



The Year in Review

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Who We Are

OUR MISSION

We believe libraries, cultural institutions, and their partners make the world a better place.

We build relationships and provide services so they can do more with their time and money.

We help our members turn ideas into action.

— OUR VALUES —

We work in the best interest of our members.

We take their missions very seriously, and we only do work that supports them.

We are optimistic about the future of our members.

Our members have always overcome challenges, and they will continue to do so in the future. We encourage problem-solving through engagement and creativity among our community.

We are sincere.

We are genuinely honest with ourselves and others. We are reflective about who we are as an organization and how we can improve service to our members.

— OUR VALUES —

We promote innovation.

We guide the efforts and broadcast the outcomes of members' experimental endeavors, and we model innovation through our own organizational practices.

We respect and value our members' time as we do our own.

We strive to find ways to work smarter and more efficiently for our members.

We believe that we're all in this together.

We are a part of the ecosystem that supports the community of our members. We benefit from the community and the community benefits from us. We believe that we succeed together.

WHAT WE DID

Educated and Connected the Community

Freed Up Member Resources

Coordinated and Managed Digital Content Initiatives

Used Strategic Partnerships to Add Value for Our Members

Helped Shape the Future of Wisconsin Libraries

Educating and Connecting the Community

As a member organization, we have the great pleasure of learning from our members and sharing that knowledge with the rest of the community. We strive to create connections and help our members learn from one another. We do this through hosted events, presentations, member interviews and vendor interviews.

Educating and Connecting the Community

Hosted Events

Our hosted events bring the community together.
This year, we continued our core events:

WiLSWorld

Peer Council

ILL Meeting

Educating and Connecting the Community

We also hosted six regional meetings around the topic of collaboration and solving problems together.

UW-Rock County
Janesville

Chippewa Valley
Museum
Eau Claire

Nicolet College
Rhineland

Fond du Lac
Public Library

Carthage College
Kenosha

Southwest Wisconsin
Library System
Fennimore

Educating and Connecting the Community

Our OCLC webinars offered more opportunities to learn from one another through a cataloging best practices exchange and sessions presented by knowledgeable practitioners with real-world experience.

Library
Spotlight

OCLC
Updating

Using
Knowledge
Base

Managing
Born Digital
Content

Educating and Connecting the Community

We organized panels and presented on topics of interest to our members at conferences around the state. We shared what we've learned and brought together the collective knowledge of the community around topics including strategic planning, relationship building, e-book trends, and the maker movement.

WEMTA

Local History
and
Historic
Preservation

WAAL

WAPL

WiscNet

WLA

Lake Superior
Libraries
Symposium

Educating and Connecting the Community

Members

Paula Kiely
Gretel Stock-Kupperman
Carrie Kruse
Paula Ganyard

And to share the perspectives of our members and vendor partners, we added the monthly interview series where vendors and members share their experience and views of the library world in their own words.

Vendor Partners

OCLC
Gale
bepress
EBSCO

Freeing Up Member Resources

Cooperative Purchasing of electronic resources is our flagship service, and this year we increased participation by 23%, saving our members time and money so they can focus on serving the needs of their communities.

Freeing Up Member Resources

We heard from our members that they needed help from experts in workflow analysis, technology, technical services, and more.

To help, we started the **Experts Connection** service. It connects members with expertise to members who need assistance.

For example, we connected Beloit Public Library with web redesign expertise at the Indianhead Federated Library System.

Whether it's connecting libraries and experts for a one-day workflow consulting project or for a long-term project like a website redesign, we help members find the expertise that they need.

Freeing Up Member Resources

And WiLS staff met some of the needs for expertise, too. We've been helping our public library members with cost-effective **planning processes** that help them get ready for the future while staying within their planning budgets.

We provided expert consultation and service assessments, especially in the area of delivery.

We saved three public library systems time and money by researching and developing a migration path for email services, allowing the work to be done once and applied three times around the state.

Coordinating and Managing Digital Content

We continued to provide leadership in coordinating and managing digital content.

We worked with the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC) on maintaining and developing their statewide ebook collection. We organize collection development, support, vendor communications, website development, and all other aspects of the project to create an efficient statewide collection.

Coordinating and Managing Digital Content

We continue to work with other consortia around the country on e-book content and licensing issues, discussing the challenges we face in Wisconsin, learning from the community, and sharing our experiences.

Coordinating and Managing Digital Content

We worked with three horticulture libraries (now the Horticulture Library Consortium) to create a shared ebook collection. We helped guide them through the process of selecting a vendor and getting started on developing a shared collection.

Coordinating and Managing Digital Content

This year, we rebranded and redesigned Wisconsin Heritage Online. Now Recollection Wisconsin, the portal to digital historical resources from communities around the state, has almost 134,000 items in 211 collections and continues to grow. The new website was recognized with an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.

Strategic Partnerships to Add Value for Our Members

We're always looking for opportunities to strengthen existing partnerships and to create new partnerships to benefit our members

Here are some examples from this year

Strategic Partnerships to Add Value for Our Members

CESA Purchasing

We developed a new partnership with CESA purchasing that will offer more direct order opportunities to all WiLS members (more coming soon!)

Strategic Partnerships to Add Value for Our Members

Minitex

Building on our strong base of collaboration with Minitex, we developed a no-fee reciprocal borrowing resource sharing relationship between Minitex libraries and WiLS members.

Strategic Partnerships to Add Value for Our Members

OCLC

We continued our partnership relationship with OCLC, sharing information about their programs and services and providing educational opportunities, including a spring webinar series.

Helping Shape the Future of Wisconsin Libraries

We're very proud to be part of the reshaping of the public library systems in the state through processes to explore collaboration and other research projects.

Helping Shape the Future of Wisconsin Libraries

We worked with three public library systems to explore the possibilities of an ILS merger. We developed and managed a flexible process and we acted as an objective facilitator and third-party advisor, providing an important bridge between the partners.

Helping Shape the Future of Wisconsin Libraries

We also worked with a SRLAAW (System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin) subcommittee on a process about creating more effective public library systems. We facilitated the process and conducted surveys and interviews to give the subcommittee the information they needed to create recommendations and best practices for public library systems.

Helping Shape the Future of Wisconsin Libraries

We worked with the Department of Public Instruction, Public Library Development team on a study of ILS consortia in the state, including a survey of the consortia and a survey of libraries that do not participate in the consortia.

We also served on the DPI System Study Group to investigate lean practices in system services, sharing our experience and expertise and learning more about the community we serve.

A Few Numbers...

504 total members

161 new members (+48%)

426 total cooperative purchasing members

79 new cooperative purchasing members (+23%)

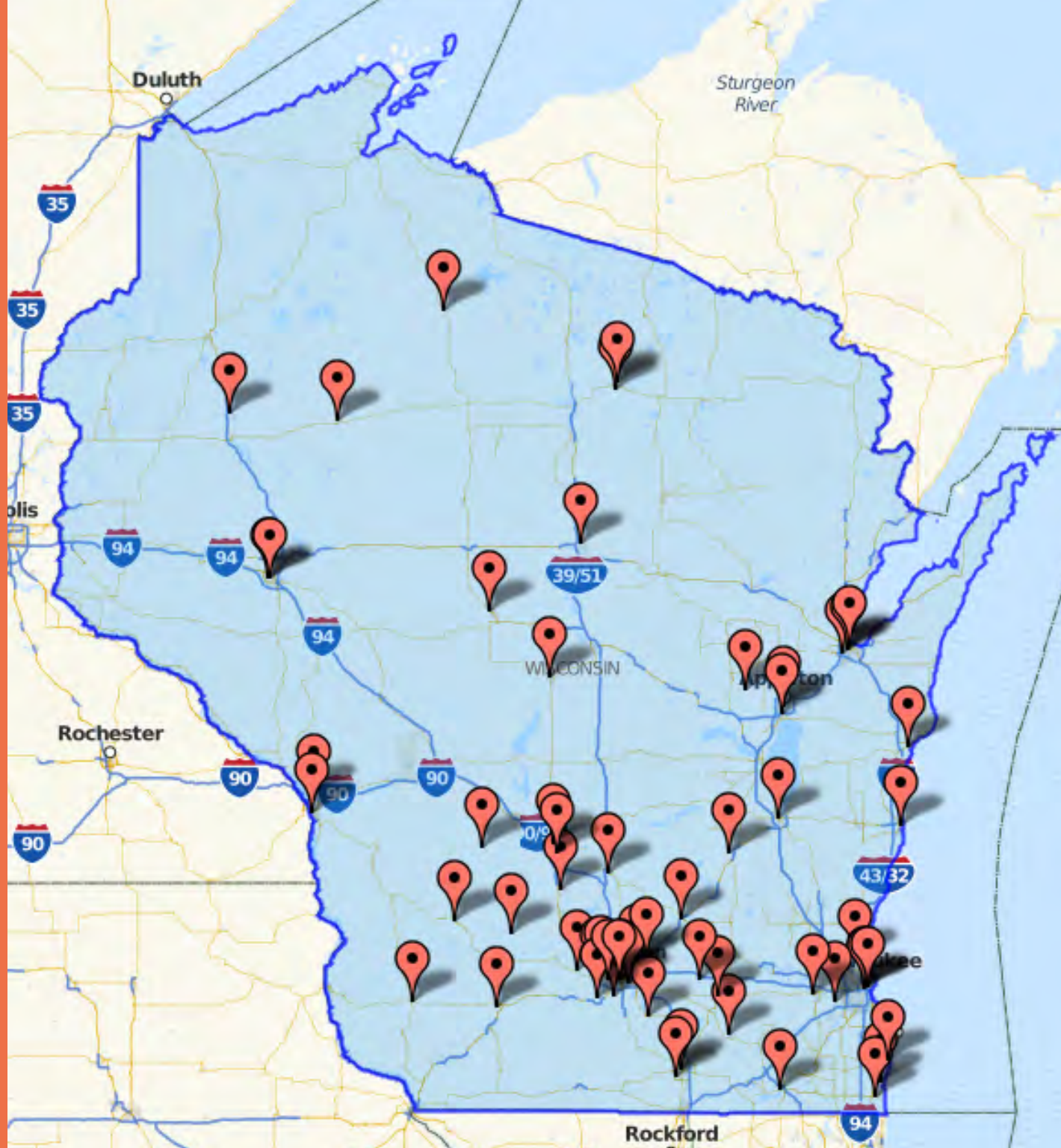
3009 total subscriptions managed

222 new cooperative purchasing subscriptions

7,747 new Recollection Wisconsin digital items

Where WiLS Was

We believe in getting out among our member community. During the year, WiLS staff traveled around the state to meet with members, hold staff meetings, and work on members' projects



On the Horizon

WiLS staff and board have identified three strategic directions for 2014-15

Improve cooperative purchasing processes

Make the purchasing experience better for our members and less labor-intensive for us.

Develop Experts Connection

Expand and solidify the Experts Connection service and find new and inventive ways for our members to coordinate on funding collaborative projects.

Improve time management and allocation mechanisms

Focus internally on best practices to manage our time and build a strong foundation of organizational practices to allow us to expand services while keeping our overhead low.

We couldn't do it without all of you

WiLS Board WiLS Staff Committees Members

Thank you for being part of our
community

