

DRAFT
SIX MONTH PROJECT REPORT
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Wisconsin Public Library Consortium Members 2000

Eastern Shores Library System
Indianhead Federated Library System
 (including L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, Eau Claire)
Nicolet Federated Library System
Outagamie-Waupaca Library System
South Central Library System
Waukesha County Federated Library System
Winding Rivers Library System
Winnefox Library System

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, DELAYS

The initial planning meeting for all consortium partners was held on June 27, 2000. At that meeting, the consortium membership agreement was discussed, decisions were made about how the project should be managed and the working committees were identified. Contracts for grant management (Linda Miller, LMA Techwork), training and PR (WiLS) and evaluation (Himmel & Wilson) were finalized during the summer of 2000. An electronic list was established as the primary communications tool for consortium business. Minutes of all WPLC Steering Committee meetings are attached.

More than 2,000 NetLibrary titles were chosen for purchase and the collection became available to all WPLC partners in November. Current plans call for the WPLC NetLibrary collection to be made available to the public by February 1, 2001. Details about this process, training and public relations are included in the attached report from WiLS. Library patron authentication for NetLibrary was initially set up via static IP address for all partners, but one partner is also experimenting with authentication via referring URL. PR materials have been created and distributed to participating libraries and are available via the Internet.

Acquiring the dedicated hand-held ebook readers as originally planned has been the biggest problem and delay in the grant. The RocketBook readers, which the consortium had planned to buy in quantity, were withdrawn from the market in the third quarter of 2000. After some delay and a change in ownership, a somewhat similar product, the RCA REB1100, was introduced just before Christmas. The REB1100 is more expensive and has fewer features than its predecessor and, most importantly, has far fewer titles available. The Steering Committee of the WATF has decided not to purchase the hand-held dedicated readers at this time and is keeping watch on the market and the various products in development. The issue will be revisited at the Steering Committee meeting scheduled for March 28th.

After the WPLC Partnership Agreement was finalized and signed by all the original partners, it was circulated to other library systems throughout the state. Signed agreements to join WPLC in 2001 have been submitted by three additional library systems (Lakeshores, Mid-Wisconsin, Kenosha County) and the Milwaukee Public Library. Another library system (Wisconsin Valley) has shared plans to join later this month.

WiLS WPLC GRANT PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Selection of titles for initial purchase of eBooks from NetLibrary

Committee of representatives from the participating libraries worked via email to review the available titles (10,000+) to identify the types of materials most appropriate for the collection. Initial order for 2,100 titles was placed in November; 1,700 titles have been loaded into the WPLC collection as of the end of the year.

Two reasons for the discrepancy between titles ordered and titles loaded: first, some titles are back-ordered as they are still "in production;" second, we ran into a problem with particular publishers not being willing to sell their publications to a "shared collection" such as the WPLC. Clearly these publishers fear a loss of sales both in terms of print materials and in the potential for multiple copies of eBook titles. This may be a significant problem for the WPLC; however, we are working closely with NetLibrary to "negotiate" with these vendors.

WPLC participants will open access to their users as of February 1st. During the subsequent months we will be analyzing usage data upon which future title selections can be based. It is anticipated that additional titles will be ordered before the end of June. NOTE: WiLS will collect and analyze consortium-wide usage statistics. WPLC Partners have been provided with authorizations and passwords to access their own usage data.

Library Training

WiLS developed two customized training sessions for participants. The first workshop was designed as an introduction and overview of eBooks. Each Partner was offered the

opportunity to have this workshop in their area. In addition, one session was held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Library Association Conference in Green Bay in early November.

Content overview see: <http://lepton.wils.wisc.edu/ebooks>

The second workshop is a hands-on training specifically focused on NetLibrary. Each Partner was offered the opportunity for multiple sessions of this workshop based upon the number of libraries within their System.

Content overview see: <http://lepton.wils.wisc.edu/netlibrary>

WILS will be developing a third workshop to provide training on use of eBook readers.

Training Calendar - as of January 5th.

Date	Workshop	Partner
oct 10	1 overview	scls
nov 2	1 overview	all (during wla)
nov 10	1 overview	owls
nov 17	1 overview	scls
nov 21	1 overview	eastern shores
dec 8	1 hands on	scls
dec 12	2 hands on	wcfls
dec 14	1 hands on	owls
dec 15	1 hands on	scls
dec 18	1 overview	lacrosse pl
dec 19	2 hands on	eastern shores
jan 4	2 overviews	indianhead
jan 8-9	4 hands on	winnefox
jan 22	2 hands on	indianhead
jan 25-26	2 overviews	winding rivers
	2 hands on	winding rivers
jan 29	2 hands on	scls
jan 30	2 hands on	wcfls
feb 1	1 overview	brown co.
	1 hands on	nicolet
	1 hands on	owls
feb 12	1 hands on	nicolet
feb 13	3 hands on	brown co.
feb 15	2 hands on	scls
mar 6	2 hands on	scls

Promotional Activities

The first level of PR was aimed at the general library community to promote increased participation in the Consortium. To this end WiLS created a web page about the project.

see: <http://www.wils.wisc.edu/coop/vendor/netlib3.html>

Promotional materials about eBooks targeted at library users were developed by a PR Committee of WPLC representatives. Each Partner was provided with single, photocopy-ready copies for each member library. Two versions of each item were provided as libraries can opt to access eBooks in two different ways. Electronic versions of each item were also made available in pdf format for easy downloading.

see: <http://www.wcfls.lib.wi.us/wplc/>

NetLibrary provided the WPLC promotional materials including posters, bookmarks, stickers, "wobblies" and mouse pads - for each participating library.

All promotional materials were collected, copied, sorted and packaged by WiLS staff. Most materials were "hand-delivered" to Steering Committee members; others were distributed via the South Central delivery service.

REMAINING GRANT ACTIVITIES

Most of the project evaluation activities will take place later in 2001. Names and addresses of library staff that will be participating in the ebook project have been gathered and submitted to Himmel & Wilson for a staff survey to take place very soon..

Some partners have begun to work with their community partners, but most of the work in that area will be completed after February 1.

Additional NetLibrary titles will be selected and purchased before June 30, 2001.

The automated library systems of WPLC partners have not yet had records for the netLibrary titles loaded into their local online public access catalogs, though planning for this process is essentially complete.

Information about the WPLC ebook project was presented by Mark Beatty of WiLS in a session at the Library and Information Technology National Forum in Portland, Oregon in November, 2000. Additional information sessions are being proposed for several other conferences that will be held later in the grant period.

Training for library staff and the public will be ongoing for the remainder of the grant period as will our PR campaign.

