

OWLS Director report

October 15, 2020 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

ILS Migration Update

We continue to work with library staff to identify and solve bugs, adjust settings to our needs, develop new workflows, and recreate our reports. This phase will last several weeks, if not months. We have increased the frequency of AAC meetings to monthly. We expect a software upgrade containing some of our requested developments to be applied this week.

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 March, the OWLS Board adopted a policy that OWLS employees who are available to work but prevented from working due to the suspension of delivery services and the Governor's "Safer at Home" order will be paid for their regularly scheduled hours until such time as operations resume or until the board takes action to amend this policy. Our two sorting staff have been paid their regular wages under this policy since we suspended delivery whether they were working or not. The personnel committee will reevaluate this policy in November.

On October 11th, DPI released a new recommendation reducing the quarantine of library materials from 96 to 24 hours. It is likely we will adopt this recommendation for OWLS delivery this week. We also anticipate raising the holds limit for patrons from 10 to the pre-COVID maximum of 25 this week or next.

Libraries and COVID-19

Library service levels are under the control of local library boards, so service levels vary based on local conditions. Many libraries have rolled back to curbside service only in response to rising cases in the region and state.

County Budgets

I continue to monitor the Outagamie and Waupaca county budget processes. The Waupaca County Finance Committee will meet on October 14th at 9am. I will attend the Outagamie County Finance Committee meeting on October 29th. The meetings are being held virtually, and Department Heads or Agency Directors are not expected to present any information to the Finance Committee, but rather be available to address any questions of the committee.

OWLS Board Terms and Vacancy

Welcome to Brian Looker who will serve as the APL representative on the OWLS Board of Trustees, completing Will Bloedow's term. The following board members' terms end on December 31, 2020: Bobbie Buchholtz, Paul Girod, David Hovde, Marcia Trentlage, Patricia Craig, and Marilyn Herman. Please notify me ASAP if you do not plan to seek reappointment.