

OWLS Director Report

August 19, 2021 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

OWLS and COVID-19

OWLS operations have returned to pre-pandemic norms with the exception that most staff continue to work from home most of the time. As we seek new office space, we anticipate maintaining a hybrid work model for most staff. The Personnel Committee has begun reviewing related policies.

Libraries and COVID-19

OWLS hosts monthly online Directors Chats. I have discontinued weekly online office hours. Library service levels are under the control of local library boards, so service levels vary based on local conditions. OWLS member libraries report service levels as follows (as of 8/9/21):

- Closed: 0 libraries
- Curbside only: 0 libraries
- Open doors; limited service, restricted access: 1 library (BCL)
- Browsing/lingering permitted with greater access: 11 libraries (BCL, CPL, HPL, IVL, KAU, KIM, MAN, SCA, SEY, WAU, WEY)
- Fully restored: 6 libraries (APL, FPL, LIT, MAR, NLP, SHI)

Bibliocommons

The Bibliocommons discovery layer launch has been delayed due to technical issues, but we are pleased to report that all but one of these issues have been fixed. The final problem should be resolved with the next update of Bibliocommon's software which is scheduled to roll out this month. Once we confirm the fix, we will schedule our soft launch. OWLS staff are in communication daily via Basecamp and meeting online with Bibliocommons and TLC staff weekly.

DPI CARES Grant Closed

OWLS distributed CARES funds to OWLS and NFLS member libraries to enable safe and effective library service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participating libraries reduced disease transmission:

- by distancing staff and public workstations with new wiring and peripherals;
- by reducing interactions with self-check stations, barriers, and curbside service;
- by purchasing supplies for sanitizing hands and surfaces; and
- by quarantining library materials in delivery tubs before handling.

Participating libraries also expanded pandemic-safe services:

- by adding additional WiFi access points indoors and outdoors;
- by purchasing software and hardware that enabled virtual and outdoor library programming and meetings; and
- by providing hotspots for checkout.

I have submitted the final report and reimbursement request to DPI.

Facilities Search Report

Dave and I visited one of our potential sites last week. I am still gathering information on costs and plan to schedule a Facilities Committee meeting very soon.

Vacation Report

