

## **OWLS Director Report**

October 21, 2021 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

### **Bibliocommons**

The Bibliocommons discovery layer will officially launch on October 18<sup>th</sup>! If you haven't visited the new catalog during the public preview, make sure to check it out now:

<https://infosoup.bibliocommons.com/>

### **Professional learning funds through LSTA**

DPI has awarded all of the systems a non-competitive 2021 LSTA grant for a professional learning project. OWLS will receive \$8,461 which must be spent by June 30, 2022. I discussed this funding at the October Directors Chat, and two possible projects were identified. We could use the funds to provide scholarships for library directors and staff to attend the Public Library Association conference in Portland, Oregon in March 2022. Or, we could use the funds to host our own "OWLS" conference next spring. The 2022 budget will need to be revised to reflect revenue and expense for this grant.

### **Regional ARPA grant applications**

OWLS is collaborating with the NEWI partnership systems (MCLS, NFLS, and Winnefox) to write applications for up to \$200,000 each in two of the three competitive ARPA categories.

Under the Hybrid Model Service category, we are considering funds for lockers for curbside pickup, charging stations outside of libraries, and equipment for outdoor programming (projection screens & sound system equipment).

Under the Library Space Improvement category, we are considering, furniture & mobile shelving (to create modular/flexible spaces, may incorporate charging stations) and meeting room enhancements (including Meeting owls, livestreaming equipment, or soundproofing)

Some OWLS member libraries may also submit an application in the Library as a Center for Community Resilience category.

Pre-applications are due October 25<sup>th</sup> and final applications will be due late this year when the WISEgrants portal is launched. Funds must be spent by June 30, 2022.

### **OWLSnet Fees**

The committee of AAC tasked with reviewing the OWLSnet Fee structure will present its

findings to AAC on November 12<sup>th</sup>. A draft of their report to AAC is included in the pages that follow. AAC may recommend adoption of the proposed change to the OWLS Board for approval at our November 18 meeting.

### **County Funding**

I continue to monitor progress of our library budget requests through the county budget processes. I will meet with the Outagamie County Finance Committee on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Automation Agreements**

Twenty-seven out of thirty OWLSnet automation agreements have been approved by library boards and returned with signatures. The remaining three libraries have been in touch, and we expect to have them all done before the previous agreements expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. I am grateful to Liz for her help tracking these agreements and obtaining digital signatures when needed.

### **Board Appointments**

Many thanks to Angela, Cathy, Diane, Mike, and Pete who have agreed to seek reappointment to the OWLS Board for new three-year terms beginning January 1, 2022. Nate Wolff will step down at the end of his term due to other commitments, and we thank him for his service with OWLS. Diane and I have been in contact with a candidate for the upcoming vacancy, Mitesh Ajmera, and he may be able to join us for this month's meeting.

I ask that Outagamie County appointees complete their application and submit it to me by the November board meeting. This document requires a notarized signature.

I will submit appointment requests to both counties in November for approval by county boards.