

WPLC Steering Committee Project Updates – 9-24-15

Buying pool percentage pilot project

When the buying pool started, the amount for the buying pool was set at \$1,000,000, partially because that amount represented approximately 5% of the spending on physical materials by all public libraries in the state. In 2014, the relative percentage had gone down to 3.9%. If we factor in Advantage spending, the relative percentage is 4.8%, slightly less than 5%.

As there have been discussions in the past about increasing the amount of the buying pool, the Digital Library Steering Committee supported a pilot project to encourage a system to increase the amount spent as an experiment to measure impact on patron use. Winnefox Library System has consistently invested more into their Advantage collection than other systems, so, rather than increasing the amount of their spend, we are looking at current and historical data (when available) to see the impact, if any, the higher investment makes on patron use.

We will be tracking patron hold information through the end of the year, and will combine that information with historical and current circulation data to share with the Board and Steering Committee early next year.

Libraries Simplified and LEAP

In July, there was a webinar with Micah May from the New York Public Library about these two programs. If you missed the webinar, you can watch the recording { <http://wplc.info/sites/wplc.info/files/2015-07-17%2013.02%20Overview%20of%20Libraries%20Simplified%20and%20the%20LEAP%20Initiative%20for%20WPLC.mp4>} or read the attached article for more information.

The WPLC board has decided to have the project manager team continue to monitor the progress of these projects and report back to the Board and Steering Committee when there is new information.

Newspaper project

An excel spreadsheet of the titles and dates for the pilot project is included with this report.

You'll notice that none of these titles are from larger communities in the state. The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) has applied for a National Digital Newspaper Program grant from the Library of Congress to digitize "papers of record" from the state, which would include papers from the larger communities.

WHS was recently informed that they will be receiving this grant, which is great news! While exact titles have not yet been chosen, we expect the titles to be a good complement to those selected for our pilot.

WiLS is working with WHS, Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA), and DPI on the next steps of the project, which are:

--Finalizing filenaming conventions (complete)

--Digitizing microfilm held at WHS

--To start working to secure permission for titles in copyright (which WNA will do in conjunction with the libraries where this is needed.)

We hope to have all content digitized by the end of the year, and the components in place to begin growing the collection shortly after that.

Statistics Workgroup

WiLS will be having two sessions on Wednesday, November 4th at the WLA Conference related to data visualization: "Basics of Data Visualization" and "Data Visualization using Excel". There will then be a "WPLC/OverDrive data hackathon" on Thursday afternoon in the exhibit hall. The purpose of the hackathon would be to create visualizations of OverDrive data that could be easily customized and reused by different libraries, along with the instructions on how to use the visualization. In this way, the work of creating the visualizations and instructions is crowdsourced and the event could generate some publicity for the project, while giving those attending the earlier sessions a chance to apply what they've learned.