

OWLS Director report

April 16, 2020 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

ILS Migration Update

OWLS staff continue to be very busy preparing for the migration which is still scheduled for mid-August. Our final design session will be held on Monday, April 20th. We hope to have a test database available in May. Core team training is scheduled in June, and distributed library trainings are tentatively scheduled for early August.

Libraries and COVID-19

The Governor's Safer at Home order states that, "Libraries shall close for all in-person services, but may continue to provide on-line services and programming. Schools and public libraries may be used for Essential Government Functions and food distribution."

All OWLSnet libraries remain closed to the public. Some library buildings are at least partially staffed, and many more library staff are working from home. Delivery is still suspended. OWLS staff have access to the office when necessary to perform minimum business operations, and we are trying to keep visits to a minimum.

I have been hosting online meetings of OWLS member directors roughly weekly. I have also been attending weekly meetings of statewide system directors with DPI. We will soon be hosting an online meeting of children's librarians to discuss how summer reading and other children's services might proceed.

We have launched a new remote registration procedure so that community members who did not have library cards before the libraries closed can register online or via telephone to obtain access to electronic resources. As of April 13, we have registered 229 new accounts.

It is unclear at this time when the "Safer at Home" order may be loosened or lifted. We have begun planning for various re-opening scenarios.