

OWLS Director Report

January 21, 2021 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

Virtual Library Legislative Day

WLA will host a virtual Library Legislative Day over February 16-18, 2021. The traditional morning agenda will be held via video conference on February 16 and virtual appointments with legislators will be spread out during the week. Registration is open now: <https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/library-legislative-day>. I hope many of you will participate. The cost to register is \$25.

The Department of Public Instruction's 2021-23 Biennial Budget Request includes an increase of \$2,500,000 in FY22 and \$4,000,000 in FY23 for aid to public library systems, to support the operations and maintenance of public library services.

OWLS and COVID-19

Eleven of thirteen OWLS staff continue to work from home in accordance with CDC guidelines that recommend remote work whenever possible. Sorting continues in APL's meeting rooms. In mid-November, the Sunshine Committee instituted a bi-weekly online staff check-in to keep us all connected. We each answer a fun question or challenge posed by the committee, and then we share what we're working on that week.

Libraries and COVID-19

OWLS continues to host monthly online Directors Chats. I have also scheduled weekly online office hours on Fridays from 1-3pm where library directors can drop in to ask questions as needed. Library service levels are under the control of local library boards, so service levels vary based on local conditions. OWLS member library report service levels as follows (as of 1/15/21):

- Closed: 0 libraries
- Curbside only: 11 libraries (APL, BCL, CPL, FPL, HPL, KAU, KIM, LIT, NLP, SCA, SEY)
- Open doors; limited service, restricted access: 3 libraries (MAN, WAU, WEY)
- Browsing/lingering permitted with greater access: 3 libraries (IVL, MAR, SHI)
- Fully restored: 0 libraries

OWLS Board Vacancy

I am seeking a candidate from Outagamie County. The communities of Little Chute and Shiocton are currently unrepresented on the OWLS Board.

Bibliocommons Implementation

Evan has completed the initial technology surveys and submitted them to Bibliocommons. Dave has configured a new Linux virtual server that will be the connector between our CARL servers hosted at TLC and Bibliocommons. The vendors can now begin configuring our discovery layer. If all goes well, we expect to have a test version available to staff in April, a test version available to the public in May, and to go live with the final version in June.