Story of Walt and Roy.* illus. by Felix Ruiz. 112p. NBM. Dec. 2020. Tr \$19.99. ISBN 9781681122663.

Gr9Up—As a counter to the plethora of idealized biographies of the Disney empire's sibling founders, this nuanced graphic profile doesn't paint them as out and out villains—but it does acknowledge Walt's ruthless ma-

nia for total control of his productions and the possibility that he was an FBI informant during the McCarthy era, not to mention the warm reception Roy received on a business trip to Nazi Germany. The language is occasionally rough, too, as Walt fulminates about being "screwed over" by business partners and rejects naming his soon-to-be iconic mouse "Mortimer" because it sounds "fruity." Using a cartoon style reminiscent of that in classic Disney shorts, Ruiz focuses on the two men to the near exclusion of their families, their associates, or even passing reference to most of their works. Though he inserts frank scenes of the Disney boys with their physically abusive father, he is generally oblique with biographical details, only presaging Walt's early death from lung cancer with increasingly frequent scenes of him lighting up, for example, and leaving Roy just months before his death sitting alone on a bench in Florida's newly opened Walt Disney World. A prose afterword analyzing the Disney formula for enduring success provocatively compares the Mouse to another potent cultural symbol, the Nazi flag. **VERDICT** Readers who grew up steeped in the "Magic Kingdom" version of the legend may be in for a rethink.—*John Peters, Children's Literature Consultant, New York*



LJ & SLJ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EQUITY IN ACTION: FOSTERING AN ANTIRACIST LIBRARY CULTURE

Online Event + Interactive Workshop + Live Interactive Sessions
February 23 | March 2 | March 9 | 2 PM - 4 PM

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after the cliff-hanger ending might be frustrated that they'll have to wait until 2022 for the next volume. —*Sara Smith*

Let's Talk about It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human.
By Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan. Illus. by the authors.

Mar. 2021. 240p. Random/RH Graphic, \$23.99 (9780593125311); paper, \$17.99 (9781984893147); lib. ed., \$26.99 (9781984893154). Gr. 9–12. 741.5.

While its title may sound coy, *Let's Talk about It* isn't euphemistic; instead, it's a frank and open-minded look at sex, relationships, and self-understanding. Chapters cover topics ranging from puberty and masturbation to gender identity and pronoun usage, all narrated by a varied cast of teenage characters. It may seem odd to imagine two kids having a nuanced discussion about consent during a game of seven minutes in heaven, but it's that sense of fun that keeps this book from feeling too preachy or academic. The expressive art will come as no surprise to fans of Moen and Nolan's previous work on *Oh Joy, Sex Toy* (v.1, 2014) or *Drawn to Sex* (v.1, 2018). Figures are alive and active, even in conversation, shown stretching, hugging, and making faces. With back matter including helpful resources, this book is recommended for teens who want an easy-to-follow guide that won't talk down to them, health educators wanting an engaging addition to their curriculum, and all those not afraid of seeing cartoon nudity while learning to love and express themselves. —*Sarah Rice*

Middle

Allergic.
By Megan Wagner Lloyd. Illus. by Michelle Mee Nutter.

Mar. 2021. 240p. Scholastic/Graphix, \$24.99 (9781338568912). Gr. 4–6. 741.5.

Ten-year-old Maggie is having a rough time. Her twin brothers are pests, her parents are focused on getting ready for the new baby, and she's had to switch schools. Worse, she's finally convinced her parents to let her get a dog, only to find out that she's extremely allergic to animals with hair or feathers. She tries fish, lizards, and even hermit crabs, but nothing scratches the itch of having a pet the way a dog would. When Maggie and her best friend sneak a pet mouse into her room, figuring a small furry animal can't be as bad as a big one, the fallout is more than she bargained for. Maggie's reactions to her situation are consistent with the way most tweens would feel, and her biracial family tracks as caring without coddling. The artwork is clear, with few backgrounds; the colors are vibrant with only a little bit of shading; and the outcome is unsurprising, like many graphic novels published for this age range, making this title easy to recommend. —*Eva Volin*

Bug Boys: Outside and Beyond.
By Laura Knetzger. Illus. by Laura Knetzger and Lyle Lynde.

Feb. 2021. 272p. Random/RH Graphic, \$16.99 (9780593125359). Gr. 2–4. 741.5.

This follow-up to 2020's charming *Bug Boys* holds largely to the same formula—episodic adventures starring tweenesque beetle besties Rhino-B and Stag-B—and it's this first return that highlights the series' greatest gift: comfort. Each stand-alone chapter opens with the same promise, that wherever the boys are headed, whatever discoveries await, they will be exploring something new, be it an unknown region of their anthropomorphic-bug world or an unfamiliar emotion that they—and, likely, young readers—are contending with. They will face it together, innocent smiles etched into their simple yet expressive beetle features, and most importantly, they will return home, safely changed. In “The Ultimate S'mores,” the boys ponder their respective growth, together and apart; “Little Bugs in the Big City” has the duo contrasting their quaint Bug Village with the metropolitan Centipede City; and when they're introduced to bats in “Wave's World,” they learn to appreciate life from a new perspective. Knetzger's art, helped by Lynde's colors, makes every setting inviting, every character friendly—if you look closely enough—and the result is the coziest kind of book-magic. As Rhino-B reflects: “I like the endings where everyone goes home . . . and things don't change too fast. And everybody gets just enough of their happy ending . . .” Readers will be glad to be back and sorry to say goodbye—until next time. —*Ronny Khuri*

Chef Yasmina and the Potato Panic.
By Wauter Mannaert. Illus. by the author.

Jan. 2021. 160p. First Second, \$22.99 (9781250622044). Gr. 4–6. 741.5.

Yasmina is a whiz in the kitchen, whipping up healthy, delectable vegetarian dinners for her dad every night and sending him off to work at the french-fry shop with another one every morning. She knows her way around the local gardens, too, both the one on the roof of her building, overseen by a mysterious recluse, and the one down the street, where two local gardeners wage war with each other. All forces must band together, though, when Tom de Perre and his menacing agribusiness take over and start manufacturing a potato product that sends the public quite literally to the dogs. A delicious and nutritious concoction of fun, thrills, and consumer consciousness, this comic from the Belgian Mannaert cooks up heartfelt characters, an exciting sci-fi mystery, and a bunny gag worthy of old Bugs himself. This feast doesn't just

taste good, though; Mannaert's use of the comics form is expert, offering engagingly clever visuals and a wonderfully evocative sense of place in his detailed splash pages and realistic, inviting depiction of Yasmina's city neighborhood. —*Jesse Karp*

Power Up.
By Sam Nisson. Illus. by Darnell Johnson.

Feb. 2021. 224p. HMH/Etch, \$24.99 (9780358325710). Gr. 3–7. 741.5.

Miles and Rhys are friends, even though they haven't met and don't know each other's real-life identity. They play together as Gryphon and Backslash in Mecha Melee, an online game, and they are quickly becoming the best team around. But their real lives are a bit more complicated—Rhys, aka Backslash, is the new kid at school, and Miles, aka Gryphon, is trying to determine who his real friends are. Unfortunately, Rhys also has to deal with Luke, the school bully. When Luke takes it too far and Miles doesn't get involved, Rhys doesn't know who to trust. With Battlecon coming to town, will these two gamers realize a great friend is closer than they think? Bold, colorful artwork full of dynamic action and an inclusive cast of characters make this graphic novel a quick and engaging read. The two different illustration styles, representing the game as well as real life, fit well together and are easily distinguishable. A fun and heartening story that shows that a new best friend could be right around the corner. —*Traci Glass*

We Found a Monster.
By Kirk Scroggs. Illus. by the author.

Jan. 2021. 160p. DC Comics, paper, \$9.99 (9781779500526). Gr. 3–6. 741.5.

Casey Clive is a self-described expert at all things monsters. And he should know—he's got monsters living at his house! He uses his excellent journaling skills to detail all of their shenanigans, which keep him from getting a good night's sleep and being honest with his dad about the one person he misses the most. That's when Casey meets Zandra: she found a monster, named Spot, and she needs Casey's help to take care of him. Unfortunately, there's another monster in town—an evil, spherical robot probe—and it's determined to destroy Zandra, Casey, and their monster friends. Can the monsters and humans work together to subvert the probe's evil plan? Casey's private notebook, with items seemingly taped in and filled with drawings and Casey's musings, makes up this fun, journal-style graphic novel. The colorful, detailed doodle-like illustrations are accompanied by hilarious dialogues and commentary from Casey, all of which is nicely grounded in the backstory of the tween's grief. A great mix of spooky and a touch of sadness, this is ideal for readers who enjoy diary-style graphic novels. —*Traci Glass*

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Title:

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human.

Kirkus Reviews, 19487428, 2/1/2021, Vol. 89, Issue 3

Database:

Academic Search Premier

(Nonfiction. 13-18) An illustrated sexuality and relationship education resource for teens. A multiethnic set of realistic teen cartoon characters representing a wide diversity of body types (sizes, abilities, genders) have illuminating and honest conversations in this informative guide. The first chapter focuses on what sex is, how varied sexual expression can be, and what consent means. The second chapter nonjudgmentally explores various kinds of relationships, including monogamous, polyamorous, open, and companionate. Subsequent chapters discuss gender and sexuality (with joyful and varied illustrations), body image (featuring loving representations of many body types), anatomy (including outstanding drawings that are inclusive of trans and intersex people), masturbation (with how-to ideas presented), and thorough coverage of birth control and STI prevention. The book is rounded out with chapters on what to think **about** before having sex; orgasms; ground rules for sexting; kinks, fantasies, and porn; jealousy and rejection (including guidance on recognizing abusive patterns); potential impacts on friendship; and more. The tone throughout this colorful, visually appealing, and easy-to-read volume is honest, normalizing, and sex positive as **it** offers readers excellent and reassuring information. The married co-authors are known for their sex-education–related comic collaborations. While the dialogue can occasionally feel stilted as **it** conveys comprehensive content, the work is still crisp, breezy, effective, and noteworthy in a crowded field for its holistic emphasis on human, emotional aspects of sexuality. Puts the *graphic* in the graphic-novel format, in the best and most educational way. (further reading, authors' note, index) (Nonfiction. 13-18)

Random House Graphic, 240, Teen, 1, 978-0-593-12531-1, \$23.99, **Moen**, Erika

Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Although the Articles of the *Library Bill of Rights* are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices. See the documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations>).

Access to Library Resources and Services for Minors: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association supports equal and equitable access to all library resources and services by users of all ages. Library policies and procedures that effectively deny minors equal and equitable access to all library resources and services available to other users is in violation of the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights*. The American Library Association opposes all attempts to restrict access to library services, materials, and facilities based on the age of library users.

Article V of the *Library Bill of Rights* states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views." The right to use a library includes free access to, and unrestricted use of, all the services, materials, and facilities the library has to offer. Every restriction on access to, and use of, library resources, based solely on the chronological age, apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, emancipatory or other legal status of users violates Article V. This includes minors who do not have a parent or guardian available to sign a library card application or permission slip. Unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness should be able to obtain a library card regardless of library policies related to chronological age.

School and public libraries are charged with the mission of providing services and resources to meet the diverse interests and informational needs of the communities they serve. Services, materials, and facilities that fulfill the needs and interests of library users at different stages in their personal development are a necessary part of providing library services and should be determined on an individual basis. Equitable access to all library resources and services should not be abridged based on chronological age, apparent maturity, educational level, literacy skills, legal status, or through restrictive scheduling and use policies.

Libraries should not limit the selection and development of library resources simply because minors will have access to them. A library's failure to acquire materials on the grounds that minors may be able to access those materials diminishes the credibility of the library in the community and restricts access for all library users.

Children and young adults unquestionably possess First Amendment rights, including the right to receive information through the library in print, sound, images, data, social media, online applications, games, technologies, programming, and other formats.¹ Constitutionally protected speech cannot be suppressed solely to protect children or young adults from ideas or images a legislative body believes to be unsuitable for them.² Libraries and their library governing bodies should not resort to age restrictions in an effort to avoid actual or anticipated objections, because only a court of law can determine whether or not content is constitutionally protected.

Article VII of the *Library Bill of Rights* states, "All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use." This includes students and minors, who have a right to be free from any unreasonable intrusion into or surveillance of their lawful library use.³

The mission, goals, and objectives of libraries cannot authorize libraries and their governing bodies to assume, abrogate, or overrule the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians. As "Libraries: An American Value" states, "We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children's use of the library and its resources and services."⁴ Libraries and their governing bodies

cannot assume the role of parents or the functions of parental authority in the private relationship between parent and child. Libraries and their governing bodies shall ensure that only parents and guardians have the right and the responsibility to determine their children's—and only their children's—access to library resources. Parents and guardians who do not want their children to have access to specific library services, materials, or facilities should so advise their own children. Libraries and library governing bodies should not use rating systems to inhibit a minor's access to materials.⁵

Libraries and their governing bodies have a legal and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the communities they serve have free and equitable access to a diverse range of library resources and services that is inclusive, regardless of content, approach, or format. This principle of library service applies equally to all users, minors as well as adults. Lack of access to information can be harmful to minors. Libraries and their governing bodies must uphold this principle in order to provide adequate and effective service to minors.

¹ *Brown v. Entertainment Merchant's Association, et al.* 564 U.S. 08-1448 (2011).

² *Erznoznik v. City of Jacksonville*, 422 U.S. 205 (1975): "Speech that is neither obscene as to youths nor subject to some other legitimate proscription cannot be suppressed solely to protect the young from ideas or images that a legislative body thinks unsuitable for them. In most circumstances, the values protected by the First Amendment are no less applicable when government seeks to control the flow of information to minors." See also *Tinker v. Des Moines School Dist.*, 393 U.S.503 (1969); *West Virginia Bd. of Ed. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624 (1943); *AAMA v. Kendrick*, 244 F.3d 572 (7th Cir. 2001).

³ "Privacy: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/privacy>)," adopted June 19, 2002, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 2014; and June 24, 2019.

⁴ "Libraries: An American Value (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/americanvalue>)," adopted on February 3, 1999, by ALA Council.

⁵ "Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/rating-systems>)," adopted on June 30, 2015, by ALA Council; amended June 25, 2019.

Adopted June 30, 1972, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; July 3, 1991; June 30, 2004; July 2, 2008 *under previous name* "Free Access to Libraries for Minors"; July 1, 2014; and June 25, 2019.

Rating Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

Libraries, no matter their size, contain an enormous wealth of viewpoints and are responsible for making those viewpoints available to all. However, libraries do not advocate or endorse the content found in their collections or in resources made accessible through the library. Rating systems are tools or labels devised by individuals or organizations to advise people regarding suitability or content of materials. Rating systems appearing in library catalogs or discovery systems present distinct challenges to intellectual freedom principles.

Creators of rating systems assume that individuals or groups exist who can determine what is appropriate or inappropriate for others. They also assume that individuals want or need direction in making decisions about the materials or resources they use. While the creation and publication of such systems is protected by the First Amendment's right to free speech, the American Library Association also affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about the information that they consume.

Libraries' explicit or implicit adoption, enforcement, or endorsement of any of these rating systems violates the *Library Bill of Rights* and may be unconstitutional if used to prevent an individual's access to materials or resources. If enforcement of rating systems is mandated by law, the library should seek legal advice regarding the law's applicability to library operations.

Libraries often acquire resources, such as DVDs and video games, that include ratings as part of their publication materials. Library workers should not endorse the inclusion of such rating systems; however, removing or destroying the rating placed on the original item by the publisher, distributor, or copyright holder could constitute expurgation.¹

Because cataloging standards provide an opportunity for libraries to include ratings in their bibliographic records, many libraries have chosen to do so—some by acceptance of standard records containing such ratings and others by a desire to provide the maximum descriptive information available on a resource. Libraries are not required by cataloging best practices to provide this information. If they choose to do so, for whatever reason, they should cite the source of the rating and indicate that the library does not endorse external rating systems.

The inclusion of ratings in bibliographic records within library catalogs or discovery systems may be interpreted as an endorsement by the library. Therefore, without attribution, inclusion of such ratings is a violation of the *Library Bill of Rights*.

If libraries include information about rating systems on items or records, this information should not be used to restrict access to those materials based on the age of library users. Such a restriction may violate minors' First Amendment rights.²

That libraries do not endorse or advocate for the use of rating systems does not preclude them from answering questions about such systems. It is appropriate to provide access to sources containing information on rating systems in order to meet the specific information-seeking needs of individual users. The American Library Association affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about resources they choose to read or view.

¹ “Expurgation of Library Resources: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/expurgationlibrary>),” adopted February 2, 1973, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 1981; January 10, 1990; July 2, 2008; and July 1, 2014.

²*Engahl v. City of Kenosha*, 317 F. Supp. 1133 (E.D. Wis. 1970); *Motion Picture Association of America v. Specter*, 315 F. Supp. 824 (E.D. Pa. 1970); *Swope v. Lubbers*, 560 F.Supp. 1328 (W.D. Mich. 1983); and *Rosen v. Budco*, 10 Phila. 112 (1983).

Adopted on June 30, 2015, by ALA Council; amended June 25, 2019.

See Also

- "Labeling and Rating Systems Q&A (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/labelingratingqa>)" approved April 6, 2016, by the Intellectual Freedom Committee; updated January 16, 2010; and June 24, 2019.
- Deborah Caldwell-Stone, "Movie Ratings are Private, Not Public Policy (<https://oif.ala.org/oif/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ILARreportervol22no2Ratings.pdf>)," *Illinois Library Association Reporter*, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 2004.

Labeling Systems: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about resources they choose to read, view, listen to, or otherwise access. Libraries do not advocate the ideas found in their collections or in resources accessible through the library. The presence of books and other resources in a library does not indicate endorsement of their contents by the library. Likewise, providing access to digital information does not indicate endorsement or approval of that information by the library. Labeling systems present distinct challenges to these intellectual freedom principles.

Labels may be a library-sanctioned means of organizing resources or providing guidance to users. They may be as simple as a colored dot or strip of tape indicating reference books or fiction or as elaborate as the Dewey Decimal or Library of Congress call number systems.

Labels as viewpoint-neutral directional aids are intended to facilitate access by making it easier for users to locate resources. Users may choose to consult or ignore the directional aids at their own discretion. Viewpoint-neutral directional labels are a convenience designed to save time. These are different in intent from attempts to prejudice, discourage, or encourage users to access particular library resources or to restrict access to library resources. Labeling as an attempt to prejudice attitudes is a censor's tool. The American Library Association opposes labeling as a means of predisposing people's attitudes toward library resources.

Prejudicial labels are designed to restrict access, based on a value judgment that the content, language, or themes of the resource, or the background or views of the creator(s) of the resource, render it inappropriate or offensive for all or certain groups of users. The prejudicial label is used to warn, discourage, or prohibit users or certain groups of users from accessing the resource. Such labels sometimes are used to place materials in restricted locations where access depends on staff intervention.

Directional aids can also have the effect of prejudicial labels when their implementation becomes proscriptive rather than descriptive. When directional aids are used to forbid access or to suggest moral or doctrinal endorsement, the effect is the same as prejudicial labeling. Even well-intentioned labels may have this effect.

Prejudicial labeling systems assume that the libraries have the institutional wisdom to determine what is appropriate or inappropriate for its users to access. They presuppose that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. The American Library Association opposes the use of prejudicial labeling systems and affirms the rights of individuals to form their own opinions about resources they choose to read, view, listen to, or otherwise access.

Adopted on June 30, 2015, by ALA Council.

The Freedom to Read Statement

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label "controversial" views, to distribute lists of "objectionable" books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be "protected" against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. *It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.*

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. *Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.*

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. *It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.*

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. *There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.*

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. *It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.*

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.*

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. *It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a "bad" book is a good one, the answer to a "bad" idea is a good one.*

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader's purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.

A Joint Statement by:

American Library Association (/)

Association of American Publishers (<http://www.publishers.org/>)

Subsequently endorsed by:

American Booksellers for Free Expression (<http://www.bookweb.org/abfe>)

The Association of American University Presses (<http://www.aaupnet.org/>)

The Children's Book Council (<http://www.cbcbooks.org/>)

Freedom to Read Foundation (<http://www.ftfrf.org>)

National Association of College Stores (<http://www.nacs.org/>)

National Coalition Against Censorship (<http://www.ncac.org/>)

National Council of Teachers of English (<http://www.ncte.org/>)

The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression

Intellectual Freedom and Censorship Q & A

What is Intellectual Freedom? | Why is Intellectual Freedom Important? | What is Censorship?
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What is the Relationship Between Censorship and Intellectual Freedom?
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What Are the Most Frequently Censored Materials? | Aren't There Some Kinds of Expression that Really
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What If I Can't Find Something in My Library that Represents My Point of View?
If Materials are on a Library Shelf, Doesn't That Mean the Library Approves of Those Materials?
What Can I Do to Fight Censorship?

What Is Intellectual Freedom?

Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored.

Why Is Intellectual Freedom Important?

Intellectual freedom is the basis for our democratic system. We expect our people to be self-governors. But to do so responsibly, our citizenry must be well-informed. Libraries provide the ideas and information, in a variety of formats, to allow people to inform themselves.

Intellectual freedom encompasses the freedom to hold, receive and disseminate ideas.

What Is Censorship?

Censorship is the suppression of ideas and information that certain persons—individuals, groups or government officials—find objectionable or dangerous. It is no more complicated than someone saying, “Don’t let anyone read this book, or buy that magazine, or view that film, because I object to it!” Censors try to use the power of the state to impose their view of what is truthful and appropriate, or offensive and objectionable, on everyone else. Censors pressure public institutions, like libraries, to suppress and remove from public access information they judge inappropriate or dangerous, so that no one else has the chance to read or view the material and make up their own minds about it. The censor wants to prejudge materials for everyone.

How Does Censorship Happen?

Censorship occurs when expressive materials, like books, magazines, films and videos, or works of art, are removed or kept from public access. Individuals and pressure groups identify materials to which they object. Sometimes they succeed in pressuring schools not to use them, libraries not to shelve them, book and video stores not to carry them, publishers not to publish them, or art galleries not to display them. Censorship also occurs when materials are restricted to particular audiences, based on their age or other characteristics.

Who Attempts Censorship?

In most instances, a censor is a sincerely concerned individual who believes that censorship can improve society, protect children, and restore what the censor sees as lost moral values. But under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, each of us has the right to read, view, listen to, and disseminate constitutionally protected ideas, even if a censor finds those ideas offensive.

What Is The Relationship Between Censorship And Intellectual Freedom?

In expressing their opinions and concerns, would-be censors are exercising the same rights librarians seek to protect when they confront censorship. In making their criticisms known, people who object to certain ideas are exercising the same rights as those who created and disseminated the material to which they object. Their rights to voice opinions and try to persuade others to adopt those opinions is protected only if the rights of persons to express ideas they despise are also protected. The rights of both sides must be protected, or neither will survive.

How Do Censors Justify Their Demands That Information Be Suppressed?

Censors might sincerely believe that certain materials are so offensive, or present ideas that are so hateful and destructive to society, that they simply must not see the light of day. Others are worried that younger or weaker people will be badly influenced by bad ideas, and will do bad things as a result. Still others believe that there is a very clear distinction between ideas that are right and morally uplifting, and ideas that are wrong and morally corrupting, and wish to ensure that society has the benefit of their perception. They believe that certain individuals, certain institutions, even society itself, will be endangered if particular ideas are disseminated without restriction. What censors often don't consider is that, if they succeed in suppressing the ideas they don't like today, others may use that precedent to suppress the ideas they do like tomorrow.

What Are The Most Frequently Censored Materials?

Throughout history, books have been challenged for many reasons, including political content, sexual expression, or language offensive to some people's racial, cultural, or ethnic background, gender or sexuality, or political or religious beliefs. Materials considered heretical, blasphemous, seditious, obscene or

inappropriate for children have often been censored.

Since the dawn of recorded human expression, people have been burned at the stake, forced to drink poison, crucified, ostracized and vilified for what they wrote and believed.

Aren't There Some Kinds Of Expression That Really Should Be Censored?

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that there are certain narrow categories of speech that are not protected by the First Amendment: obscenity, child pornography, defamation, and "fighting words," or speech that incites immediate and imminent lawless action. The government is also allowed to enforce secrecy of some information when it is considered essential to national security, like troop movements in time of war, classified information about defense, etc.

What Is Obscenity?

Sexual expression is a frequent target of censorship. But the Supreme Court has told us that material is not obscene unless a judge or jury finds that an average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material appeals to the prurient (or morbid, shameful, and unhealthy) interest in sex (note that, by its definition, the Court implicitly recognized that there is such a thing as a healthy interest in sex!); that it depicts or describes certain sexual acts defined in state law in a patently offensive way; and that a reasonable person (community standards do not control this last element) would find that the material lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value. All three elements must be present for material to be judged by a judge or jury as obscene and, therefore, illegal.

What About Protecting Children From Pornography, Whether Or Not It Is Legally Obscene?

The primary responsibility for rearing children rests with parents. If parents want to keep certain ideas or forms of expression away from their children, they must assume the responsibility for shielding those children. Governmental institutions cannot be expected to usurp or interfere with parental obligations and responsibilities when it comes to deciding what a child may read or view.

How Do You Guide Children When You Can't Be With Them 24 Hours A Day?

Parents who believe that the current state of society and communications make it difficult to shield their children must nevertheless find a way to cope with what they see as that reality within the context of their own family. Libraries can be extremely helpful, providing information about parenting, open communication between parents and children, how to communicate with caregivers and the parents of your children's friends about your rules, and the opinions of various organizations representing a wide spectrum of points of view about materials for children.

If a child borrows something from a library which that child's parent believes is inappropriate, the parents are encouraged to return the item and make use of the expertise of their librarian to locate materials they prefer, among the hundreds of thousands of choices most public libraries make available.

Don't Librarians Censor Everything They Choose Not To Buy For The Library?

No library can make everything available, and selection decisions must be made. Selection is an inclusive process, where the library affirmatively seeks out materials which will serve its mission of providing a broad diversity of points of view and subject matter. By contrast, censorship is an exclusive process, by which individuals or institutions seek to deny access to or otherwise suppress ideas and information because they find those ideas offensive and do not want others to have access to them. There are many objective reasons unrelated to the ideas expressed in materials that a library might decide not to add those materials to its collection: redundancy, lack of community interest, expense, space, etc. Unless the decision is based on a disapproval of the ideas expressed and desire to keep those ideas away from public access, a decision not to select materials for a library collection is not censorship.

What If I Can't Find Something In My Library That Represents My Point Of View?

Ask for the materials you want. Libraries strive to serve the interests of the entire community. If your library is unable to purchase the material you want, it may be able to obtain it for you on interlibrary loan. Your library is there to help you find the information you need or want.

If Materials Are On A Library Shelf, Doesn't That Mean The Library Approves Of Those Materials?

The presence of any particular materials in a library collection does not imply endorsement of the ideas expressed in those materials. The library is simply doing its job as a neutral provider of information from all points of view—if the library “endorses” anything, it is your right to have access to a broad selection of materials. If you don't find materials to your liking, ask your librarian to help you!

What Can I Do To Fight Censorship?

Stay informed. Know what is happening in your state legislature, local school and library boards, and city councils. Write letters expressing your view to your mayor, and your state and federal representatives and senators. Attend your local school and library board meetings.

May 29, 2007