

Steering Committee updates – April 23, 2015

Newspaper project

The LSTA grant has been approved, and the workgroup is now working to identify pilot libraries. Systems were asked for libraries that have expressed interest in digitizing newspapers and/or had already digitized newspapers. A set of prime candidates, based on the criteria in the project proposal, have been identified. Wisconsin Historical Society is now determining what microfilm is held for each of the potential libraries. Once that is done, the potential libraries will be contacted with a brief survey and we expect to start the work with WHS soon.

Local content project

While libraries are no longer loading local content, we continue to load content from two sources:

1. Free ebooks available from publishers (Unshelved books, for example)
2. Ebooks purchased from publishers in Wisconsin.

We have created a procedure for creating metadata when uploading content that we are now testing. We are also learning a lot about the possibilities and limitations of the OverDrive local content platform. We will be sharing some of the things we have learned with the Digital Collection Workgroup as they consider changes to the selection policy and will share results along with their recommendations.

OverDrive Account Representative Check-in

- The arrangement with Bookshare where OverDrive paid for the first year for access to Bookshare's collection of accessible titles has ended. WiLS is contacting the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library to find another solution for accessible eBooks.
- WiLS has provided a written request to OverDrive to stress the importance of improved searching, especially filtering, to try to help escalate this on their development list. This ranks highly on our wish list and is a frequent request of patrons.
- OverDrive is still working with multiple publishers to work on a process to convert their WMA titles to MP3. At this time OverDrive is still going with the hard sunset date of late May for no longer having WMA available in the library. They haven't finalized what they'll do for those titles that are not available as MP3's that we own once they make the transition.