OWLS Director Report
January 15, 2026 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

AAC
We held the first OWLSnet Administrative Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting of the year on January 9th. Kristin provided a recap of the Infosoup Advantage Audiobooks Pilot Project, included with this report, and shared an update on the work of the Overdrive Advantage Funding committee, which will present a proposal to AAC in March. Amanda shared the initial schedule for the ILS migration project, also included with this report. We briefly discussed the upcoming 2025 library annual reports process and reviewed the statistical reports available to member libraries on the OWLS web site. Finally, AAC reviewed the OWLSnet Borrowers' Card Program Policy. No changes were recommended.

Legislative Day
Library Legislative Day will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. Bradley, Kristin, and Diane will attend. At the request of the Legislative Day planning committee (on which I serve), the statewide marketing cohort developed a new handout about public library systems that WLA will include in the folders prepared for each legislator. Chad was instrumental in designing this new handout, which is included with this report. Governor Evers plans to attend the morning session where we will have the opportunity to thank him for his steadfast support of libraries throughout his career.

Library Subs Pilot
We have hired two substitutes so far, and two more are in the pipeline. The sub candidates collectively have indicated a willingness to cover requests in all OWLSnet counties. Our first library sub assignment is scheduled for Friday, 1/16 at Kimberly so that library staff can attend village-wide training.

WLA on the Road in New London
WLA Executive Director Kara Sullivan is re-launching the "WLA on the Road" program, for which WLA gatherings will be held in communities throughout the state. One of the sessions scheduled for 2026 will be a tour of the new New London Public Library on September 25th. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.