



Antigo Public  
Library  
617 Clermont  
Street  
Antigo, WI 54409

**Antigo Public Library Board of Trustees  
Full Board Meeting**

Tuesday, January 27th @ 6:00 PM  
APL McGinley Meeting Room

AGENDA

Presiding officer: Kim Duchan, Vice President

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Correspondence, public comments, (informational only)
5. Approval of APL Library Board of Trustees minutes for the COW meeting on 11/18/2025 and the Full Board of Trustee meeting on 11/25/2025.
6. President's comments
7. WVLS –Board Member Judy Peterson (informational only)
8. Directors Report
9. Consent agenda:  
The following items were moved forward from the November Committee of the Whole meeting on January 20th, 2025.
  - a. January 2026 bills and invoices
  - b. Inclement Weather policy
  - c. Donation policy
  - d. Line of Responsibility policy
  - e. Employee Absence policy
  - f. Meeting Room policy
  - g. 2025 seasonal part time hire for circulation desk status change to full time Circulation Specialist.
  - h. Antigo Public Library 2026 annual calendar
10. Considerations for next board meeting.
11. The next board meeting will be February 24th 2026 at 6:00 PM.
12. Adjournment.

Sarah Sinkler, APL Board of Trustees President

Please note: Members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies may be in attendance to gather information. Any governmental body other than that specifically referred to above will take no action. Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of the disabled individuals through sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aids. Please call the library at 715-623-3724 to arrange for such accommodations.

Physically posted at Antigo Public Library, Antigo City Hall and Langlade County Courthouse.

# Antigo Public Library

## Board of Trustees

Minutes of November 18, 2025

Committee of the Whole (C.O.W.) Meeting : 6:00 p.m.

McGinley Room, Antigo Public Library

Sarah Sinkler- President, Presiding

Name	Attendance	Notes
Sarah Sinkler , President (city)	Present	
Kim Duchan, Vice President (county)	Present	
Pam Augustyn, Treasurer (county)	Present	
Nancy Jones, Secretary (county)	Present	
Cindy Tyler (county)	Present	
Barb Rebstock (city)	Present	
Vacant (county)	Present	
Carrie Kubacki (city)	Present	
Glenda Oginski (school)	Present	..via phone

Others in attendance:

1. Call to Order: President Sinkler called the meeting to order @ 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Quorum established
3. Pledge of Allegiance:
4. Correspondence – Public Comment: None
5. Committee Items :
  - a. Bills and Invoices: A motion to move the bills and invoices forward to the regular meeting on 11/25/2025 for payment was made by Duchan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bardo. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried.
  - b. Fogeltanz Account: Part of working with the Task Force was to create a budget for the 610 account (donated monies) that hasn't been done before. The current balance is \$57,612 with \$31,969 earmarked for digitizing. Other expenditures for 2026 include: \$2,500 for staff training, \$3,000 for library programming, \$ 1,500 Audio books – all Wonder books, and \$3,500 summer reading program. Other possible items include an "Inchy's Bookworm machine where patrons earn tokens and then can use them to select a prize from the machine i.e. a book. It can accommodate all ranges for books from children, teen, and adult. The other possible purchase would be portable, sound proof reading room that can accommodate four people. This will offer another space for private meetings that occur frequently. There were three motions to address these ideas. 1.) A motion was made to move forward to the regular meeting on 11/25/2025 the review with a possible closure of the Fogeltanz CD account was made by Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Augustyn. Roll call vote. Sinkler/YES Bardo/YES Augustyn/YES Jones/YES Tyler/YES Rebstock/YES Duchan/YES Kubacki/YES Oginski/YES. Motioned carried. 2.) A motion was made to move forward to the regular meeting on 11/25/2025 the purchase of the Bookworm vending machine from the 610 account by Duchan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bardo. Roll call vote. Sinkler/YES Bardo/YES Augustyn/YES Jones/YES

- Tyler/YES Rebstock/NO Duchan/YES Kubacki/YES Oginski/YES. Motion carried.
- 3). A motion to move forward to the regular meeting on 11/25/2025 for the purchase of a modular meeting room from the 610 account was made by Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bardo. Voice vote. Sinkler/YES Bardo/YES Augustyn/YES Jones/YES Tyler/YES Rebstock/YES Duchan/YES Kubacki/YES Oginski/YES. Motioned carried.
- c. Proposed 2026 Annual Budget. Some shifting in staffing. The PT Circulation Specialist was a new hire who recently moved into the area. January 1<sup>st</sup> White Lake will be transitioned to a Bookmobile while the building will become a free library that is open two hours per day. John will be responsible for tracking how many people come in, what they're taking out, and Seth will be responsible for the Bookmobile. Contractual services are lower. Books have been rolled into one line item. One thing that is not included is an amount from the City for their admin services because now we will be getting an invoice in 2026 quarterly. A motion to move the Proposed 2026 Budget to the regular board meeting on 11/25/2025 was made by Duchan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oginski. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried.
- d. December 2025 bills and invoice. Since we are not having a meeting in December we need approval for Sinkler and Augustyn to sign. A motion to move to the regular board meeting on 11/25/2025 for preapprove paying the December bills was made by Bardo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oginski. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried. A second motion to move to the regular board meeting on 11/25/2025 to **amend** the previous Proposed Budget motion to **include** the 610 account was made by Duchan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rebstock. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried.
- e. APL 2026 Calendar: Toni moved some of the staff training days from Monday to Tuesday since Mondays are a high attendance day. A motion to move forward to the regular meeting on 11/25/2025 to approve the Antigo Public Library's 2026 Calendar was made by Bardo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Oginski. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried.
- f. City of Antigo's revised Employee Book. One of the major changes in it is no longer waiting 90 days for health insurance. Since the library does not have its own Employee Handbook, we have been using the City's. Toni found a good example of a library employee handbook from Oshkosh, but since we need one in place by January 1<sup>st</sup> for liability purposes, we can adopt this and then make any adjustments in the future with other discussions and motions. A motion to move the forward to the regular meeting on 11/25/2025 the adoption of the City of Antigo's Revised Employee Handbook was made by Tyler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bardo. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried.
- g. Outstanding fees: A motion to move forward to the regular meeting on 11/25/2025 to approval of waiving all outstanding fees and fines as provided by WVLS that have not been active for at least the prior five years so that the said patron accounts can be deleted and an accurate count of patrons records can be maintained was made by Duchan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bardo. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried.
- h. Patron banning: A discussion of a certain patron according to our Patron Conduct Policy. This did not need any board action since the issue was taken care of by the Antigo Police department. The police also came to the library and educated the staff on how to deal with safety issues, public safety, mental health, and if uncomfortable dealing with such issues with a patron that they should call the police department. Said patron is banned for one year.
- i. Joint City Library agreement. The composition of the board will be changing since Carol Bardo will no longer be serving due to the updated of the joint library agreement. Therefore, we will be having an election for a new vice-president.

- j. Library Director Evaluation. Nancy created a document that included all of the items about an evaluation by merging everything from the job description and the evaluation. Some wording suggestions were made. Nancy will meet with Toni sometime in January and create a final copy to present to the board.
  - k. Board of Trustee selection policy. This will continue and be revisited in January.
6. Next Committee Meeting Suggestions: Director evaluation, board selection .
  7. Next C.O.W. meeting is January 20, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m
  8. Adjournment. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Oginski, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Duchan. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried. Meeting adjourned @ 7:37 p.m.

Nancy Jones, Secretary

# Antigo Public Library

## Board of Trustees

Minutes of November 25, 2025

Regular Monthly Meeting : 6:00 p.m.

McGinley Room, Antigo Public Library

Sarah Sinkler- President, Presiding

Name	Attendance	Notes
Sarah Sinkler , President (city)		
Kim Duchan, Vice President (county)		
Pam Augustyn, Treasurer (county)		
Nancy Jones, Secretary (county)		
Cindy Tyler (county)		
Barb Rebstock (city)		
Vacant (county)		
Carrie Kubacki (city)		
Glenda Oginski (school)		

Others in attendance:

1. Call to Order: President Sinkler called the meeting to order @ 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call: Quorum established
3. Pledge of Allegiance:
4. Correspondence – Public Comment: None
5. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the APL Board of Trustees minutes for the C.O.W. meeting on 10/21/2025 and the Regular Full Board Meeting on 10/28/2025 was made by Bardo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rebstock. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried.
6. President's Comments: Sinkler took time to thank Carol Bardo for her service and leadership with the Antigo Public Library Board of Trustees. Her involvement has been appreciated in guiding the Board's work and strengthening the library's roll in the community. During her time she has helped to successfully hire a library director, improved communication between the partnership of the City and the County, determined to help the library become a safe space for our community to learn-try new things- and explore, and she has been a mentor to Sarah.
7. WVLS Board Member: Judy Peterson. They had a meeting in November. They too are looking for appointments for various committees since some are retiring and bringing on new people. One committee person who has served for 24 years answered a lot of questions. Library Legislative Day will be February 10<sup>th</sup> this year, and they are taking a bus. Judy was re-elected for another year.
8. Library Staff Presentations: Tabitha Grisham and Seth Koch each gave a presentation of what they learned from their Libraries and Customer Service Experience. Both did an outstanding job of sharing their experience. Some of their take-aways: Happy staff = positive energy which is shared with patrons. One bad experience may make some patrons not return, but people are forgiving if you reach out and fix the problem. Be in tune with customers feelings and emotions. Phone etiquette – speak slowly, politely, and clearly. Stay with a patron until she/he is satisfied.
9. Election of Vice-President:

Sinkler: Are there any nominations for a vice-president.

Bardo: I would like to nominate Kim Duchan.

Tyler: I second it. (Sinkler had a written statement from Duchan who accepted the nomination)

Sinkler: Are there any nominations from the board? Are there any nominations from the board? Are there any nominations from the board? Hearing no further nominations, all in favor of electing Kim Duchan to the office of Vice-President say, "Aye." (all Ayes). Opposed. None.

Kim Duchan is the new vice-president of the APL Board of Trustees.

10. Director's Report:

- a. Library flags have been rehung. Ropes have not been changed because of the weather.
- b. Staffing. Two PT Circulation Clerks have been hired. Timothy Howell (who prefers to go by his middle name, Ed) and Paula Blanc
- c. Digitizing: on 10/31/2025 an anonymous donation of \$50K for this endeavor.
- d. Solar: The OEI found fault with former directors who did not manage the made in America compliance. No one followed up with OEI about the process or prove that American made products could not be found for specific items. There was no email trail or correspondence; therefore, OEI found fault of no due diligence for American made compliance. This also includes the labor for installing such parts. Toni updated the material spreadsheet that only has the solar panels on it. Everything else had to be deleted/removed. The Office of Energy Innovation (OEI) sent a four page letter explaining their perspective and final decision concerning the grant money. The City did file for the tax refund. Toni will be meeting with the City Council about paying them back.
- e. 2025 Budget update: Toni created a breakdown that was requested by Roy Dieck which is easier to understand.
- f. Financials as of 10/31
  - i. Current balance in account: \$286,321.69
  - ii. Spent to date: \$470,472.83
- g. Circulation Stats: the media most checked out is DVDs, adult fiction, and picturebooks
- h. White Lake: The Library has begun working with WVLS to transition this branch to a bookmobile effective January 1, 2026. Toni and Tabitha began going out there to install the some new shelves and color coded them to differentiate age level books , and they added some comfy chairs.

11. Consent Agenda: A motion to approve the consent agenda items (a) through (i) as discussed in the 11/18/2205 C.O.W. was made by Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bardo. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried.

- a. November bills and invoices
- b. Closing of the Fogeltanz CD and depositing it to the 610 account.
- c. Purchase from 610 account a book vending machine
- d. Purchase from the 610 account a modular meeting room
- e. Adoption of the City of Antigo's revised Employee Handbook
- f. Antigo Public Library 2026 annual budget
- g. Antigo Public Library 2026 annual calendar
- h. Preapproval of the December 2025 bills and invoices

- i. Waiving outstanding fees and fines on accounts, as provided by WLVS, inactive for the prior five years in order to purge them from the system for accurate patron accounts.
12. Consideration for next board meeting. Director's evaluation. County board chair. Taking the City Employee Handbook and making revisions suitable for the library's needs. Look at the budget again in February. Operations policy draft. Board Goals.
  - a. Judy Peterson, WVLS Board representative asked to share her thoughts about White Lake at this time. She lives in White Lake and is concerned about the changes. People are upset. Judy drives a 50 year-old woman to the library. People are confused about how a book mobile works. The change is difficult. Yes, this will be a different model than what has been there for many years. But, there will be more books available out there with the free library model than what they have now. It will still be opened. John will still be working there. There needs to be some sort of educating the residents of what to expect and how it will work. Toni is working with WVLS to accomplish this, and Judy will work with Toni, too. Sinkler thanked Judy for being an ambassador for the library.
13. Next board meeting will be January 27, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
14. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bardo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jones. Voice vote. All "Ayes." Motion carried. The meeting adjourned @ 6:58 p.m.

Nancy Jones, Secretary



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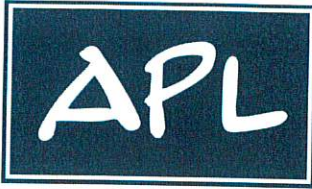
## 2025 – January: Director’s Report

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As we begin the New Year I feel it is important to highlight some of the values the Antigo Public Library is enshrining into practice as a Public Service affiliated with the City of Antigo and the County of Langlade, both entities bound by Fair Labor Standards and non-discriminatory practices. I was hired not to keep on with past practices. Rather, I was asked to step into the role of interim director to change the direction of the Antigo Public Library. When I accepted the position, I was blunt with the now former County Board Supervisor that I would only remain in the position if all practices were legal and above board. In the last eighteen months my experiences with the Antigo Public Library Board of Trustees, the City of Antigo and The County Board of Supervisors have met my expectations. The road to ensuring all residents of Langlade County, which includes the City of Antigo residents, has made some who experienced past preferential treatment uncomfortable. A thing I can appreciate. Change is hard. And a Public Library is a public service equally available to all residents regardless of political party, sex, gender, class, occupation, citizenship, etc. Every single person who walks through the door should be treated with warmth and welcome. Something I continue to work with my staff on. Having worked through college at the Disneyland Resort, my customer service (aka patron service) expectation is high and requires practice as new interactions occur every day within the library. Being raised as an autistic ADHD inattentive introvert at a time when girls were not supposed to be autistic or ADHD by a grandparent who was an extroverted detail oriented hyper-planning aerospace secretary also shaped my awareness of the way most people want to be treated in a service capacity. Will we hit that 100% of the time? We won't. Everyone has good days and bad and communication and interactions are not perfect. My goal for the Antigo Public Library and its staff is to do their best every day, give themselves grace when they make a mistake, and learn from those mistakes to do better next time. I hold myself to this standard as well. I am far from infallible. Mistakes are human. Apologies are a part of learning.

No group, individual, or organization should receive preferential treatment regarding any service the library receives. Policies, procedures, and practices are being drawn up with that in mind. It may be a change from past practices and when we cling to what has always been done, we miss out on new opportunities. Over the last year the Antigo Public Library has reached out and partnered with several groups in the community including the Antigo Visual Arts and several local day cares as well as offering after-school programming for the Village of White Lake. We hope to continue to partner with community groups and organizations to enhance offerings to the community through library programming. Doing so benefits all residents of the County and all patrons who utilize the Antigo Public Library.

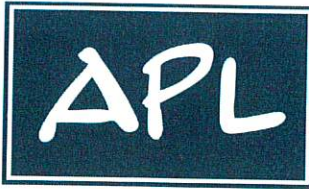
This year we will continue to work on the early childhood play space which has been under construction for too many weeks now. As educational shifts limit early childhood play it becomes more important than ever for libraries to offer these play spaces. Play is an integral part of learning in human beings of all ages. This year we will continue to genre-ize the children's department to increase accessibility and browsing. As of last week, we now have two staff members who are cataloging new materials for the library as well as another who works on processing updates to existing materials. We have increased the book budget for 2026, and we are working towards getting new materials onto the shelf and into patrons' hands at a quicker pace.



WHITE LAKE UPDATE: the White Lake branch is underway in transitioning to a Free Little Library with bookmobile service twice a week and sitting areas within the branch to hang out while it is open. The TEACH service will be terminated. For 2025 the high-speed WIFI was accessed 561 times at a cost of \$2.14 per usage. As we continue with the transition, ordering a new hot spot for the branch from Kajeet internet access will be available within the branch during operating hours. Unlike so many other townships and villages in Langlade County, White Lake has a TEACH network at their school 247 feet away from the Village Hall where the Free Little Library is located. It has a public network and is accessible from anywhere in their parking lot. I double checked myself. The school also has other community services available during and outside of school hours that residents can take advantage of. The Village of White Lake is very fortunate to have a school in their community that has such a positive relationship with the community. For 2025 the Antigo location of the library had 14,303 individual high-speed internet uses for a cost of \$0.08 cents per usage. Making the retention of WL Teach \$2.06 more expensive per usage for a duplicate service when other Villages and Townships have neither school nor library nor bookmobile service (yet). Having spoken with the branch manager for White Lake, the current phone service is unavailable until the new Hot Spot is ordered due to it being a internet phone line is spotty, inconsistent and unreliable. As I work through the Antigo Public Library's phone service quality, I will also be looking for a better more reliable phone service for White Lake.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES: after an incident with a LEAN Wisconsin employee on Thursday January 22<sup>nd</sup>, that employee will no longer work in either Antigo Public Library location. The Antigo Public Library will set up their own computers. Seth and I set up the three newly added to the floor public computers yesterday connecting them to the high-speed cable that was tucked into the ceiling because it was communicated to me in the past that the cord was not long enough to reach the printer so the printer connected to the WI-FI in its new location three feet from its original location. When we pulled the cord down it was in fact, plenty long enough. Before I make any decisions about technology placement, I walk through what I am thinking with Elizabeth Simek who is exceptionally skilled at technology and services Antigo Public Library patron's tech needs at the Langlade County Senior Center every Wednesday. Moving forward, Elizabeth will continue to help me make decisions about technology locations within the Antigo Public Library. As her cataloging work has increased with increased book purchases, she will work with me and Josh from WVLS/LEAN WI to train Seth Kock on how to identify which ports need to be communicated to WVLS for networking and other trouble shooting skills she has in the past executed on behalf of the Antigo Public Library with regards to in-house technology. The computer for the HVAC system needs to be changed and the system is currently running better without the update and programmed schedule. As I and my staff can manage the HVAC system independently of the computer, how the system will be approached regarding technology is a question I will address with Kevin Bouche from county maintenance who is working with me on facilities maintenance and capital improvement planning.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND WARMING STATION: in the past, the Antigo Public Library closed when the Unified School District of Antigo closed due to weather. The Antigo Public Library was not historically a community warming station. In 2025 the Antigo Public Library updated the Inclement Weather policy to close the Antigo Public Library under set circumstances allowing for predictable closures under specific weather conditions. In the fall of 2025, the Antigo Public Library was contacted by the County of Langlade asking if it could be a community warming station. The Antigo Public Library upon discussion between the Board of Trustees and the Director determined the Antigo Public Library could not be a warming station. The building is uninsulated cinder block and lacks a generator. The Antigo Public Library closes under inclement weather for the safety of its staff who live in the country and who could face hazardous conditions attempting to come to work in inclement weather. The Antigo



Public Library does not have sufficient staff residing in the City to open and operate in inclement weather. I live in the City and my house with a newly installed furnace was 54 degrees on Saturday. Old house problems. Being at work in the library would be more desirable for me than being at home when the temperature drops to frigid temps. It is not safe nor is the building able to maintain comfortable temperatures when it is in the double negatives due to the building being an uninsulated cinder block box. The safety of staff and the patrons of Langlade County is more important. Unlike past practices, the Antigo Public Library is actively communicating to patrons cold weather expectations by maintaining and displaying the Inclement Weather policy on the front page of the website and within the library itself.

OTHER UPDATES:

- Processing of credit Cards
- Book vending machine
- ROOM delivery
- MS event in February

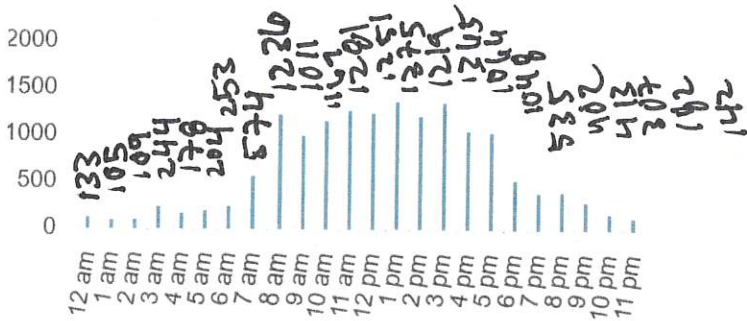
COURSES COMPLETED TOWARDS MLIS:

INFOST 501G – Foundations of Library Science (A)  
INFOST 571G – Information Access & Technology (A-)  
INFOST 637G – Library Services for Young Children (B+)  
INFOST 639G – Library Services for Teens (A)  
INFOST 640G – Information Literacy Instruction (A)  
INFOST 642G – School Library Media Programming and Resources (A)  
INFOST 645G – Library Materials for Children (A)  
INFOST 646G – Library Materials for Young Adults (A)

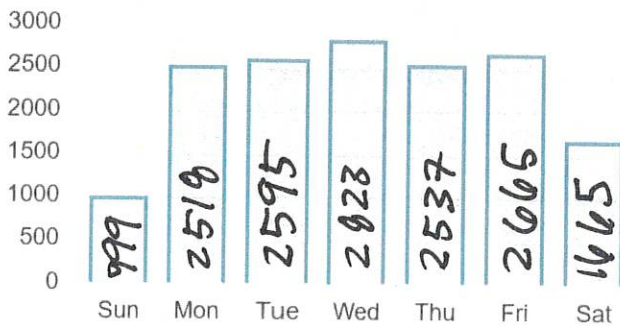
I have 9 units to complete this spring to finish my degree.

Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025

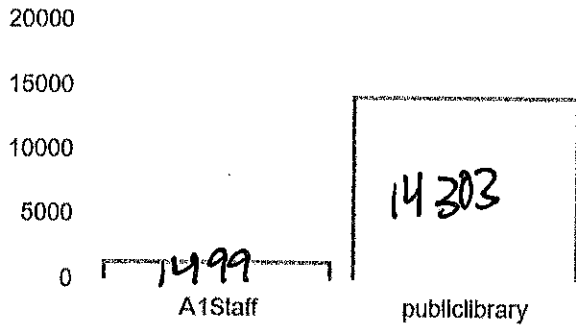
Wireless sessions by hour



Wireless sessions by day

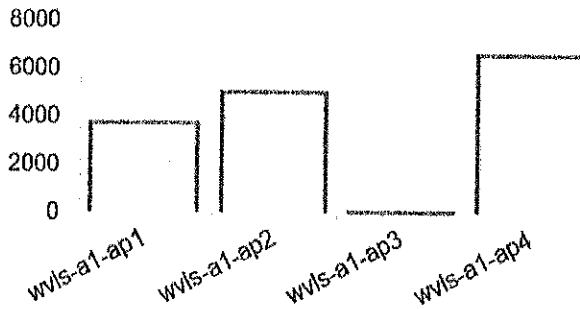


### Wireless sessions by SSID

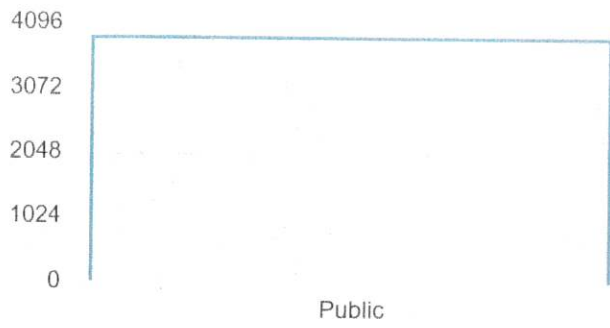


# 0.08  
 $14303 \div 17200 = 8 \text{ cents}$   
pw  
LSC

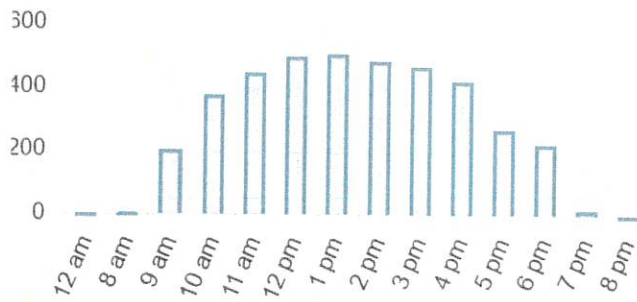
### Wireless sessions by Access Point



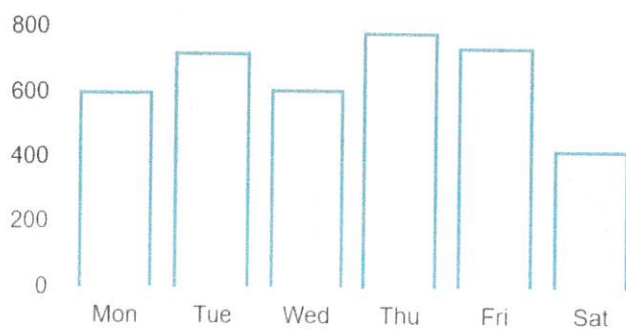
### Pharos computer uses by group



Pharos computer uses by hour

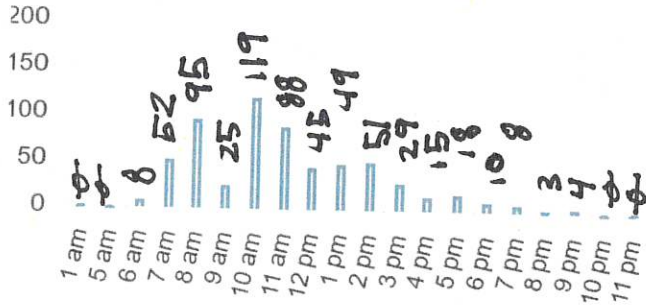


Pharos computer uses by day

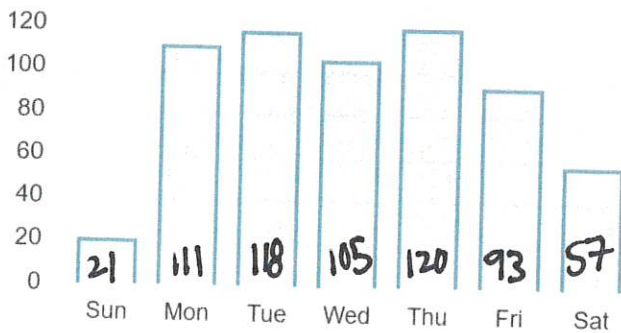


Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025

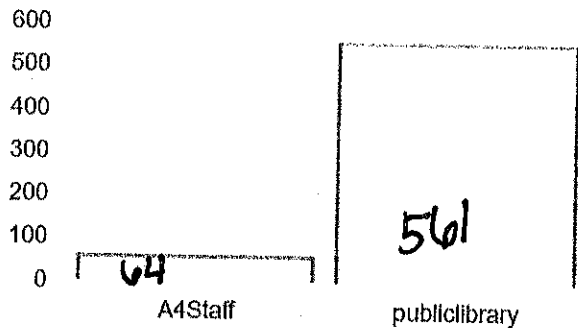
Wireless sessions by hour



Wireless sessions by day



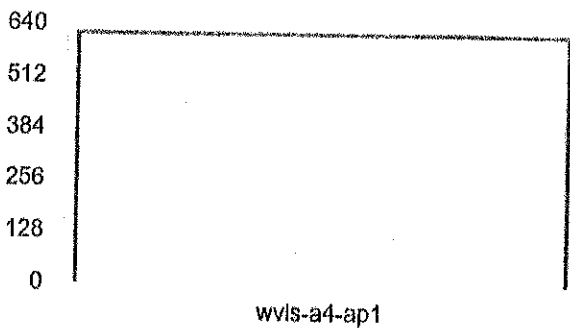
Wireless sessions by SSID



$$561 \overline{) 1200} = \$ 2.14 \text{ per use}$$

*(Note: The handwritten calculation shows 1200 divided by 561, resulting in 2.139, which is rounded to 2.14.)*

Wireless sessions by Access Point



Pharos computer uses by group

No data

Summary

ILS

E-materials

Technology

Website

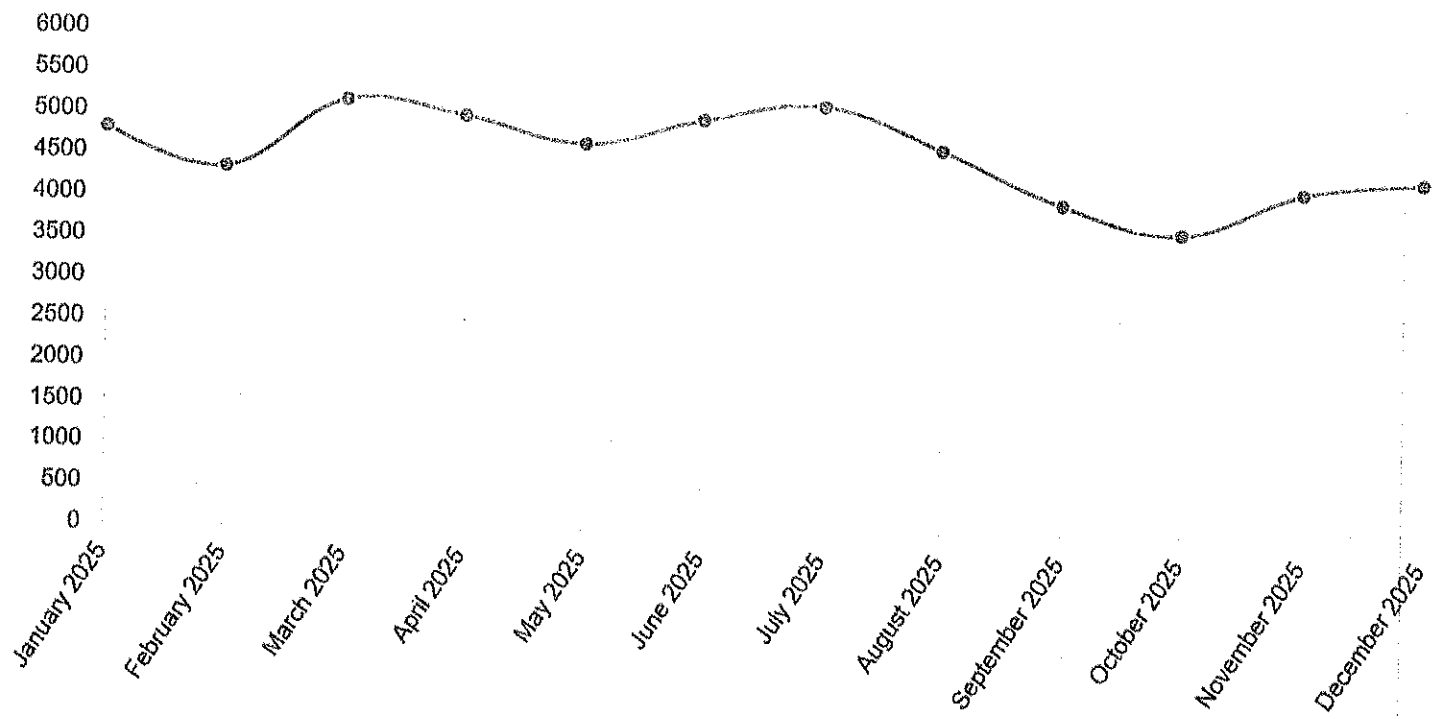
-- Antigo Headquarters ▾

Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025

Summary (rank if applicable)

Checkouts	54,817 (7)
Checkins	56,736 (7)
Renewals	12,630 (8)
Total Circulation	67,447
Items Borrowed	9,108 (8)
Items Lent	5,728 (10)
Net Difference	-3,380
% Locally-owned Checkouts	83.38%
New Patrons	461 (5)
New Items	2,826 (8)
Pharos Sessions	3,900 (3)
Wireless Sessions	15,802 (2)
Overdrive Checkout	21,863 (6)
Website Visits	34,717 (6)

Past 12 Months - Checkouts



Choose a stat:

Activity by Terminal

	Checkouts	Checkins	Renewals
10 - Antigo	54,121	56,464	12,331
20 - APL Bookmobile	39	20	16
20 - Antigo Outreach	657	252	283

Summary

ILS

E-materials

Technology

Website

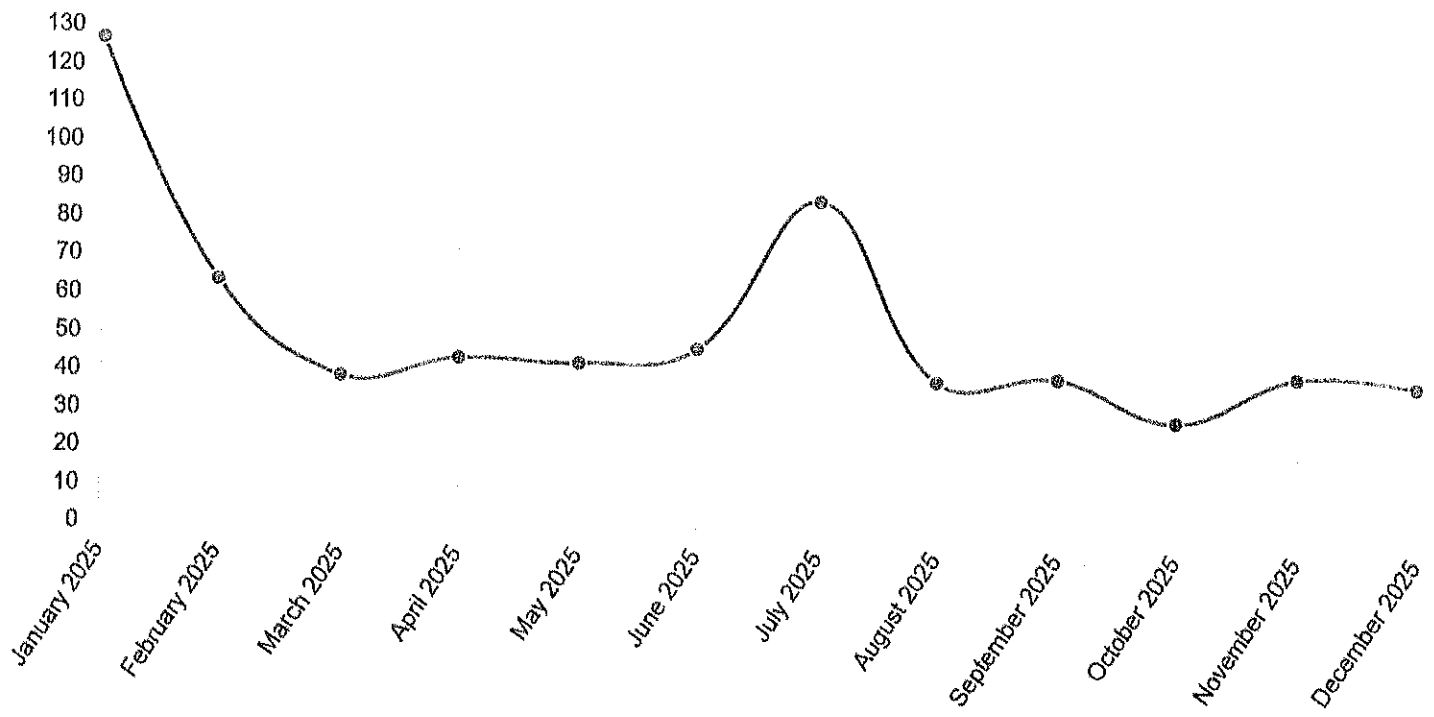
-- White Lake Branch ▾

Jan 01, 2025 - Dec 31, 2025

Summary (rank if applicable)

Checkouts	638 (35)
Checkins	1,323 (33)
Renewals	275 (34)
Total Circulation	913
Items Borrowed	428 (31)
Items Lent	120 (34)
Net Difference	-308
% Locally-owned Checkouts	32.92%
New Patrons	6 (35)
New Items	12 (37)
Pharos Sessions	0 (15)
Wireless Sessions	625 (24)
Overdrive Checkout	1,021 (29)
Website Visits	0 (25)

Past 12 Months - Checkouts



Choose a stat:

Activity by Terminal

70 - White Lake Antigo

**Checkouts**  
638

**Checkins**  
1,323

**Renewals**  
275

# CIRCULATION (CHECKOUT) STATISTICS

Antigo

Jan 25-Dec 25

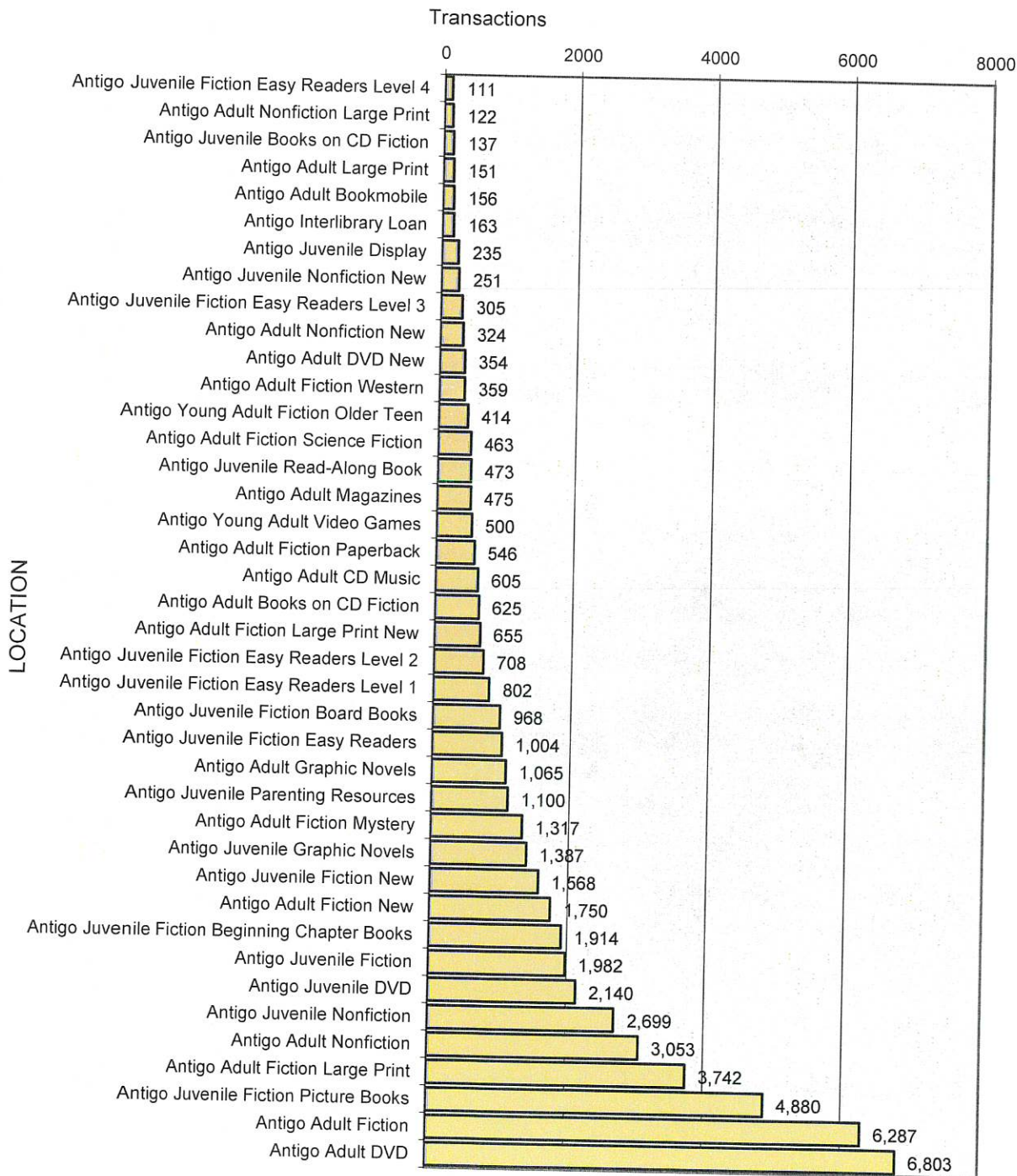
LOCATION	PERCENT	QTY
Antigo Adult DVD	12.7%	6,803
Antigo Adult Fiction	11.8%	6,287
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Picture Books	9.1%	4,880
Antigo Adult Fiction Large Print	7.0%	3,742
Antigo Adult Nonfiction	5.7%	3,053
Antigo Juvenile Nonfiction	5.0%	2,699
Antigo Juvenile DVD	4.0%	2,140
Antigo Juvenile Fiction	3.7%	1,982
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Beginning Chapter Book	3.6%	1,914
Antigo Adult Fiction New	3.3%	1,750
Antigo Juvenile Fiction New	2.9%	1,568
Antigo Juvenile Graphic Novels	2.6%	1,387
Antigo Adult Fiction Mystery	2.5%	1,317
Antigo Juvenile Parenting Resources	2.1%	1,100
Antigo Adult Graphic Novels	2.0%	1,065
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Easy Readers	1.9%	1,004
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Board Books	1.8%	968
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Easy Readers Level 1	1.5%	802
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Easy Readers Level 2	1.3%	708
Antigo Adult Fiction Large Print New	1.2%	655
Antigo Adult Books on CD Fiction	1.2%	625
Antigo Adult CD Music	1.1%	605
Antigo Adult Fiction Paperback	1.0%	546
Antigo Young Adult Video Games	0.9%	500
Antigo Adult Magazines	0.9%	475
Antigo Juvenile Read-Along Book	0.9%	473
Antigo Adult Fiction Science Fiction	0.9%	463
Antigo Young Adult Fiction Older Teen	0.8%	414
Antigo Adult Fiction Western	0.7%	359
Antigo Adult DVD New	0.7%	354
Antigo Adult Nonfiction New	0.6%	324
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Easy Readers Level 3	0.6%	305
Antigo Juvenile Nonfiction New	0.5%	251
Antigo Juvenile Display	0.4%	235
Antigo Interlibrary Loan	0.3%	163
Antigo Adult Bookmobile	0.3%	156

Antigo Adult Large Print	0.3%	151
Antigo Juvenile Books on CD Fiction	0.3%	137
Antigo Adult Nonfiction Large Print	0.2%	122
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Easy Readers Level 4	0.2%	111
Antigo Juvenile DVD New	0.2%	90
Antigo Adult Fiction Paperback New	0.2%	84
Antigo Adult Books on CD Nonfiction	0.1%	66
Antigo Juvenile Video Games	0.1%	64
Antigo Adult Fiction Paperback Romance	0.1%	59
Antigo Young Adult Fiction Older Teen New	0.1%	57
Antigo Juvenile Kits	0.1%	51
Antigo Juvenile Nonfiction Easy Readers	0.1%	48
Antigo Adult Nonfiction Reference	0.1%	44
Antigo Adult Board Games	0.1%	41
Antigo Adult Display	0.1%	33
Antigo Adult Books on CD New	0.1%	27
Antigo Equipment	0.0%	26
Antigo Juvenile CD Music	0.0%	26
Antigo Bookmobile	0.0%	25
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Board Books Spanish	0.0%	20
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Easy Readers Spanish	0.0%	18
Antigo Young Adult Nonfiction	0.0%	13
Antigo Juvenile Fiction Spanish	0.0%	12
Antigo Young Adult	0.0%	12
Antigo Juvenile Board Games	0.0%	9
Antigo Adult Media Player Audio Fiction	0.0%	7
Antigo Adult Parenting Resources	0.0%	7
Antigo Adult Video Games	0.0%	7
Antigo Adult Nonfiction Spanish	0.0%	6
Antigo Juvenile Picture Books Spanish	0.0%	6
Antigo Adult Fiction Paperback Mystery	0.0%	5
Antigo Juvenile Braille	0.0%	5
Antigo Young Adult Nonfiction New	0.0%	5
Antigo Adult Fiction Paperback Light Romance	0.0%	3
Antigo Adult Fiction Spanish	0.0%	3
Antigo Adult Nonfiction Large Print New	0.0%	3
Antigo Adult Fiction Paperback Western	0.0%	2
Antigo Adult Nonfiction Wisconsin	0.0%	2
Antigo Juvenile Nonfiction Easy Readers Spanish	0.0%	2
Antigo Juvenile Nonfiction Spanish	0.0%	2
Antigo Young Adult Spanish	0.0%	2
Antigo Adult Fiction Paperback Science Fiction	0.0%	1
Antigo Young Adult Display	0.0%	1

Antigo Young Adult Fiction Graphic Novels	0.0%	1
TOTAL	100.0%	53,488

# Circulation (Checkout) Statistics

Antigo



# CIRCULATION (CHECKOUT) STATISTICS

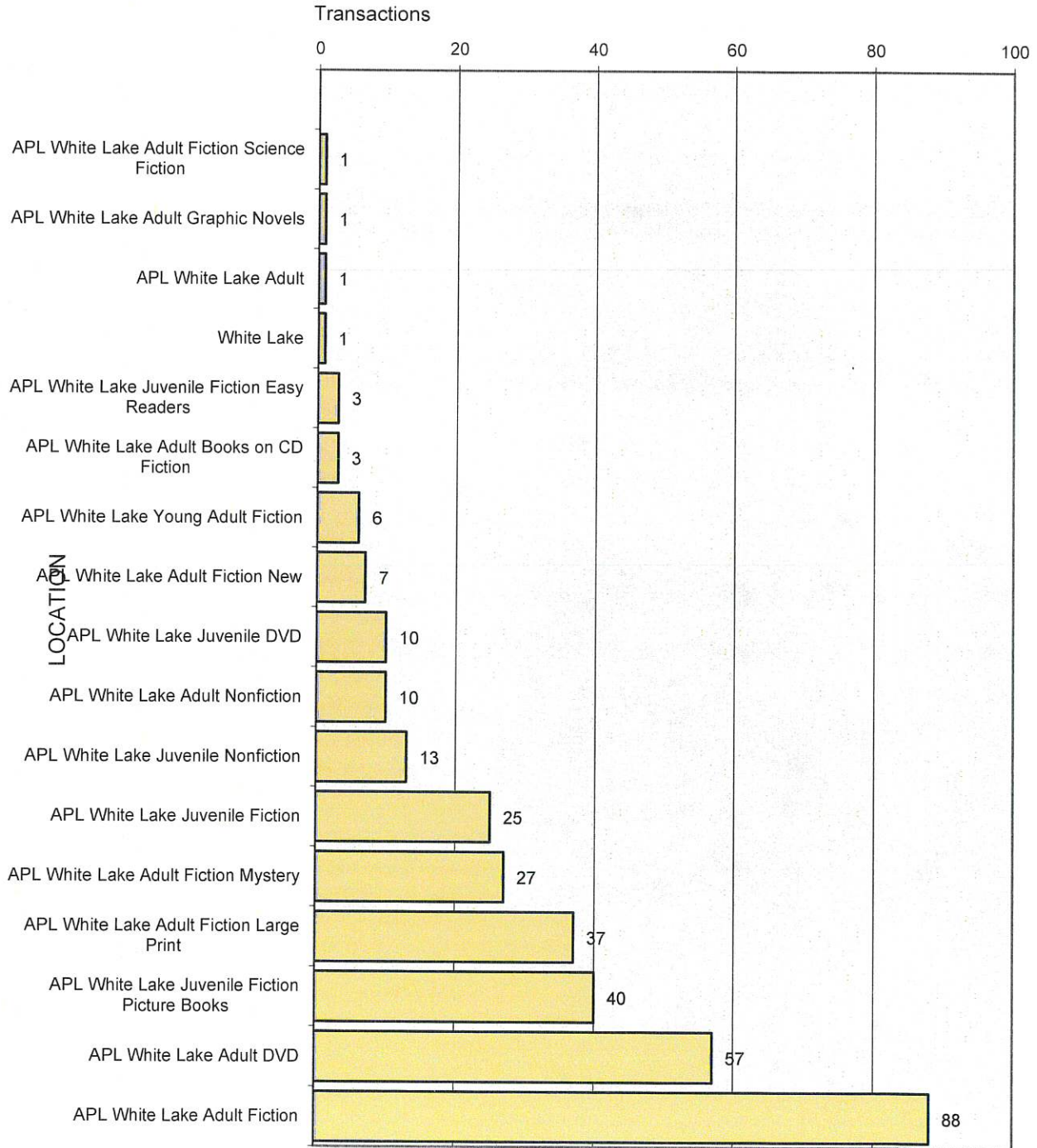
White Lake

Jan 25-Dec 25

LOCATION	PERCENT	QTY
APL White Lake Adult Fiction	26.7%	88
APL White Lake Adult DVD	17.3%	57
APL White Lake Juvenile Fiction Picture Books	12.1%	40
APL White Lake Adult Fiction Large Print	11.2%	37
APL White Lake Adult Fiction Mystery	8.2%	27
APL White Lake Juvenile Fiction	7.6%	25
APL White Lake Juvenile Nonfiction	3.9%	13
APL White Lake Adult Nonfiction	3.0%	10
APL White Lake Juvenile DVD	3.0%	10
APL White Lake Adult Fiction New	2.1%	7
APL White Lake Young Adult Fiction	1.8%	6
APL White Lake Adult Books on CD Fiction	0.9%	3
APL White Lake Juvenile Fiction Easy Readers	0.9%	3
White Lake	0.3%	1
APL White Lake Adult	0.3%	1
APL White Lake Adult Graphic Novels	0.3%	1
APL White Lake Adult Fiction Science Fiction	0.3%	1
TOTAL	100.0%	330

# Circulation (Checkout) Statistics

White Lake



January 2026



# Monthly Report

## Elizabeth Simek – Catalog + Circulation Specialist



For Large Print Books note circulation trends noticed, new books in, how often shelf reading is needed based on patron activity in the section. For Tech Wednesday @ Senior Center – how many patrons participated, and a brief synopsis of the help required. Purchasing – how much was ordered by type/genre; how much was spent for month; where purchases were made + factors contributing to that decision; any trends/issues/things of note related to purchasing you wish to share. Cataloging – how many items you cataloged in the following categories: adult books, children’s books, adult DVD, children’s DVD, audiobooks. How many items required a marc alert vs. attaching to existing record. Special Programming – any events that you facilitated or participated in. What the even was – brief description + the number of patrons that participated. What worked. What could be improved for the next time. For personal reflections write a summary of a positive experience with a patron or another staff member where you excelled. A summary of an experience that highlighted a growth opportunity for you. A summary of any scheduled or attended training you participated in.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Print	Patrons are telling me how glad they are that we now have more of Freida McFadden books in large print.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tech Wednesday @ Senior Center	The number of people I am seeing at the Senior Center has gone up since the holidays have ended and new tech gifts were given for Christmas. So far this month I have worked with 9 different people.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchasing	The pre orders I made in December for upcoming January and February books by popular authors have finally started to come in so I haven’t had to purchase any books this month yet but I plan to put in some orders next week.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron Request Purchases	So far this year we have had 5 purchase requests 2 of those are titles that we have already ordered and are in processing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cataloging	103 books were cataloged in the past month. 66 of those books already had an existing record in Sierra, 3 of them had partial records in Sierra but needed to be overlayed with a complete record, and 34 of them needed to have a record created or a complete record pulled in from Z39.50. 37 of the 103 books cataloged were adult books and 66 were children’s books.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooperative Circulation Committee Updates	There was no meeting this month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training	Our staff training day is Monday, January 19, 2026.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Programming	We had no special programming this month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Reflections	I helped someone get back into their laptop after they were locked out. I was able to recover their primary user account and their files they were told they lost. She was very happy with the help I gave her. What she appreciated the most was how I explained the steps I was taking to her in terms she could understand and that I didn’t just create a new user account and tell her that her files

		were lost, which is what she said the computer person she paid to do this did. This made me feel really good about the work I do and myself.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book/Movie Recommendations	I watched a series new to Netflix called Moonhaven. It is a Syfy/fantasy show about a human colony on the moon with an AI called AO to build new technologies to help the people of earth after the earth's atmosphere turns toxic and the natural resources have been depleted and can no longer sustain life. The "Mooners" have lived in peace with not crime until the AO representative and creator come to the moon with an "Earther" shuttle pilot and bodyguard on the eve of the first wave of "Mooners" return to earth. I reread one of my favorite books of all time since I was a little kid. The merry adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle I received as a gift this past Christmas.

Report due to the director by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Print a copy and place it in mailbox. Email a copy to [epilecky@antigopl.org](mailto:epilecky@antigopl.org) for record keeping.

December 2025



# Monthly Report

## Elizabeth Simek – Catalog + Circulation Specialist



For Large Print Books note circulation trends noticed, new books in, how often shelf reading is needed based on patron activity in the section. For Tech Wednesday @ Senior Center – how many patrons participated, and a brief synopsis of the help required. Purchasing – how much was ordered by type/genre; how much was spent for month; where purchases were made + factors contributing to that decision; any trends/issues/things of note related to purchasing you wish to share. Cataloging – how many items you cataloged in the following categories: adult books, children’s books, adult DVD, children’s DVD, audiobooks. How many items required a marc alert vs. attaching to existing record. Special Programming – any events that you facilitated or participated in. What the even was – brief description + the number of patrons that participated. What worked. What could be improved for the next time. For personal reflections write a summary of a positive experience with a patron or another staff member where you excelled. A summary of an experience that highlighted a growth opportunity for you. A summary of any scheduled or attended training you participated in.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Print	I filled Danielle Steel holes in the large print collections that were deleted but still getting requests for.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tech Wednesday @ Senior Center	Most of the month of December was slow at the Senior Center. With the holiday season and weather fewer people have been coming in. Also, the senior center went all out for Christmas with 7 trees of varying sizes all decorated with different themes. It looks great.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchasing	We stopped ordering the week of Christmas for the year. I did preorder the newest James Patterson, J.D. Robb, Danielle Steel, and Nora Roberts books that are set to be released within the first two weeks of January.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron Request Purchases	This year we had 75 patron requests completed. 8 patron requests we could not get but were able to get 1 of them through ILL and 5 of them we were able to request from other libraries in our system. There are only 12 open patron requests left for this year that are for items that are not yet published.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cataloging	I had an odd book issue while it was cataloging. I was working with a children’s picture book <i>Nisha’s just-right Christmas tree</i> by Susan Lynn Meyer and Jaya Metha. The record in Sierra had the lead author as Metha however, according to the physical book the lead author is Meyer. I called the Medford library to talk to the person who created the record to see why she listed the authors the way she did in the record. She called me back the next week to let me know that she had made a mistake and overlaid the existing record with the correct one. 86 items with existing records, 2 items with existing records that needed to be overlaid, and 31 items that needed marc alerts were cataloged this month. 34 of those items were adult items and 82 were children’s items.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooperative Circulation Committee Updates	I missed the November CCC meeting.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training	I did not have any official training this month. I did “play around” with the create list function of Sierra to learn how to make more specific queries. For example, when running weeding lists, I can write a query for items in a specific location that have 5 circulations or less or a query for items with a create date older than January 01, 2015, instead of writing a query for the whole location

		then exporting it to a spread sheet to order and printing odd only the sections I need or was asked for.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Programming	On the 27 <sup>th</sup> of December the library hosted a gingerbread house competition.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Reflections	I have to remind myself to talk louder when working with people, especially at the senior center who are hard of hearing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book/Movie Recommendations	My movie recommendation for this month is Die Hard it is my Favorite Christmas movie. I watch it every year with a big bowl of popcorn that has too much butter. and Thor Dog of Thunder Simek. It isn't Christmas until John McClean says "yippee-Ki-Yay" and yells "HOLLY!!!!"

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# Monthly Report

## Amber Sweet – White Lake Access Services Coordinator

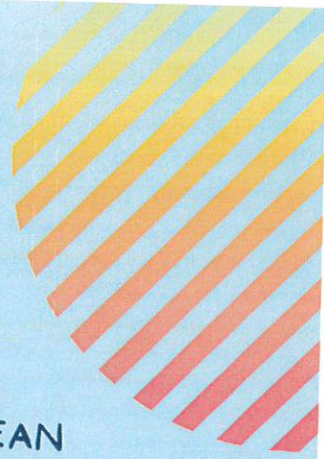


For each of the sections below note circulation trends noticed, new books in, how often shelf reading is needed based on patron activity in the section...observations made as you check-in items and shelve. For Play Cafe – how many patrons attended per event; books + skills covered. For Story Time – how many patrons attended per week; books + activities covered. For Antigo Child Care Center and Head Start – total participation per location each week. Note any changes that you make in serving the groups outside of the library setting. For Artful Tales – total participation each week; books + art activities covered. Smart Group – participation + skills covered. For Boys & Girls Club – total participation in each event + topics/activities covered. For White Lake Book Mobile Deliveries – total number of patrons served + total number of books delivered. For White Lake After School Programming – total number of students attending + activities covered. White Lake Storytime 4k + 5K – total number of students + books read. Special Programming – any events that you facilitated. What the even was – brief description + the number of patrons that participated. What worked. What could be improved for the next time. For personal reflections write a summary of a positive experience with a patron or another staff member where you excelled. A summary of an experience that highlighted a growth opportunity for you.

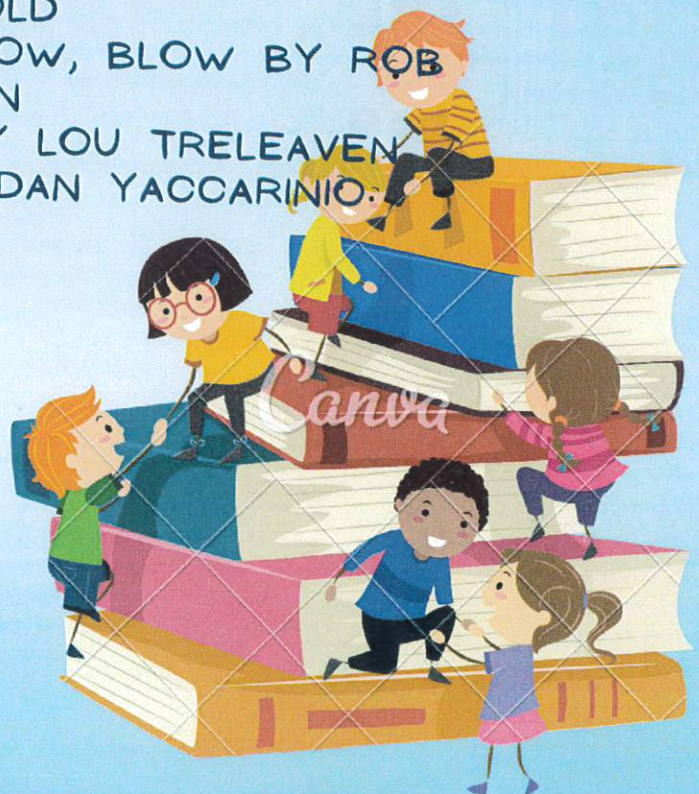
		12/22-1/16
<input type="checkbox"/>	Children’s Books	Themes: Imagination, Fairy Tales, Winter/Snow/Ice/Penguins, Gardens, Trees, Dragons
<input type="checkbox"/>	Play Cafe	30 participants for the month. Made crowns, built castles, play doh process art station, play logs, made toilet paper roll dragon. ELT- singing/phonological awareness, playing/talking, fine motor skills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Story Time	10 participants for the month. Don’t break the Ice game, play/talk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Antigo Child Care Center	8 kids for the month. Hello/Goodbye song with sign language. Sang jingle bells while jingling bells. Missed a few of these programs due to weather/Christmas break.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Head Start	30 kids for the month. Hello song with sign language. Explain to children what we will be doing and expectations. Winter action cards, interactive book.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Artful Tales w/AVA	6 participants for the month. Snow theme, Winter. Made snowmen, snowflakes, did indoor chalk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Programming	I’m continuing outreach/homebound patron services. I have approximately 10 locations I deliver and pick up to. Some of the locations I serve multiple patrons. I make calls every Tuesday and deliver/pick up on Fridays, unless there are special circumstances I will make time on other days.
<input type="checkbox"/>	White Lake After-School Programming	40 attendances at the afterschool program in the past month. Projects we did include: STEM games (Space Cows, Physics Builder, Multiplication, started a new book “The Secret Garden,” discuss the cover art and make guesses about the book, went over expectations and guidelines for book club for new members, take n make snowman canvas, pirate day- pirate hat, eye patch, ship rat, walk the plank, build a fort, Brain Game, collage of our own secret garden, discuss first 50 pages. Starting 1/20 will be adding Life Skills Camp to the weekly rotation. Collaborating with Cub Scouts beginning Monday 1/26, every other Monday.

☐	White Lake Storytime 4k + 5K	0 kids for the month.
☐	Training	PBS Cohort
☐	Personal Reflections	The past month has really been tough. I'm struggling with medication issues, the holidays/school closures throwing off my schedule/routine, inclement weather, falling/injuring myself, and have been fighting a cold. I don't feel great about my work for this monthly report. However, I keep working at everything with devotion and reverence and give myself grace for this "season." I have still had positive experiences & continued learning and growing.
☐	Book/Movie Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interstellar Cinderella- Deborah Underwood, If....- Sarah Perry, How Do I Wonder- Gianni Davy, Fly Blanky Fly- Anne Margaret Lewis, The Making Of Butterflies- Zora Neale Hurston, The Great Race- Renee Melendez, Little Penguins New Friend- Tadgh Bentley, Baby Penguins Everywhere- Melissa Guion, The Jacket I Wear In The Snow- Shirley Neitzel, The Great Big Green- Peggy Gifford, In The Tall Tall Grass- Denise Fleming, Poison Garden- Christy Mandin, In Mary's Garden- Tina &amp; Carson Kugler, In The Jungle- Jayne Schofield, Garden Time- Jill McDonald, Eating The Alphabet- Lois Ehlert, TREE- Britta Teckentrup, A Tree Is A Home- Pamela Hickman, So Much Snow- Kristen Schroeder, A Polar Bear In The Snow- Mac Barnett, I'm Scared!- Jennifer L Holm, SNOW!- Uri Shulevitz, A Dignity Of Dragons- Jacqueline K Ogburn, The Boy From Dragon Palace- Margaret Read MacDonald, The Handy Dragon- Joy Cowley</li> </ul>

# CHILDREN'S BOOK ADVISORY:



- SNOW GLOBE WISHES BY ERIN DEALEY
- NO TWO ALIKE BY KEITH BAKER
- WINTER IS HERE BY KEVIN HENKES
- PETE THE CAT SAVES CHRISTMAS BY JAMES DEAN
- BEAR STAYS UP FOR CHRISTMAS BY KARMA WILSON
- LITTLE BLUE TRUCK BY ALICE SCHERTLE
- WHAT A DOG WANTS FOR CHRISTMAS BY KANDY RADZINKSI
- 10 CHRISTMAS WISHES BY FREEDMAN YERRIL
- DASHER CAN'T WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS BY MATT TAVARES
- BAD KITTY CHRISTMAS BY NICK BRUEL
- DOES SANTA GO DOWN THE CHIMNEY? BY MAC BARNETT
- COUNTING WINTER BY NANCY WHITE CARLSTROM
- THE SNOWY DAY BY EZRA JACK KEATS
- HOW TO CATCH A SANTA CLAUS BY ALICE WALSTEAD
- FLY GUY'S NINJA CHRISTMAS BY TED ARNOLD
- SPLAT THE CAT BLOW, SNOW, BLOW BY ROB SCOTTON
- BELIEVE IN YOUR ELF BY LOU TRELEAVEN
- FIVE LITTLE ELVES BY DAN YACCARINIO





# Monthly Report

## Amber Sweet – White Lake Access Services Coordinator



For each of the sections below note circulation trends noticed, new books in, how often shelf reading is needed based on patron activity in the section...observations made as you check-in items and shelve. For Play Cafe – how many patrons attended per event; books + skills covered. For Story Time – how many patrons attended per week; books + activities covered. For Antigo Child Care Center and Head Start – total participation per location each week. Note any changes that you make in serving the groups outside of the library setting. For Artful Tales – total participation each week; books + art activities covered. Smart Group – participation + skills covered. For Boys & Girls Club – total participation in each event + topics/activities covered. For White Lake Book Mobile Deliveries – total number of patrons served + total number of books delivered. For White Lake After School Programming – total number of students attending + activities covered. White Lake Storytime 4k + 5K – total number of students + books read. Special Programming – any events that you facilitated. What the even was – brief description + the number of patrons that participated. What worked. What could be improved for the next time. For personal reflections write a summary of a positive experience with a patron or another staff member where you excelled. A summary of an experience that highlighted a growth opportunity for you.

		11/24-12/19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Children's Books	Themes: Thanksgiving, Gratefulness, Emotions, Manners, Snow, Christmas (Santa, elves, gingerbread men, jingle bells, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Play Cafe	36 participants for the month. Thanksgiving, Christmas, made ornaments, shapes project, described how shapes form the foundation for letter recognition, played Christmas music, used educational toys.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Story Time	17 participants for the month. Way down from last month but had some new young faces so I took time getting to know them by doing puzzles, playing with educational toys, discussing schedule with parents. Focus was less on reading due to ages and getting familiarized but we still incorporated books as well as modeling early lit tips such as talking and playing. Showed how shapes look like letters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Antigo Child Care Center	24 kids for the month. Hello/Goodbye song with sign language. Thanksgiving, gratefulness, emotions, Christmas, made gingerbread man plush ornaments, demonstrated using shapes to make Christmas themed pictures and then had the children make a wishlist based on this skill.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Head Start	65 kids for the month. Hello song with sign language. Explain to children what we will be doing and expectations. Christmas themed actions before reading, Snow/Christmas themed stories, sang jingle bells while jingling bells. Did the same for both visits this month. Worked well as another classroom has been added to my visits. Goodbye song with signing.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Artful Tales w/AVA	6 participants for the month. Snow theme, Christmas, Winter. Made paper stockings, painted, made a Christmas tree with embellishments, sang jingle bells.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Programming	I'm continuing outreach/homebound patron services. I have approximately 10 locations I deliver and pick up to. Some of the locations I serve multiple patrons. I make calls every Tuesday and deliver/pick up on Fridays, unless there are special circumstances I will make time on other days.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>White Lake After-School Programming</b>	50 attendances at the afterschool program in the past month. Projects we did include: toilet paper tube retro "candles," Minute of Fun Challenges, Legos, Story Mapping/Book discussions, painted rocks for Patsy's nature path, made tiny wreath ornaments, did karaoke, engineering projects, new book <i>Winging It</i> , made friendship bracelets, pinecone ornaments, made t-shirt shopping bags, made deer calls out of jenga blocks and rubber bands.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>White Lake Storytime 4k + 5K</b>	12 kids for the month. Christmas theme, played Santa Says, did a color by number, and drew pictures of what they wanted most for Christmas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Training</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Personal Reflections</b>	I'm still working on my note taking, being more organized with my record keeping, and incorporating early lit tips in a more effective way. I've been fostering more independence and embodied capability with kids. Letting go of perfection and outcomes to allow children their own process according to their developmental needs. I've been working to model persistence and growth mindset to be just as rewarding as accomplishment. I'm seeking more input from collaborations and from kids in the afterschool program. I've learned also to implement more questions to engage with kids and have them thinking before telling them my point. Using a story map worksheet with the book club generated really fun, in-depth conversations about the book. We got to see a lot of perspectives, interpretations, and dive into thought processes in an enlightening way. Karen from Headstart commented on my "dedication" as I always leave from there sweating. A parent stated that her daughter woke up in the morning saying she "needed to go see Ms. Amber today." I always feel fulfilled working with the children and continue to show up every day full of gratitude and purpose.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Book/Movie Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snow Globe Wishes by Erin Dealey, No Two Alike by Keith Baker, Winter Is Here by Kevin Henkes, Pete The Cat Saves Christmas by James Dean, Bear Stays Up For Christmas by Karma Wilson, Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle, What A Dog Wants For Christmas by Kandy Radzinski, 10 Christmas Wishes by Freedman Yerril, Dasher Can't Wait For Christmas by Matt Tavares, Bad Kitty Christmas by Nick Bruel, Does Santa Go Down The Chimney? By Mac Barnett, Counting Winter by Nancy White Carlstrom, The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats, How To Catch A Santa Claus by Alice Walstead, Fly Guy's Ninja Christmas by Ted Arnold, Splat The Cat Blow Snow Blow by Rob Scotton, Believe In Your Elf by Lou Treleaven, Five Little Elves by Dan Yaccarino</li> </ul>

# READER ADVISORY:

• Interstellar Cinderella- Deborah Underwood

• , If....- Sarah Perry

• How Do I Wonder- Giann Davy

• Fly Blanky Fly- Anne Margaret Lewis

• The Making Of Butterflies- Zora Neale Hurston

• The Great Race- Renee Melendez

• Little Penguins New Friend- Tadgh Bentley

• Baby Penguins Everywhere- Melissa Guion

• \* The Jacket I Wear In The Snow- Shirley Neitzel

• \* The Great Big Green- Peggy Gifford

• \* In The Tall Tall Grass- Denise Fleming

• Poison Garden- Christy Mandin

• In Mary's Garden- Tina & Carson Kugler

• In The Jungle- Jayne Schofield

• Garden Time- Jill McDonald

• Eating The Alphabet- Lois Ehlert

• TREE- Britta Teckentrup

• A Tree Is A Home- Pamela Hickman

• So Much Snow- Kristen Schroeder

• A Polar Bear In The Snow- Mac Barnett

• I'm Scared!- Jennifer L Holm

• SNOW!- Uri Shulevitz

• A Dignity Of Dragons- Jacqueline K Ogburn

• The Boy From Dragon Palace- Margaret Read MacDonald

• The Handy Dragon- Joy Cowley





# Monthly Report

## Desiree Ashby - Ill Specialist + Front Desk Clerk



For each of the sections below note circulation trends noticed, new books in, how often shelf reading is needed based on patron activity in the section. For ILL – how many requests came into APL from other institutions and were processed for the month. How many APL patrons made ILL requests that we were able to fill. For Courier – how many bins came in for the month. How many went out. For Writer’s Group – how many patrons participated and a brief synopsis of the topic covered for the month. APL Book Club – the book discussed for the month + the number of patrons that participated. For General Book Club updates – the number of book clubs currently requesting books. Total number of patrons (based on books requested) participating in all book clubs. Special Programming – any events that you facilitated. What the even was – brief description + the number of patrons that participated. What worked. What could be improved for the next time. For personal reflections write a brief summary of a positive experience with a patron or another staff member where you excelled. A brief summary of an experience that highlighted a growth opportunity for you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Young Adult	The young adult section has been fully sorted and relabeled. Only have to worry is a few stragglers now.
<input type="checkbox"/>	ILL	As of right now, 12 books requests have been fulfilled for this month.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Courier	As of right now, 32 bins have been picked up from us, and 43 bins have been dropped off to us.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Writer’s Group	If you include me, 3 members in total have shown up this month. We did a workshop for the first half of the meeting, then did a writing exercise exploring different genres we were not familiar with.
<input type="checkbox"/>	APL Book Club	If you include me, 5 members attended this month’s meeting. We went over <i>Let us Descend</i> by Jesmyn Ward. Most of the members didn’t really like the book, stating it was confusing to follow and had a hard time reading the graphic scenes of the book.
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Book Club Updates	So far Elcho (14 members), Senior (4 members), BB’s (10 members) Mattmiller (6 Members), and Polar (4 Members) have been consistently contacting me on what books they want for this month. Wine and Chocolates (10 members) made still made no contact with me about next month’s book yet. I will follow up with them shortly.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Programming	This month’s art club was unsuccessful, no one showed up.
<input type="checkbox"/>	D&D Club	Meeting was unsuccessful, no one showed up. Thinking about changing it to a board game club, so that it can appeal to more people.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training	Catalog training two was very informative, learned about how to make new records now in sierra. Elizabeth will go more in detail with once I am finish collecting the graphic novels she wants to work on.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Reflections	Been communicating more with Tabitha and I feel like we on the same page while working together. Planning to keep each other updated and help each other out so we can get the most work done as possible.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Book/Movie Recommendations	The Poppy War by R.F. Kuang ( A Chinese dark academia story centered around the opium epidemic in ancient China, while a civil war is happening with the gods manipulating everything behind the scenes.)
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Report due to the director by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Print a copy and place it in mailbox. Email a copy to [epilecky@antigopl.org](mailto:epilecky@antigopl.org) for record keeping.



# Monthly Report

## Seth Koch – Circulation Specialist



For each of the sections below note circulation trends noticed, new books in, how often shelf reading is needed based on patron activity in the section. For Tech appointments – the number served in the month & some of the types of issues support help was needed with. For Training – a summary of any scheduled or attended training you participated in. For Special Programming – any events that you facilitated or participated in. What the event was – brief description – the number of patrons that participated. What worked. What could be improved for the next time. For personal reflections write a summary of a positive experience with a patron or another staff member where you excelled. A summary of an experience that highlighted a growth opportunity for you. Write a summary of any training that you participated in or have scheduled to participate in.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Games + Puzzles	Puzzles are staying sorted and I am adding any colored stickers to puzzles that are returned without them. I have noticed that the puzzles with more snowlike themes are being checked out right now.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Westerns & Paperbacks	I have not shelf read the paperback or western shelf this month but I have noticed the books have been checked out a lot more recently probably so people have something to do during the cold.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Mystery	I have not been able to shelf read the mystery section this month. But We did finish reorganizing the section and now it is able to have more space and have more displays.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Media	I did reorganize the juvenile Audio books this month and add a shelf to it to give it more space. Also some more older movies have been checked out recently I have noticed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tech Appointments	I have done 2 Tech appointments this month With Craig Bruno. He was having troubles using his chrome book so showed him how to use it and helped creating a easy way for him to understand everything.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Programming	Bookmobile is Going Well, We did shrink the collection down to 40 books when it was around 120 books before to give a easier time on swapping out the collection, we are now also swapping out the collection every 2 weeks instead of each month to give the patrons more a variety still. We have also added white to bookmobile, and I already have some delivery locations in white lake to deliver to.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Reflections	I have done a decent amount this month with us making white lake a free library and adding it to bookmobile I have cleaned up 2 of the Elcho children's shelves and the dvd shelf I also have converted a bunch of books to be part of the free library.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book/Movie Recommendations	I Recent read the entire Series Of Amulet, Amazing series, I read some of it as a kid and loved it and just want to read the entire thing this time. I also watched lone survivor recently too, a very touching move I enjoyed it.

Report due to the director by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Print a copy and place it in mailbox. Email a copy to [epilecky@antigopl.org](mailto:epilecky@antigopl.org) for record keeping.



# Monthly Report

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Games + Puzzles	Puzzles are staying sorted and I am adding any colored stickers to puzzles that are returned with out them. I also converted a good few puzzles to white lake free library.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Westerns & Paperbacks	I have fully reorganized the paper section to give more space so that we could fit all the paperbacks from Elcho onto the shelves, and I got all the Elcho paperbacks cleaned up. And I have seen a lot more westerns be checked out this month than usual.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Mystery	The Mystery Section is being reorganized still to make it so its no longer crowded as we may have not enough space for them all but we are figuring it out. I have also seen a trend of more Christmas themed mysteries be checked out.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Media	I Did not shelf read or do anything with this section this month, but I did notice a trend of Christmas movies being checked out more often.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tech Appointments	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training	I did some training with Katie about bookmobile on 12/17/2025 and am glad to say I cant wait to start doing deliveries to white lake and pickerel.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Programming	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Reflections	I Have Done A lot In the past month as I am almost done with all the books from elcho and hope to be done by the end of the year as I only got 4 shelves of kids books left and a shelf of dvds, its just getting them on the shelves themselves that is taking a bit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book/Movie Recommendations	I Finished The Librarian of Saint-Malo It Was A really good book I would highly recommend it if you like historical fiction. Iv been only really watching tv though recently so I don't have movies to recommend this month.

Report due to the director by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month. Print a copy and place it in mailbox. Email a copy to [epilecky@antigopl.org](mailto:epilecky@antigopl.org) for record keeping.

# PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

# Update

JANUARY 2026



**WISCONSIN VALLEY LIBRARY SERVICE**



# ADMINISTRATION

## **NEW YEAR, NEW INTENTIONS: WRITE NOTES OF APPRECIATION FOR YOUR TEAM**

Celebrating your team members, can be a powerful, generous, and motivating gesture. Try writing a card or email that goes beyond a simple thank-you note.

To write an impactful note of appreciation, focus on your employees' strengths. Start by highlighting a specific characteristic that you admire about them. Then, explain why you value that attribute, and provide a real-world example of how it positively impacted the team.

For example, you might write: "I value your ability to creatively solve problems, turning challenges into opportunities for growth. This ability routinely helps our team unlock innovative ideas. For example, you found an opportunity to create an entirely new product when our subscription numbers were down."

Notes like these will help your team members see their own abilities through your eyes. They also focus your employees' attention on what's going well and signal to them that they really matter.

*Harvard Business Review: The Management Tip of the Day*





# ADMINISTRATION

## WVLS DIRECTOR CONNECT

**Beth Tomev, DPI's Director of Library Development and former television news producer**, will join us (January 29, 9-11 a.m.) to provide practical techniques for staying composed, on message, and credible, during interviews, media pitches, and public messaging, strengthening public trust and protecting your library's reputation.

The remainder of the meeting will be open discussion time for directors to share ideas and ask questions.



[Join the January 29 Zoom discussion.](#)

Bookmark [the 2026 meeting notes.](#)

## USAGE TRACKING: 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

With the start of the new year comes refreshed tracking for the **2026 Annual Report**. Tracking **library visits** and **reference questions** is an important part of annual reporting. WVLS will send reminders to libraries participating in periodic tracking; if you are not part of that process, please be sure you have a local method in place to track usage. See **Defining Reference Transactions** for what constitutes a reference transaction.

If you are not already using the **Program and Activity Count Tracker**, WVLS strongly recommends downloading a copy to make tracking easier. DPI provides additional resources to help you understand what is and is not a program or activity. See **Defining** and **Categorizing** for more information.

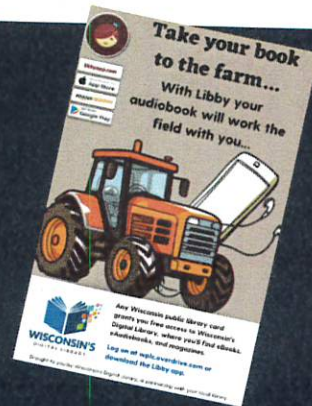
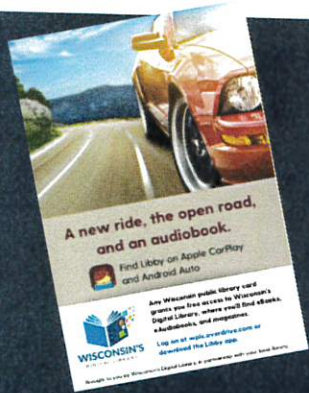
New in 2026: the **Meeting Spaces and Usage Tracker**. These questions are optional in 2026, but will become required in 2027.



# ADULT SERVICES

## PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR WISCONSIN LIBRARIES

Did you know that you can order printed promotional materials for Wisconsin Digital Library through the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC)? The WPLC offers flyers and posters to be hung around your community to share the convenience of the Wisconsin Digital Library. See examples and order online.



## PRIVACY AND AI

AI tools can be a huge time-saver—but they can also put privacy at risk. This quick read offers practical tips to help you protect your own data and guide patrons when using AI. PCWorld, November 25, 2025

**CONFIDENTIAL**





# ADVOCACY



## MAKING A CASE FOR SUPPORT

Struggling to clearly tell your organization's story to funders and donors? A strong case for support can make all the difference. More than a fundraising document, it's the core narrative that explains why your organization exists, the needs you address, and the impact you make, fueling grant applications, donor outreach, marketing, and community engagement.

Consultants for Libraries shared a free walk through of their **Ready, Set, Go Case Statement Development Program** developed by Brianna Pyka, Cassandra O'Neill, and Tracey McConnell. This webinar offers expert guidance with practical, hands-on strategies to help you build a compelling case that resonates with funders. Whether you're starting from scratch or refining an existing statement, this recording offers clear takeaways you can put to work right away.

Beyond the recording, Consultants for Libraries also shared additional resources to help you build your Case for Support.



# COLLECTIONS & RA

## LIBRARY JOURNAL PREPUBS FOR 2026

Planning for 2026 collection development? Library Journal's Prepub Alert offers monthly lists of upcoming releases—covering fiction and nonfiction across a wide range of genres—with lists currently available through June 2026. Library Journal offers a great way to spot high-demand titles early and stay ahead of patron requests.

## STARRED REVIEWS

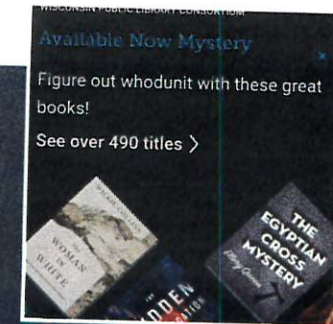
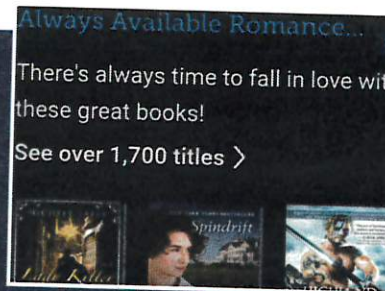
For a list of the past month's starred reviews visit: December 2025 Starred Reviews.

## WPLC ALWAYS AVAILABLE COLLECTIONS

Did you know that the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) has over 1,700 Always Available Romance Reads in their digital library collection?

And now the WPLC has added almost 500 titles to their Available Now Mystery collection.

These titles are available with instant access and no holds to Wisconsin card holders. Patrons can scroll through these offerings on the Libby app homepage.





# CONFERENCE CALL-OUT

## WILD WISCONSIN WINTER WEB CONFERENCE

Don't miss this winter's biggest online professional development event! Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference returns January 21–22 and registration is now open! Choose from four tracks—Collection Development, Management, Programming, and Smorgasbord (a mix of sessions for all library workers)—with 14 sessions offered across the two days. Plus, each webinar counts as 1 contact hour toward public library director certification.

Register now for this free event!



## WAPL CONFERENCE: CALL FOR SESSIONS

Plans are underway for the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries (WAPL) Spring Conference, happening April 27–29 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. This year's theme, Library as Test Kitchen, celebrates innovation and creative problem-solving. Consider presenting by submitting a break out session proposal. Proposals are due by midnight on Friday, January 30.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the PLA Conference, April 1–3 in Minneapolis, MN. PLA brings together thousands of library workers, advocates, and vendors for three days of learning and connection. Attendees can choose from 100+ educational sessions, inspiring speakers, bestselling authors, networking, and a large exhibits hall featuring the latest library products and solutions. Whether you're new to the field or a seasoned professional, PLA 2026 offers something for everyone.



# GAMING & LEARNING

## GAMERT PLATYS CLASS OF 2025

The American Library Association's Games and Gaming Round Table is proud to announce its 2025 Platinum Plays—a collection of classic games that are especially well-suited for library programs and collections. This new awards category highlights standout titles that work well across many types of library settings, offering strong options for both collection development and programming inspiration.

Platinum Plays are nominated by librarians and selected by a team from the Games and Gaming Round Table, with new titles added annually.

### Board and Card Games

- Cascadia (2021)
- Votes for Women (2022)

### Tabletop Role-Playing Games

- No Thank you Evil! (2016)
- Sodalitas (2021)



**GAMES &  
GAMING**  
ROUND TABLE

Also recognized as 2026 Platinum Play Classics are Clue, Jenga, Pokémon, Magic: The Gathering, Apocalypse World, Call of Cthulhu, Mario Kart 8, and Tony Hawk's Pro Skater.



# GRANTS & AWARDS

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## **LIBRARIES TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT GRANT**

The Libraries Transform Communities (LTC) Engagement Grant is now accepting applications for the 2025–2026 cycle. This annual \$2,000 grant supports innovative and meaningful community engagement projects at two libraries and helps elevate efforts that strengthen local connections.

This year's theme is "Libraries as a Lifeline: Building Belonging for All," and libraries are encouraged to propose projects that foster inclusion, connection, and community support.

[Learn more and apply](#) by February 2.

## **PROGRAMMING GRANT**

The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant recognizes, promotes, and supports meaningful programs in libraries that have limited or no access to budgetary support for programming.

The grant, named after the late library leader Peggy Barber, aims to help ease library budget challenges by awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort.

Each year, the grant focuses on supporting a specific type of library programming. For the 2025–2026 cycle, libraries can submit applications to support programming related to strengthening community ties through libraries as third spaces. Applications for the 2025–2026 cycle are open through Feb. 2, 2026. [Learn more and apply](#).



# GRANT WRITING

## CREATE OUTCOMES THAT WIN GRANTS

Here is how to create stand-out outcomes that win grants:

- Be specific. "Improve community health" is a worthy goal, but "increasing the number of residents accessing free health screenings by 25% within 12 months" is measurable and memorable.
- Focus on change, not the activity. It isn't so much about how many of something you did, but more about what changed as a result.
- Align with the funder's priorities. Funders want to see outcomes that align with their funding goals. Mirror their language in your outcomes.
- Show how you will measure success. A clear data-collection plan builds confidence that you can deliver on your promises. Bonus points if you can name and talk about the data collection platform/software.

When your outcomes are clear, measurable, and aligned, grant funders don't have to guess about your impact. Numbers tell the story, but meaning gives them power. Combine both in your outcomes, and your proposal will stand out for the right reasons.

From Write Epic Grants #388



# INCLUSIVE SERVICES

## LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE

Inclusive policies help create inclusive libraries. Clear, plain language ensures policies are easily understood by a broad audience, while thoughtful policy design supports a welcoming environment. This Update explores considerations and best practices for reviewing and updating library policies through an inclusivity lens. The following examples are shared from the library accessibility questionnaire featured in Ensuring Inclusivity, from Library Leadership & Management (v. 38 no. 4). This guide offers questions to consider for your library inclusivity work.

**Note:** Not all items may be relevant for your library and some may be outside of your control. These questions are intended as a starting point for library staff and boards to consider.

Do your policies address the following concerns in a way that is fair and inclusive for all?

- Sound
- Service animals
- Emotional support animals
- Food and beverage
- Allergen/Scent/Body Odor
- Home delivery
- Collection development
- Proxy borrower's options

Be sure each policy includes the last updated date and, when relevant, links to partner organizations (such as local nonprofits or accessibility services). The library should also list a clear contact person for accessibility questions, feedback, or concerns—and include a backup plan for when that person is unavailable.



# LIBRARY LOVE

## **NPR: BOOKS WE LOVE 2025**

NPR has published its Books We Love 2025 guide, featuring more than 380 staff- and critic-recommended titles released in 2025. Each selection includes a short review from the journalist who recommended it, and the list spans a wide range of publishers, genres, viewpoints, and literary styles.

The guide is interactive and easy to explore, with categories like Kids' Books and Biography & Memoir alongside fun collections such as It's All Geek to Me. Readers can also mix and match tags—like Book Club Ideas, Eye-Opening Reads, or Biography & Memoir—to filter results and find the right book for any mood or audience. Past years' lists are also available, making it a helpful year-round readers' advisory tool.

## **INSPIRATION TO MAKE YOU THINK (AND LAUGH)**

Looking for fresh ideas—and a little joy? The 2025 Urban Libraries Council Innovations Winners Showcase highlights standout library projects from across the country, featuring creative solutions, inspiring outcomes, and plenty of moments that will make you smile.

Watch the recording (11:45 min)

## **CSLP ANNUAL SLOGAN (2029) AND THEME (2030) SURVEY**

The Collaborative Summer Library Program wants your recommendations for the 2029 Slogan (for the Nature theme) and the 2030 Theme.

Complete the survey by Monday, February 2.



# MAKERSPACE

## GOPRO CAMERA

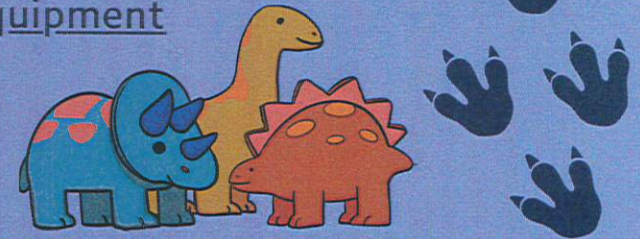
A GoPro camera can be a fun, low-cost tool for creating dynamic library content. Use it to film quick promotional videos, behind-the-scenes tours, or time-lapse setups for displays and programs, or incorporate it into a program by letting participants capture their own creative footage. Its small size and wide-angle view make it ideal for hands-on learning, storytelling, and engaging social media content.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD STORY KIT: DINOSAURS

Bring some prehistoric fun to your next storytime with this Dinosaur Storytime Kit! Packed with crowd-pleasing picture books, interactive props, and hands-on activities, it makes it easy to build an engaging program with minimal prep. Kit contents includes a variety of dinosaur-themed titles—from silly to informational—along with felt sets, activity dice, and even dinosaur “teeth” for extra wow-factor. This kit is perfect for adding movement, storytelling, and playful learning to your storytime lineup.

[Book makerspace kits and equipment](#)





# POLICY OF THE MONTH

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## **FEATURED: PUBLIC RECORDS**

Public libraries are governed by the state's Public Records Law, which requires them to maintain transparency and accountability in their operations. A public records policy outlines how libraries manage, retain, and provide access to records such as meeting minutes, financial reports, correspondence, and circulation data. This policy helps ensure that libraries respond efficiently to public records requests, maintain organized documentation, and dispose of outdated materials in compliance with legal standards.

Check out the [resource guide](#) to review how to create or update your policy to meet your library's needs.

Don't forget to check out the the Policy of the Month Club's [Policy Audit spreadsheet](#) listing the most common policies of a public library. The Policy Audit is a tool that libraries can use to comprehensively evaluate the policies it has and policies it may want to add.

Visit the [Public Library Policy Resources WISELearn Group](#) to join the conversation!

**Policy of the Month—Because Even Rules Deserve a Spotlight!**



# PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION

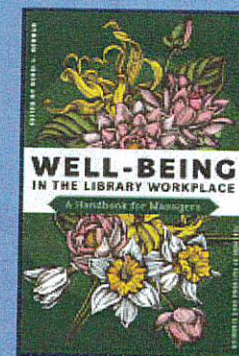
## PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION CALL-OUT

WVLS's Professional Development Collection is stocked with books to support your work in libraries! These books are reservable in the [Online Catalog](#). Send purchase suggestions to [Emily Rogers](#).

For this Update, we are featuring an item owned by a WVLS library and available through loan in the [Online Catalog](#).

Guest Title: **Well-Being in the Library Workplace: a Handbook for Managers**

This essential guide helps library managers create and sustain a supportive, productive workplace that prioritizes staff well-being—especially amid today's challenges, from budget constraints to stressful patron interactions. Newman and expert contributors offer practical, actionable strategies for setting healthy boundaries, navigating vocational awe, improving communication, addressing emotional and invisible labor, and fostering recognition, connection, and professional growth. The book also includes guidance on handling sensitive issues, supporting staff with disabilities, and preventing burnout for both employees and library leaders.





# PROGRAMMING

## BRING CULTURAL JOY AND MOVEMENT TO YOUR LIBRARY

Multicultural educator and author Ajanta Chakraborty of [Bollywood & Culture Groove](#) brings an energetic, hands-on program that blends Indian dance, storytelling, and cultural learning in a way that's fun, inclusive, and memorable for kids. With more than 15 years of experience and 500+ workshops presented for libraries, schools, and organizations—including WLA and WAPL—her programs invite children to learn cultural concepts through movement, creating lasting understanding and connection. All content is secular and non-religious, supporting a space of growth and curiosity.

## QUICK WINS FOR PASSIVE PROGRAMMING

Looking for easy, low-cost ways to boost engagement without adding more to your calendar? [WebJunction's](#) recent post, "[Quick wins to boost engagement with passive programming](#)," shares practical ideas for creating self-directed experiences that invite creativity, participation, and community connection. The article also points to additional resources for generating fresh passive programming ideas and adapting them for different audiences.

To help you take these ideas even further, VCat has copies of [The Passive Programming Playbook: 101 Ways to Get Library Customers Off the Sidelines](#), featured in this post, available for checkout. It's packed with field-tested, ready-to-try activities that can work in libraries of all sizes.

WVLS does not endorse specific performers. Performers shared are for information purposes only.



# TEEN SERVICES

## TEEN INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Registration is now open for the [2026 Teen Internship Informational Webinar](#), designed for libraries interested in participating in a paid summer internship opportunity. Selected libraries receive up to \$2,500 to support a teen intern who reflects their community and leads a Connected Learning Project, while library mentors gain experience supporting teens and exploring career pathways into librarianship.

The webinar will feature insights from past participants and cover program goals, expectations, and the application process. [Register to attend](#) the informational webinar at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 30 to learn how your library can apply for the Teen Internship Program. The program runs from June 1–August 31.

## TEEN READERS' ADVISORY MADE EASY

Check out this quick, teen-friendly way to boost readers' advisory! [Teen Librarian Toolbox](#) recently shared a fun Canva template for creating readers' advisory booklets—perfect for teens who prefer to browse independently (and great to hand to teachers, too). The post walks you through how to customize book “info boxes” with summaries, series titles, call numbers, and even QR codes that link back to the online catalog, then drop them into a polished booklet layout. [Read the article](#) for full details.





# TRUSTEE TRAINING

## **TRUSTEE TALE: TIPS FOR HIRING A PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR (PART 1)**

Hiring a new library director is one of the most important decisions a library board will make. The latest edition of Trustee Tales offers a helpful starting point. This post highlights practical first steps, including clarifying what your library truly needs, setting your board up for a strong hiring process, and thinking beyond the job description to find the right fit for your community. A great read for trustees and anyone involved in hiring or succession planning.

Stay tuned for part 2!

## **TRUSTEE ESSENTIALS: EFFECTIVE BOARD MEETINGS & TRUSTEE PARTICIPATION**

Trustee Essential 4: Board Meetings & Trustee Participation is packed with practical guidance to help boards run efficient, effective, and legally compliant meetings. It covers everything from meeting preparation and legal requirements to strong decision-making and meaningful trustee participation. You'll also find tools such as a sample meeting agenda, annual meeting calendar, and tips for ongoing trustee education.

For a video overview of this essential visit Wisconsin Library Trustee Essentials video series: 4 Effective Board Meetings and Trustee Participation (5:18).



# YOUTH SERVICES

## FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR KIDS

The [American Library Association](#) and the [FINRA Foundation](#) have released [Thinking Money for Kids](#), a free PDF guide and booklist to help libraries support youth financial literacy. It includes 40 recommended titles for kids from birth through grade 8, along with programming ideas, a printable take-home guide for families, and additional tips and resources.

## DIA DE LOS NINOS/DIA DE LOS LIBROS

Día—short for Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros (Children’s Day/Book Day)—is a celebration on April 30 that connects children and families to books, reading, and diverse cultures, often through multilingual literacy and inclusive programming. [The National Día Program Registry](#) offers a space for libraries to share Día events and explore program ideas from colleagues across the country. Additionally, the registry page offers [free promotional graphics](#) to help spread the word on social media. The 2026 Día reading lists (in English and Spanish) will be available in February—a great tool for storytimes, displays, and connecting families to stories that celebrate many cultures. For even more early literacy inspiration, the [Children’s Book Council](#) also shared [a list of multilingual board books](#) for ages 0–3, perfect for programs and collections.





# YOUTH SERVICES

## PLA EARLY LITERACY CALENDAR

Looking for a simple way to support early literacy all year long? The Public Library Association's interactive 2026 Early Literacy Calendars offer monthly, reproducible pages filled with fun activities that encourage families to read, write, sing, talk, play, and count together. Each month includes skill-building prompts, book recommendations, rhymes and songs, and quick tips for caregivers, plus bonus literacy resources on the back. Calendars are also available in Spanish and can be personalized with your library's branding, making them an easy handout for storytimes, outreach, or caregiver support.

ALA Member rate: \$26.99

Non-member rate: \$29.99.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD WEBINARS

Early Childhood Investigations offers free educational webinars targeted toward individuals working with youth. These sessions are great for youth services librarians. Upcoming webinars include:

Born to Tinker: Supporting Infant Learning with Loose Parts, February 5, 1-3:30 p.m.

Explore how open-ended materials encourage curiosity, problem-solving, and brain development in infants.

Books, Beats, and Bonding: Fostering Connection Through Stories Songs, and Play, February 12, 1-3:30 p.m.

This session offers practical strategies to strengthen relationships and support early language development.



# CONFERENCES

January 21-22  
Wild Wisconsin Winter Web  
Conference

March 26-27  
Power Up: A Leadership  
Conference for YS Managers  
& Staff  
Hybrid/Madison, WI

April 1-3  
Public Library Association  
Conference (PLA)  
Minneapolis, MN

April 27-29  
Wisconsin Association of  
Public Libraries Conference  
Elkhart Lake

June 25-29  
ALA Annual  
Chicago, IL

July 9-10  
Play Make Learn  
Madison, WI

September 16-19  
Association for Rural &  
Small Libraries Conference  
Montgomery, AL

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS,  
CONCERNS?  
REACH OUT!



Emily Rogers  
WVLS  
Public Library Services Consultant



# PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

# Update

DECEMBER 2025



**WISCONSIN VALLEY LIBRARY SERVICE**



# ADMINISTRATION

## SHARPEN YOUR NEGOTIATION SKILLS

The best negotiators communicate clearly, think strategically, build trust, and lead with integrity. To improve your outcomes, hone four essential skills during negotiations.

**Start with language and emotional control.** How you speak and listen shapes perceptions. Use precise, logical language. Listen to understand rather than react. Regulate your emotions and read others' cues to keep conversations productive, even when things get tense.

**Apply negotiation intelligence.** Understand the structure of the negotiation. Prepare thoroughly: know your goals, alternatives, and offers. Adapt your approach as the situation evolves. In team settings, align roles and maintain a unified front, especially when stakes are high.

**Prioritize relationship building.** Trust is a measurable advantage. Build rapport deliberately, be transparent, and follow through on commitments. Stay culturally aware and adjust your style when needed. Strong relationships lead to better information flow and more valuable outcomes.

**Use moral wisdom to guide decisions.** Ethical clarity builds long-term influence. Share information responsibly, keep promises, and balance fairness with firmness.

*Harvard Business Review: The Management Tip of the Day*





# ADMINISTRATION

## 2025 LIBRARY INSIGHTS REPORT

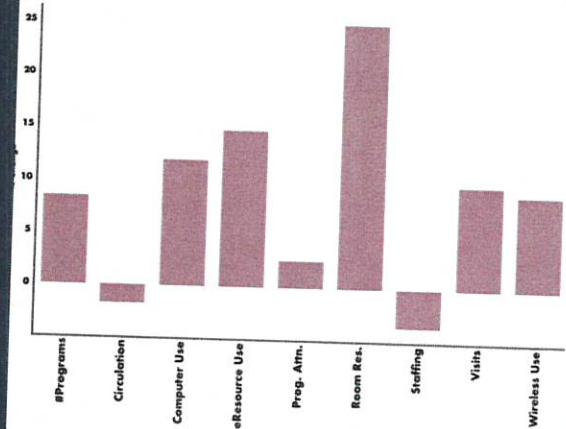
The Urban Libraries Council's 2025 Library Insights Report is now available. This report, comprised of survey results from over 122 library systems, representing 2,307 locations across the U.S. and Canada, provides insights into how customers use their library.

The findings show that:

- Library visits grew nearly 10% from 2023 to 2024, continuing a three-year upward trend
- Meeting space use increased by 25%, reflecting growing demand for in-person collaboration and community gathering
- Digital resource usage rose 15%, with eBook demand up 58% since 2019
- Computer usage rose 12%, reversing a multi-year decline
- Budgets increased 5% in 2024, but an additional 5.4% would have been necessary to keep pace with inflation

For further details, read the [full report here](#).

Figure 2.  
All Features: 2024 Performance Compared to 2023



The 2025 library insights capture a range of trends relevant to service delivery compiled from patron engagement trends observed over four years. These trends show both increased usage over the years observed (most recently in 2024 over 2023), declines in usage, and a range of measures where no significant differences were observed.



# ADMINISTRATION



## WVLS DIRECTOR CONNECT 2026

WVLS is excited to announce that our Keeping It Together gatherings will begin the new year with a new identity. Beginning in January, the series will be known as **WVLS Director Connect**, a name that reflects our focus on strengthening communication, collaboration, and connection amongst member public library directors.

In response to survey feedback, WVLS Director Connect discussions will be held the **fourth Thursday** of each month from **9:00–11:00 a.m.**, with exceptions in January, April, and November. The group will not meet in June or December.

Mark your calendars for our 2026 dates: January 29, February 26, March 26, April 16, May 28, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 22, and November 19.

We look forward to offering this meaningful space for shared updates, discussion, and support in the new year.



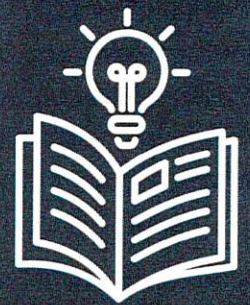
# ADULT SERVICES

## **PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND ADULT LEARNING**

The Public Library Association's new report, Expanding Possibilities: Public Libraries and Adult Learning, highlights the critical role libraries play as community learning hubs, offering everything from digital literacy and financial education, to health and wellness, career transition support, and creative enrichment. It underscores both the strong demand for adult learning, particularly among older adults and working adults, and the persistent barriers libraries face, including staffing limitations, funding constraints, and the ongoing need for equitable access to technology.

The report also showcases innovative approaches libraries are taking to meet community needs, such as hybrid learning models, partnerships with local organizations, and expanded digital services. With clear recommendations for strengthening adult education, Expanding Possibilities serves as a valuable resource for libraries seeking to broaden their impact and support lifelong learning in dynamic and responsive ways.

View the report and watch the free webinar for more information.





# ADULT SERVICES

## TAX SEASON IS COMING!

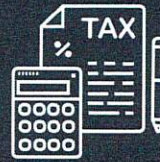
Libraries may now order 2025 Wisconsin income tax forms. Place your order through the Forms Order System (found under Governments → Libraries at [revenue.wi.gov](https://revenue.wi.gov)).

To reduce waste, review last year's leftover forms and order only what you need.

Encourage taxpayers to access up-to-date forms online and to file electronically using [WisTax](#), the Department of Revenue's free e-filing tool.

Sign up for to receive library related communications: [library electronic mailing list](#).

Questions? Email [DORFormsRequests@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DORFormsRequests@wisconsin.gov).



## WVLS/IFLS AS MEETING

Adult Services staff from IFLS and WVLS libraries met virtually on November 5 to share creative approaches for engaging adult readers during the winter months. Participants discussed a variety of successful strategies, including hosting local author events, launching seasonal bingo challenges, and offering art-focused programs. Libraries also exchanged insights on building and sustaining local partnerships, as well as effective ways to promote programs beyond the library building. View the meeting notes [here](#).

Another Adult Services meet-up is being planned for the spring. If you have topic ideas or would like to present something, reach out to [Emily Rogers](#).



# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

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## **UNDERSTANDING WPLC ADVANTAGE & ADVANTAGE PLUS**

If you've ever wondered how Advantage and Advantage Plus accounts work within the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC), this helpful flow chart breaks it down. It explains how libraries can purchase titles that prioritize their own patrons, how statewide access comes into play, and how Advantage Plus contributions help strengthen the shared collection. The chart provides an easy, visual look at how decisions are made about purchasing, access, and holds, making it a great resource for staff who work with OverDrive or want to better understand WPLC's collection structure.

## **2026 ANDREW CARNEGIE MEDALS**

The American Library Association has released the six finalists for the 2026 Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction. The finalists were selected from 45 standout titles: 21 fiction and 24 nonfiction. The two medal winners will be revealed on January 27, 2026.

Cosponsored by Booklist and Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), the Carnegie Medals highlight exceptional adult books selected by a committee of librarians, reviewers, and book professionals.

Explore the full list on the awards website.

## **STARRED REVIEWS**

For a list of the past month's starred reviews visit: November 2025 Starred Reviews.



# GAMING & LEARNING

## THE CHEESE STANDS ALONE

Looking for a fun and free way to learn about local folklore and Wisconsin history? The Wisconsin Historical Society has released The Cheese Stands Alone, a light-hearted mini adventure set in the whimsical world of Wisconsin Adventures.

In this beginner-friendly scenario, players help Willy Dee investigate a mysterious rat problem in his cheese cellar. With simplified rules and streamlined combat, it's perfect for anyone who has ever said, "I don't know how to play Dungeons & Dragons!" The full Wisconsin: Myths & Legends game can enhance the experience but isn't required. The adventure even ends on a cliffhanger, giving Game Masters an easy jumping-off point for future quests.

Download the mini game to get access to everything you need to begin this Wisconsin Adventure.

## 2025 PLATY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

ALA's Games and Gaming Round Table has announced the 2025 inductees to the Platy Hall of Fame, recognizing classic games that continue to shine in library collections and programs. This year's honorees include Car Wars, Ticket to Ride, Zork, Madden NFL, ESPN Fantasy Sports, and Uno, all celebrated for their lasting popularity, accessibility, and value in engaging patrons of all ages.





# GRANTS & AWARDS

## WALMART SPARK GOOD LOCAL GRANTS

Walmart's Spark Good Local Grants, ranging from \$250 to \$5,000, support projects that address community needs in the areas of creating opportunity, advancing sustainability, strengthening community, and centering racial equity.

Applicants complete a brief questionnaire showing how their project aligns with Walmart's mission, builds community trust, and will make a clear impact. Awardees must also follow Walmart's logo and recognition guidelines.

Apply by December 31.

## GRANTS FOR SMALL & RURAL LIBRARIES

Penguin Random House and United for Libraries have announced their 2026 Small & Rural Library Grants, offering \$500–\$1,000 in funding and \$500 in-kind book grants to support Friends groups and strengthen library advocacy. Applications open December 17, 2025, and close January 21, 2026, with awards announced by March 30, 2026.

This program aims to help small and rural libraries build capacity during a time of increasing challenges to the freedom to read.



Penguin  
Random  
House



# INCLUSIVE SERVICES

## **LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY QUESTIONNAIRE**

Libraries should ensure their services and events are welcoming and accessible to all community members. By proactively addressing accommodations and communication needs, libraries strengthen equity, inclusion, and trust—while avoiding the risk of unintentionally excluding or embarrassing patrons. This Update explores practical ways to make library events more accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of the community. The following examples are shared from the library accessibility questionnaire featured in Ensuring Inclusivity, from Library Leadership & Management (v. 38 no. 4). This guide offers questions to consider for your library inclusivity work.

**Note:** Not all items may be relevant for your library and some may be outside of your control. These questions are intended as a starting point for library staff and boards to consider.

### **Accommodations/Events**

- Is information about eligibility and instructions for requesting accommodations shared?
- Are the library's event spaces and seating physically accessible?
- Are virtual events captioned?
- Can American Sign Language interpretation be requested for events? If so, when and how?
- Does the library's event space have a hearing loop?
- Does the library's event registration process offer an option to request accommodations?





# LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

## **SIGN LANGUAGE & STORYTIME**

American Sign Language with Children in Storytime or in the Classroom: A Practical Guide

January 5 - February 15, 2026

American Sign Language (ASL) is sometimes used in storytimes for babies, but the applications can go much further. In this 6-week eCourse, programming expert and signing storyteller Kathy MacMillan explores the benefits of signing with all children. In addition to learning basic ASL vocabulary appropriate for use with children in library and classroom settings, participants will learn techniques to share stories, songs, and other activities that incorporate ASL.

\$278 ALA Members, \$309 Non-Members

## **RAISING WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN**

The Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP) is hosting a free professional learning opportunity: Raising Wisconsin's Children Conference: Helping Children Thrive When Life Gets Tough, Tuesday, February 4, 2026.

This free, online conference offers practical, research-based strategies for parents, caregivers, educators, and anyone who supports children and teens. Participants can join live or watch the sessions later at their convenience.

Topics include: building resilience, supporting emotional regulation, mindfulness practices, preventing caregiver burnout, and strengthening teen mental health.

Register to save your spot: <https://go.wisc.edu/raisingwi>



# LIBRARY LOVE

## REV UP YOUR LIBRARY

Libraries are shifting into the driver's seat when it comes to vehicle education. In "[License to Learn](#)," American Libraries Magazine highlights how several public libraries have introduced virtual driving simulators to help patrons—from teens to older adults and those recovering from injuries—practice real-world driving skills in a safe, low-pressure setting. These programs provide access, confidence, and opportunity in communities where traditional driver education may be out of reach.



## HOLIDAY CHEER FOR LIBRARY LOVERS

Searching for the perfect present for your favorite librarian—or for yourself, because why not? The latest [holiday gift guide](#) from American Libraries Magazine highlights fun, thoughtful, and book-lover-approved items. From cozy reading accessories and clever bookmarks to organizational tools and literary themed décor, there's a little something for everyone who loves the written word.





# MAKERSPACE

## FELLOWS BINDING MACHINE

The Quasar+ binding machine is a great tool for libraries to create polished program materials, handbooks, local history projects, and patron documents. With the ability to bind up to 500 pages and punch 22 sheets at a time, it's ideal for workshops, makerspaces, and staff use.

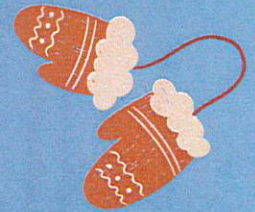
Kit Contains: binding machine, instructions, combs, covers, pelican case



## EARLY CHILDHOOD STORY KIT: WINTER

Bring the magic of winter into your library with this all-in-one storytime kit packed with seasonal fun. Kids can dress up characters with **The Jacket I Wear in the Snow** felt set, play a cozy mittens-matching game, and giggle through the **Froggy Gets Dressed** prop kit—all with the help of a friendly polar bear puppet. A curated winter mix CD sets the mood, while 17 beloved picture books celebrate snowy days, frosty noses, and winter adventures. Perfect for storytime!

Book makerspace kits and equipment





# POLICY OF THE MONTH

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## **FEATURED: NATURAL DISASTER & EMERGENCY CLOSING POLICIES**

Natural disaster and emergency closing policies establish the framework for ensuring the safety of staff and patrons, protecting library collections, and promoting clear, consistent decision-making during crises. These policies determine who has the authority to close or delay operations, set the conditions under which such decisions may be made, and outline expectations for communication with staff, patrons, and community partners.

By emphasizing preparedness, accountability, and transparency, these policies support an effective crisis response, facilitate timely recovery, and strengthen public confidence in the library's commitment to safety and continuity of service.

Check out the [resource guide](#) to review how to create or update your policy to meet your library's needs.

Don't forget to check out the the Policy of the Month Club's [Policy Audit spreadsheet](#) listing the most common policies of a public library. The Policy Audit provides you with a comprehensive way to evaluate what you have and what you may want to add.

Visit the [Public Library Policy Resources WISELearn Group](#) to join the conversation!

**\*Don't Forget to Book Some Time to Review This Policy! \***



# PROGRAMMING

## DINO RELATED PROGRAMMING

Bring prehistoric worlds to life with hands-on fossil programs led by "Dino" Chris Grall. Complimenting the 2026 Unearth a Story theme, these sessions let participants explore real and replica fossils while discovering the incredible stories buried in Earth's past. Programs can focus on dinosaurs, Ice Age animals, Wisconsin paleontology, marine reptiles, prehistoric sharks, extinctions, and more—all fully customizable and designed for curious learners of any age. With interactive fossil handling and up-to-date science, these presentations are an exciting way to help patrons dig into the ancient stories beneath their feet.

For more information, contact Chris.



## CUSTOM PUZZLES AND PROGRAMMING

Wisconsin-based puzzle artist Sarah Stackhouse, owner of Lavender & Berries Publishing LLC, is partnering with libraries to bring creative puzzle experiences to their communities—just in time for **National Puzzle Day** on January 29, 2026.

Sarah has collaborated with libraries across the country to turn community art into interactive puzzles and offers options ranging from custom designs to ready-made puzzles for circulation or programming. Libraries interested in adding a hands-on, creative element to winter programs—or celebrating puzzles year-round—can connect with Sarah to explore possibilities.

Contact Sarah to learn more.



WVLS does not endorse specific performers. Performers shared are for information purposes only.

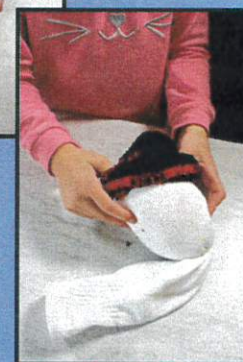


# PROGRAMMING

## NO SEW SOCK GNOME

Looking for a charming, easy, and budget-friendly winter craft? Try a No-Sew Sock Gnome, a cozy project perfect for all ages. Using simple supplies—rice, socks, craft fur, and a bit of hot glue—participants can build an adorable gnome complete with a fluffy beard and festive hat. The process involves shaping the body with rice, adding a painted nose, trimming a beard from craft fur, and topping it off with a colorful sock hat. With no sewing required, this hands-on activity is accessible, fun, and always a crowd-pleaser.

This craft works beautifully for winter programming, family nights, or DIY take-and-make kits. Plus, every gnome turns out with its own personality—making them as delightful to display as they are to create!





# RESOURCES

## **CRISIS LIFELINE MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR LIBRARIES**

Vibrant Emotional Health is offering free 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline outreach materials to help libraries share this vital mental-health resource with their communities. The 988 Lifeline connects people 24/7 with trained crisis counselors who provide support for suicidal thoughts, mental health challenges, emotional distress, or substance misuse.

Librarians can request a free package that includes flyers, postcards, bookmarks, and stickers—all designed to help patrons easily learn how to get help by calling, texting, or chatting 988. By displaying these materials, libraries play an important role in increasing awareness of life-saving support.

Request your free materials.

## **UDEMY: NEW YEAR, NEW SKILLS**

As patrons set new goals for the year or look for indoor winter activities, don't forget that through WVLS their library card gives them free access to Udemy, featuring thousands of expert-led online courses. It's perfect for learning new skills, exploring hobbies, or boosting career growth—all at their own pace.

Consider highlighting Udemy at service points, in newsletters, or through "New Year, New Skills" displays to help patrons discover this valuable resource.





# TEEN SERVICES

## 2026 SUMMER TEEN INTERNSHIP

Registration is now open for the DPI Bureau of Libraries' Teen Internship informational webinar, January 30 at 10 a.m. This session will outline the goals of the statewide internship program, what is expected of participating libraries, mentors, and teen interns, and how to apply.

Wisconsin public libraries selected for the program may receive up to \$2,500 to support a paid summer intern who reflects the voices and perspectives of their community. Because this is a competitive process, not all applicants will be selected.

The Teen Internship Program is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through LSTA funding and is subject to the availability of government funds.



## RUNNING A TEEN MYSTERY PROGRAM

Looking to level up your library's programming with a fun, interactive twist? This article from the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) Blog shares smart tips and real-world examples for running a Mystery Program —where patrons become the sleuths.

From choosing a target age group and script options to creating clues and managing the game rounds, this guide offers everything you need to host your own detective-style event.



# TRUSTEE TRAINING

## TRUSTEE TALE: OVERSEEING THE LIBRARY FACILITY

This article offers a clear, practical look at what it really takes to oversee a library facility—from budgeting and maintenance planning to safety considerations and long-term building care.

Whether you're new to facilities management or looking to strengthen your skills, you'll find helpful guidance to keep your library welcoming, efficient, and prepared for the future.

Read more to uncover tips every library leader should know.

## TRUSTEE ESSENTIALS: BYLAWS - ORGANIZING THE BOARD FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION

Library board bylaws are the rules established by the library board that govern the board's own activities. Well-crafted bylaws help provide for the smooth and effective functioning of a library board. This chapter covers bylaw basics, legal requirements, and sample bylaws to help ensure your library has well crafted bylaws.

Read Trustee Essential 3 to learn more about library board bylaws.

For a video overview of this essential visit Wisconsin Library Trustee Essentials video series: 3 Bylaws Organizing the Board for Effective Action (3:56).





# YOUTH SERVICES

## UNDERSTANDING THE SCIENCE OF READING THROUGH CHILD-LED PLAY

Join expert educator [Laura Shea, M.S.Ed.](#), for a free webinar exploring how child-led play supports the science of reading. Learn practical strategies that libraries, educators, and caregivers can use to strengthen early literacy by tapping into children's natural curiosity and play. Perfect for anyone looking to create engaging, play-based reading support environments.

Thursday, December 18 from 1-2:30 p.m.  
[Register](#) to reserve a spot.

## WHAZOODLE: A SCREEN-FREE AUDIO ADVENTURE FOR KIDS

Featured in the [Youth Services Shout-Out](#) blog on November 7, meet [WhaZoodle!](#) For those looking for a fresh, screen-free way to engage young patrons, WhaZoodle from Playaway has you covered! This ready-to-use audio speaker pre-loaded with podcasts, music, stories, games, guided meditations, and more, doesn't require Wi-Fi, downloads, or extra pieces.

Designed for children ages 3-12, it's durable, easy to use, and fully self-contained. WhaZoodle works beautifully in library settings – perfect for storytime, early-learning programs, quiet reading corners, or family take-home checkouts.

If you're looking to expand your children's offerings with a tool that encourages listening, imagination, and learning – minus screens – WhaZoodle might be the perfect addition.





# YOUTH SERVICES

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## **SPOTLIGHT ON EARLY READING FROM BOOKLIST**

Booklist's November Spotlight on Early Reading (V122 #3) offers a fresh set of resources to help young learners build confidence and joy in reading. This highlight features engaging titles designed to support kids as they begin reading independently, along with books so fun and inviting that they help children fall in love with stories from the start. You can explore Booklist's Top 10 Early Reading selections for standout titles that are perfect for beginning readers.

### **Early Readers in Spanish**

For libraries serving bilingual families or building Spanish-language collections, Booklist also offers excellent recommendations. Their Spanish Language Sure Bets: Beginning Readers list provides reliable, high-quality options for young readers in Spanish—ideal for both first-language learners and those developing bilingual skills.

### **Read-Alikes for Popular Early Readers**

If your collections need fresh alternatives to beloved favorites, Booklist's Read-alike Round Up: Early Reading highlights fun, engaging read-alikes that keep new readers turning pages.

These curated lists are great tools for collection development, reader's advisory, and supporting early literacy through both English and Spanish titles.



# ADDITIONAL SERVICES

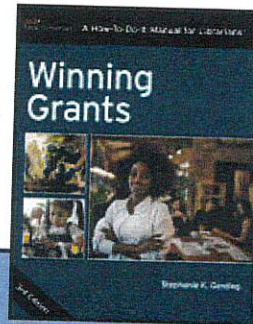
## PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION CALL-OUT

WVLS's Professional Collection is stocked with books to support your work in libraries! These books are reservable in the [Online Catalog](#).

Send purchase suggestions to [Emily Rogers](#).

Featured Title: **Winning Grants: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians**

This updated guide to library grant writing combines clear, practical advice with ready-to-use worksheets and templates to help libraries secure funding with confidence. Written by a leading library grants expert, it walks readers through every step of the grant cycle—from planning and proposal writing to evaluation—making it an essential resource for beginners and experienced grant writers alike.



## NEED HELP FINDING GRANTS?

WVLS offers consulting support to help libraries identify promising grant opportunities and strengthen their proposals. Whether you're searching for funding, looking for feedback on an application, or needing assistance with writing and review, we're here to help. Reach out anytime for guidance as you pursue new resources for your library and community.

Contact [Emily Rogers](#) for assistance.



# CONFERENCES

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Jan 9, 2026  
Lake Superior Libraries Mid-  
Winter Unsymposium  
Superior, WI

January 21-22, 2026  
Wild Wisconsin Winter Web  
Conference

March 26-27, 2026  
Power Up: A Leadership  
Conference for YS Managers  
& Staff  
Hybrid/Madison, WI

April 1-3, 2026  
Public Library Association  
Conference (PLA)  
Minneapolis, MN

April 27-29  
Wisconsin Association of  
Public Libraries Conference  
Elkhart Lake

June 25-29, 2026  
ALA Annual  
Chicago, IL

July 9-10, 2026  
Play Make Learn  
Madison, WI

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS,  
CONCERNS?  
REACH OUT!



Emily Rogers  
WVLS  
Public Library Services Consultant



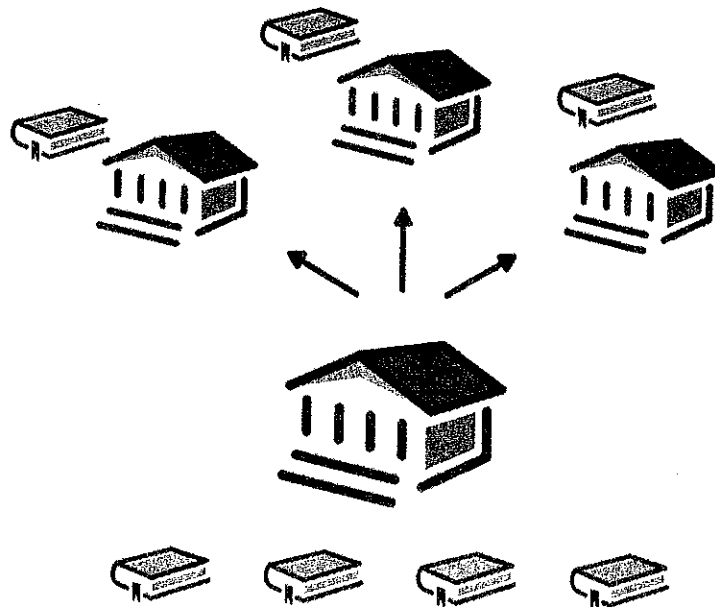
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# ADVANTAGE

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## Advantage and Advantage Plus in WPLC

- What is Advantage?
  - Advantage is an OverDrive program that allows member libraries in a consortium to purchase titles for their own patrons. This gives Advantage patrons access to titles and holds quicker rather than having to wait for the consortium copy to become available.
- How does Advantage work?
  - Libraries start by filling out and returning the Advantage Enrollment Form. The form requires a one-time fee of \$250 that will be converted into \$250 of content credit for the library to use as they see fit once the account is ready to use.
  - We set up the library with their own Advantage purchasing account in Marketplace, and map the library's patrons to the Advantage account so they have access to the titles.
- How do particular patrons have access to a collection?
  - When a library adds Advantage, we assign that library's patrons to the Advantage account using the branch code(s) associated with the account. A branch code is data returned through the authentication process that determines the library the patron belongs to.
  - Patrons can belong to more than one Advantage account. We can add branch codes to both a patron's home library and the regional system, so they have access to both.

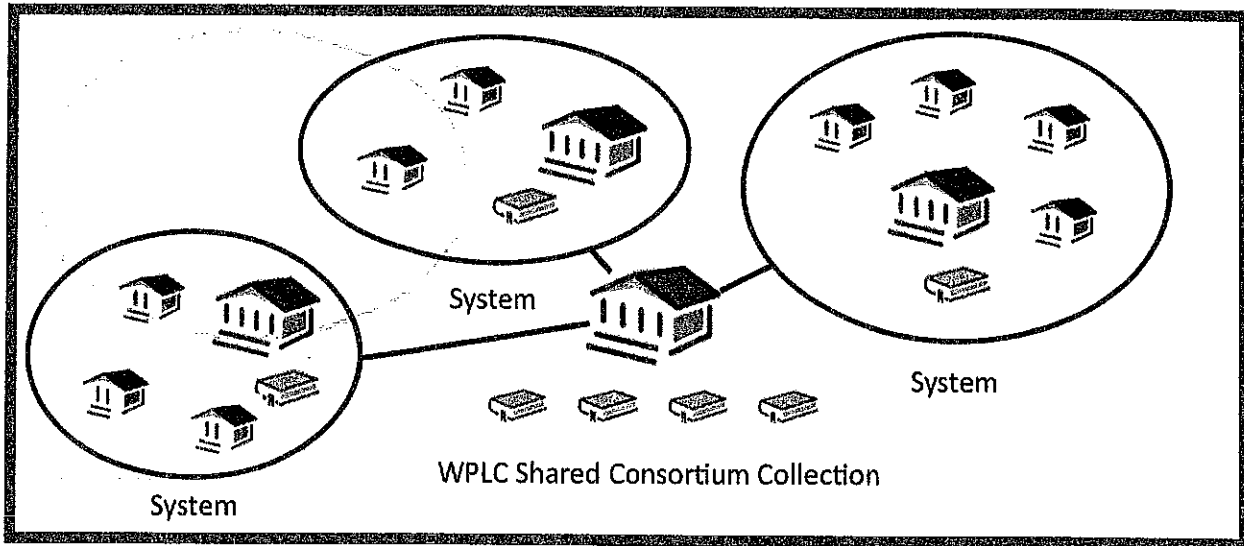


A standard consortium and Advantage setup. Library patrons have access to the shared consortium collection, as well as the titles that their own libraries have purchased in Advantage.

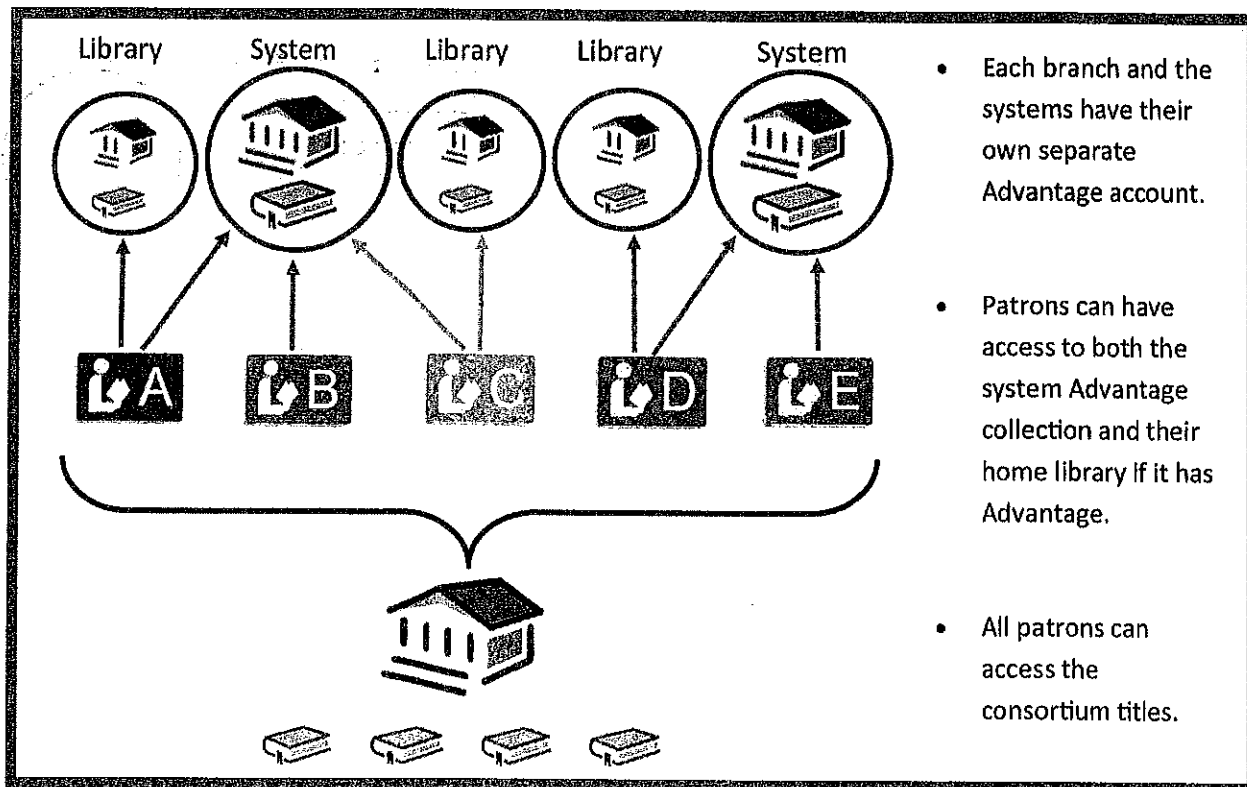
# Advantage setups in Wisconsin Public Library Consortium

Each system in WPLC has its own Advantage collection. Libraries within those systems can also have their own Advantage accounts for their patrons.

The physical library setup is different than the Advantage setup. The **physical system** might be represented like this:



But OverDrive's **Advantage setup** can be represented like this:



When patrons are waiting for a title that is owned by their Advantage accounts and the consortium, they will receive the copy that becomes available first. This can lower individual wait times significantly.

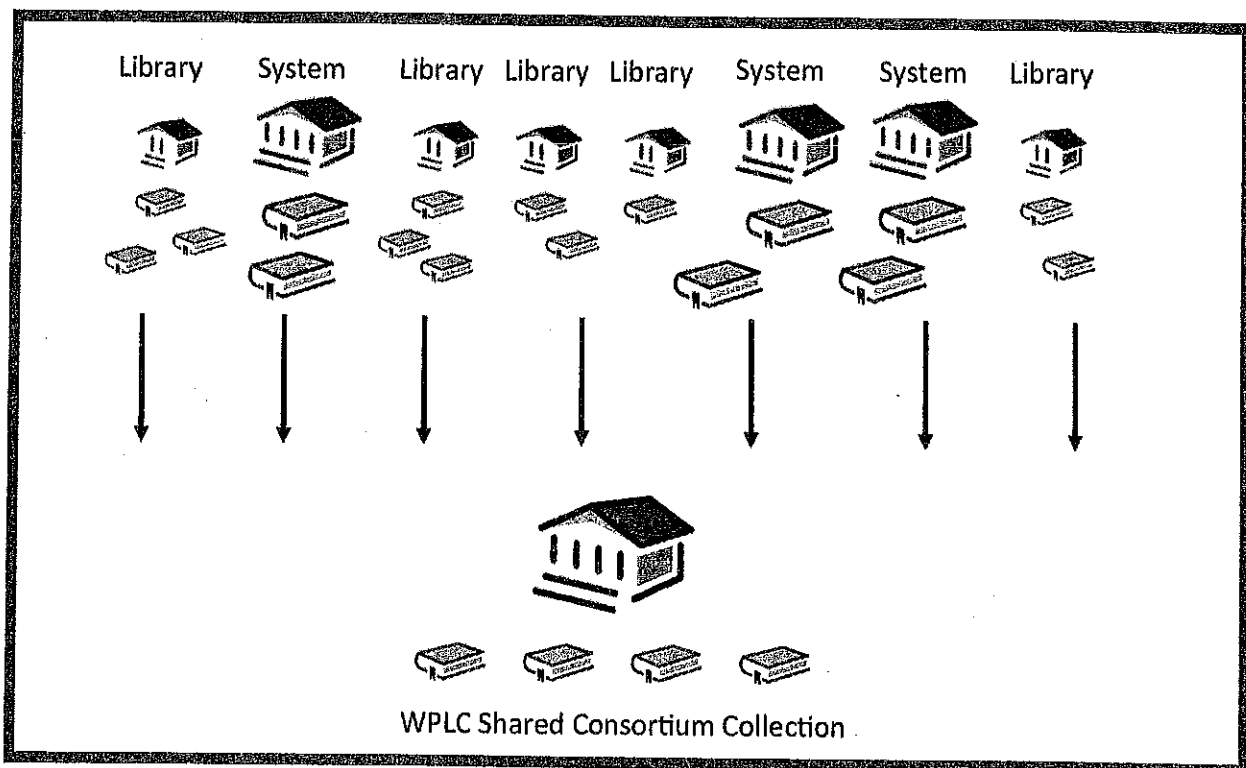
# Advantage Plus Sharing

Advantage Plus sharing also works separately from the regional systems. Sharing parameters are determined per the consortium-set policy. Advantage titles are automatically shared with the consortium if they meet the following criteria:

- Have no active checkouts or holds
- Are OC/OU or MA by time
- Are in the Advantage account for at least a month

Titles that meet these criteria are shared with the consortium automatically once per month. The Advantage account that purchased the titles always retains ownership, and their patrons always have priority if the title builds a holds list.

Advantage Plus sharing can be represented like this:



Titles are always shared from the Advantage account that purchased to the consortium. It's not possible to share in a hierarchical way with other Advantage accounts—for example, a library cannot share from an individual branch through a system Advantage account and then to the consortium.

Titles can be transferred from one Advantage account to another upon request, but then ownership is moved to the account the title is moved to, and the purchasing account loses priority for their patrons.