**OWLS Director Report**
May 15, 2025 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

**Executive Order Impacting IMLS Funding**
Since we met last, there have been some positive developments around IMLS funding. In late April, Wisconsin received approximately 50% of the amount due for 2025 under the grants to states program and expects to receive the remaining 50% this month. The three states who were notified that their grants to states funding had been eliminated have had their funding restored. Some discretionary grants have been restored as well. However, the Trump Administration's FY 2026 budget proposal asks Congress to eliminate the IMLS and most staff have been terminated. Later this month, libraries statewide will be invited to participate in a postcard campaign highlighting the impact of libraries in our communities.

**Infosoup Road Trip**
The third Infosoup Road Trip will run Memorial Day through Labor Day this summer. I will have copies of this year's booklets to hand out at the meeting.

**Gearing up for Summer Library Programming**
The SLP rush is in full swing. So far this year, Chad has fulfilled 48 design requests related to SLP and Melissa and Caitlin have produced 23,515 printed materials for member libraries.

**Visits to Member Library Boards**
Kristin has scheduled visits to sixteen out of seventeen OWLS member library boards between May and September. OWLS Trustees are invited to attend these meetings. Please contact Bradley if you would like to join us on any of these upcoming visits:

- Monday, May 19th, 4:00 p.m. at Weyauwega Public Library
- Tuesday, May 27th, 5:30 p.m. at Kaukauna Public Library
- Monday, June 2nd, 4:00 p.m. at Neuschafer Community Library in Fremont
- Tuesday, June 10th, 2:00 p.m. at Shiocton Public Library
- Monday, June 16th, 5:00 p.m. at Marion Public Library
- Tuesday, July 8th, 5:30 p.m. at Sturm Memorial Library in Manawa
- Thursday, July 10th, 4:00 p.m. at Clintonville Public Library
- Tuesday, July 15th, 4:30 p.m. at Little Chute Public Library
- Tuesday, July 29th, 6:30 p.m. at Scandinavia Public Library

**Joint Finance Committee Hearing**

Bradley, Kristin, Cindy, and Bastia attended a budget hearing for the Joint Finance Committee on April 2nd in Kaukauna. We had twenty library supporters in attendance. Cindy volunteered to be one of our three speakers along with Clairellyn Sommersmith from the Winnefox Library System and Dominic Frandrup from Door County Library. You can watch a video of their testimony here: https://vimeo.com/1071914618

**Visit to NFLS Board**

On April 10th, I visited the Nicolet Federated Library System (NFLS) Board of Trustees meeting to report on OWLSnet. I have appended that report to this one. On April 15th, we held a joint OWLS-NFLS staff meeting at the Appleton Public Library where we reviewed our joint strategic plan and broke into project groups to work on new and continuing collaborations.

**Upcoming OWLS Board and Committee Meetings**

- Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee
- Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. – Board Meeting
- Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee
- Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. – Executive Committee
- Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. – Board Meeting