



WLA News

Information from the Wisconsin Library Association
Spring 2020

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WLA Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation. The Wisconsin Library Association has compiled fact-based information from a variety of sources to make them readily available to Wisconsin libraries. As more information is produced and distributed, WLA will continue to update this page. If you have resources that you find useful and would like to share them, please email us. We are stronger together. For more information, see <https://www.wisconsin-libraries.org/covid-response>

President's Message

By Sherry Machones, 2020 WLA Board President

Greetings all,

A new WLA year and decade has begun, and it has never felt busier! I always have to remind myself at this time of year that work is a marathon and not a sprint. Librarianship and our professional association's efforts are both a relay and a marathon. I thank our membership for putting me on the track and past WLA President Scott Vrieze for "passing the baton." I encourage everyone to take a moment to consider how service to our association can enhance your professional life. Asking and encouraging other people to step forward may be the most impactful thing we can do in each other's lives. Time spent forging a professional learning network pays dividends. Investing time in our state association work, participating in wider public communicating forums through articles, blogs, and tweets all help us connect with others in ways we have no way to anticipate. Case in point: In January, I was involved in a near-fatal car crash in Madison, 6 hours from home. I had no one local to help me, but I did have the contact information of my Fall Conference Chair, Jen Gerber, and Programming Chair, Barry McKnight. They were in the area and dropped everything to come and help me for the next few hours. My involvement in WLA led to these relationships and, in the end, saved me and my sanity. There are so many awesome people in our organization, and I feel honored to work with all of you!

Speaking of the Fall Conference, this awesome conference team has been in full planning mode for quite some time, and we are looking forward to another great conference this year in Green Bay. Jen Gerber is doing a magnificent job of keeping everything on track and not shying away from doing new things. Our theme will revolve around storytelling in different ways illustrated by our three keynotes, Sarah Vowell, an author and actress; Stephan Franck, a writer, animator, and graphic artist; and Nigel Poor, a photographer, and podcaster. I am so excited to see what other new and innovative programs come from our community for this conference!

As I look beyond our state association, I wanted to let you know about some changes to our national library leadership. On January 9th, the U.S. Senate confirmed unanimously



the nomination of ALA member and Kansas City (MO) Public Library CEO Crosby Kemper III as director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Kemper brings experiences from working in both museums and libraries and is expected to do well despite the Presidential budget, which recommends eliminating the IMLS. Also, the American Library Association appointed Tracie D. Hall as its new executive director. Hall is the first female African-American executive director in ALA's history and is no stranger to libraries or ALA. Over the years, she has worked at the Seattle Public Library, the New Haven (Conn.) Free Public Library, Queens (N.Y.) Public Library, and Hartford (Conn.) Public Library. In 1998, she was among the first cohort of ALA's Spectrum Scholars, a grant program to diversify librarianship, and she served as the director of ALA's Office for Diversity in the early 2000s.

Wisconsin Library Association

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HELLO FROM THE EDITOR!

Colleen Hallfrisch,
2020 WLA Newsletter Editor

Hello, everyone! My name is Colleen Hallfrisch and I am the new editor of the WLA Newsletter in 2020. I currently work at UW-Oshkosh as the Metadata Librarian. I have been in this position since October 2019. Before this position, I worked at the Beaver Dam Community Library as the Technology and Public Services Librarian. Becoming a librarian has been my dream since I was in eighth grade. I am passionate about helping people in the community and love learning about what other libraries are accomplishing. In my spare time, I enjoy running every day, reading, and spending time outdoors. I love to go camping, hiking, and backpacking as well. I am very excited to continue the legacy of the WLA newsletter through meeting new people and sharing about library initiatives around the state. You can contact me at hallfrischc@uwosh.edu.



Director's Message

By Plumer Lovelace, Executive Director of WLA



Spring is arguably the most eagerly awaited season of the year. Although we managed to escape last year's harsh winter, cold temperatures, snow, darkness, and too much Netflix has many of us counting the days until spring. The arrival of spring signals rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, and revitalization. It is a time of hope and joyfulness, a time of beginnings, a time of energy and optimism. With spring, comes the ongoing effort by me and the WLA Board to continue building an association that we can all be proud of.

So...what's the plan for 2020? The themes this year will be very similar to the priorities that kept me and our amazing volunteers busy last year, membership growth, fabulous spring and fall conferences, expanding relationships at the State Capitol, and positioning the association to exist another 128 years. However, I think it's always important to reflect on where you've come from as you plan for the future.

So much has changed since my first day in the office in October 2013.

The board was restructured to represent all units within the association, the office added staff, special interest groups were launched, the newsletter was reborn, legislative strategy was retooled, three new standing committees were created, new policies were introduced and the list goes on.

At the December Board Retreat, one of the observations that surfaced is the fact that the association has changed a lot in five years. As a result, we now have the important (and maybe not so exciting) task of revising the Organizational Manual and associated templates, checklists, sample forms, and calendars. Much like my Grandmother's constant reminder that "everything has a place, if you put everything in its place, you'll know where to find it," this project has to be a priority. Once completed, this document will contain all of the innovation, process improvements and recommendations contributed by WLA staff, volunteers and leaders over the last several years. Without it, we risk having to recreate those innovations and missing a key tool in our effort to transfer knowledge from one leader to another.

WLA Financial Report | 2019

By Tom Kunkel, WLA Financial Manager

A new decade comes on the heels of WLA's first year of increase to net assets in several years. This is super encouraging after battling to get members and conference attendees back after the dark days of the 2008 recession. The year 2019 saw impressive showings by our Conference Committees!! The WLA Conference booked our second most financially successful conference ever!! Our Public Division Conference (WAPL), Support Staff & Circulation Section (SSCS), and The Leadership Development Institute had banner years as well!! Kudo's to the Committees of all of our events as these are vital revenue sources for the WLA to fulfill our goals and mission. The Academic Division (WAAL) of WLA will look to bounce back this year with a great location in Brookfield and exciting programming. Our investments of reserves had great returns in 2019 to help recover from a grim 2018. Membership took a little dip this year but the 2020 Board is very encouraged by momentum building with our growing younger generation members and excitement behind the powerful keynote series at this year's Fall Conference.. We will continue to encourage each and every member to spread the word that strength, progress, and fun are built through numbers. Here's to a greater 2020 and I hope to meet many more of you at this year's MEGA-EXCITING Fall and Spring Conferences!!

A Message from the President of the WLA Foundation Board

This year marks my tenth year as a library director. I am excited to celebrate this milestone all year with service to the libraries in our state as President of the Wisconsin Library Association Foundation. This year promises to challenge me as I seek to build awareness of the Foundation with our new members while more deeply engaging those who have been with us for many years.

My experience to date has been in public libraries, but my insatiable curiosity drives me to learn about all kinds of libraries and the organizations that support libraries. I am truly grateful for the opportunities that the WLA provides as we gather at conferences and events throughout the year.

The WLA Conference is always a wonderful experience, and this year will be no exception. Make plans now to attend this year's conference, October 27-30, at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, and encourage others to attend. While the Foundation endeavors to raise funds through its conference fundraiser and the silent auction, it is also a time when we distribute so much back to our community in the form of scholarships and awards.

I look forward to your support and I hope to see you at the conference.

Sincerely,
Steve Thiry



WLA Foundation Annual Contributors | 2019

The Wisconsin Library Association Foundation thanks the following individuals for contributions made and processed through December 31, 2019. We are grateful for your generosity and continued support!

Contributing Partner \$1,000-\$4,999

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2020 Library Legislative Day

By Gina Rae, WRLS Cataloger/Bookkeeper

I was psyched about the opportunity to attend Library Legislative Day, but as the day grew closer, anxiety began to creep in, so I reviewed my plan: Introduce myself, show my library system's 1 minute video, share our infographic, tell my story. When I entered the office of my senator, all my nervousness slipped away. One of the talents of the small librarian is the ability to diffuse unease in a room. It's what we do every day. We make people feel comfortable with us and with our space. I went from anxious to "happy to be there" in a flash and the interns were happy to see me as well.

Next year, WLA will be looking to double the number of attendees for library legislative day. That means that there will be many more small librarians like you sharing your story. Start thinking about what that story might sound like. The story that I told took place in the spring of 2019 when I was the director at the Wilton Public Library:

I overheard our ambulance service director tell our village clerk that she was having difficulty getting all the EMT's recertifications in order. There were training videos to watch and forms to be printed, signed, and scanned. Many members had watched the videos on their phones because they don't have high speed internet at home and they weren't able to print the documents they needed from their phones. I asked them when their next meeting was and we held that meeting at the library. Using public computers and library laptops, scanner, and printer we were able to turn in all the Ambulance Director's recertification papers in one evening.



Kristen Anderson, Shanneon Grant, Gina Rae, Brooke Newberry

Superintendent Stanford-Taylor



Brooke Newberry, Shanneon Grant, Gina Rae



Library Legislative Day

Plumer Lovelace with visitors from the Teen Connected Learning Program in Milwaukee



New WLA Mentorship Program Seeks First Cohort of Mentees and Mentors

“Colleagues are a wonderful thing - but mentors, that’s where the real work gets done.” – Junot Diaz.

WLA is pleased to announce the launch of a new state-wide mentorship program, and we are seeking applications for members interested in participating as a mentor or mentee in the WLA Mentorship Program’s pilot year. The WLA Leadership Committee was appointed in 2017 to assess past WLA mentorship endeavors, like WeLead, to survey the membership about mentorship needs and opportunities, and, finally, to create a new self-sustaining program that will benefit librarians and library staff from all walks of life and all types of libraries. Whether you are new to the profession or a seasoned veteran who needs to pick someone’s brain about a new project or role, the Leadership Committee will work diligently to match you with someone in a similar position with similar responsibilities.

WLA has a mission to engage, inspire, and advocate for library workers and supporters to improve and promote library services for the people of Wisconsin. In line with that mission, the WLA Mentorship Program is designed to provide encouragement, support, and guidance to library staff seeking professional growth through connections with experienced colleagues within a structured mentoring program. Mentees gain experience from knowledgeable library colleagues while becoming further involved in the statewide professional association. Mentors gain opportunities to give back to the profession, model volunteerism, and help influence the future of librarianship.

When asked about the new program, WLA’s Executive Director Plumer Lovelace said “the WLA Board and I are thoroughly excited about the new mentor program created by the Leadership Committee. This program is member driven and customizable to the diverse needs of our profession. We’ve already seen a very positive response to the news of the rollout.” And WLA President Sherry Machones added “I’m proud of the work that the WLA Leadership has done to provide this excellent program. I am thrilled about the prospect of bringing in the first cohort of librarians to help both mentors and mentees grow professionally!”

Any WLA member may apply to the year-long program. There is no additional cost to participate. Each mentor/mentee pair will work with a Leadership Committee liaison to set goals and develop a productive, professional relationship. In this inaugural year, a limited number of partnerships will be enrolled. For more information or to apply as either a mentee or mentor, visit <https://wla.memberclicks.net/mentorship-program>



Division & Section Updates

AWSL

(Association of Wisconsin Special Librarians)

The Wisconsin State Law Library creates research guides on a variety of topics and shares them with professionals and the public. Recently updated with new additions, the Drug and Alternative Treatment Courts research guide is a one stop source for alternative treatment court standards, reports, and analysis. Paired with our webpage on the topic, this guide is designed to kick-start research in this growing area of the law. <http://wilawlibrary.gov/learn/starthere/treatmentcourts.pdf>

For more information and resources, see the Wisconsin State Law Library's website at <http://wilawlibrary.gov/>
By Amy O'Shea, Schumacher Library

RASS

(Reference & Adult Services Section)

RASS will be sending out the first quarterly newsletter this spring. Make sure you're included by joining the list: <http://eepurl.com/gKKE7H>

RASS will be hosting the first continuing education webinar this summer. Share your preferences: <https://forms.gle/ce-w5qsBcs8xKfkoG6>
By Barbara Alvarez, North Shore Library

WAAL

(Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians)

We regret to inform you that the 2020 WAAL Conference, scheduled for April 16-17, has been canceled due to concerns about COVID-19 (Coronavirus). This unanimous decision was made by the WLA Board and WAAL leadership in light of the developments over the last few days, including elevated warnings from the CDC and WHO, growing travel restrictions worldwide, and increasing numbers of requested cancellations from presenters.

The Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians (WAAL) Leadership recently completed a thorough revision of the division's Policies & Procedures, which were last updated in 2011. WAAL's organization and general procedures have changed in recent years, but these changes are not reflected in the current P&P. The revisions bring the P&P up-to-date and set the stage for the future. WAAL leadership will distribute the proposed revisions to the membership soon; members will have the opportunity to respond by e-mail.

Maureen Olle-LaJoie (Library Director, UW River Falls) began her term as the incoming chair in January. Welcome, Maureen!

We're seeking an interested volunteer to fill the vacant secretary position through 2020. The secretary is primarily responsible for recording and distributing minutes. If you are interested, please contact Plumer Lovelace at lovelace@wisconsinlibraries.org.
By Michael Doylen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries

SSCS

(Support Staff & Circulation Services)

After careful consideration of the ongoing spread of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Wisconsin, we regret to inform you that the 2020 Support Staff & Circulation Services Conference scheduled for May 21, 2020, has been canceled. This unanimous decision was made by the SSCS leadership, WLA Board, and Executive Director in light of the rapidly escalating health concerns and other restrictions.

WAPL

(Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries)

We regret to inform you that the 2020 WAPL Conference, scheduled for April 29 – May 1, has been canceled due to concerns about COVID-19 (Coronavirus). This unanimous decision was made by the WLA Board and WAPL leadership in light of the developments over the last few days, including elevated warnings from the CDC and WHO, growing travel restrictions worldwide, and increasing numbers of requested cancellations from presenters.

REAL-ID SUPPORT AT LIBRARIES

By Valerie Magno,
Fox Valley Technical College

When you plan your programs for the Summer, add "Getting REAL-ID" to your line-up. In particular, consider how your library can help elderly and lower income citizens prove their citizenship status and legal name.

Why get REAL-ID? To protect your freedom. In particular, freedom to get onto an airplane for a domestic flight; your freedom to visit federal buildings; your freedom to visit a military installation. Once that is set up and enforced, it is possible other freedoms will also be contingent on having a REAL-ID.

What is REAL-ID? Proof of citizenship and legal name authentication.

The Wisconsin DMV offers an interactive driver licensing guide at <https://dlguides.wi.gov/>.

Even if you have a valid driver's license for Wisconsin: To get a REAL-ID, you still need to bring documents proving citizenship and legal name to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The simplest documents needed are birth certificate; marriage certificate; social security card; and paycheck, stub or earning statement (copy allowed) with employer's name and address issued within the last 90 days.

Note: The DMV may decline to accept any document presented if it has reason to suspect its authenticity. Questionable documents may require additional review.

People without a birth certificate, or who are unemployed, or have lost or never had a social security card, will need to give themselves more time to obtain proofs of citizenship and legal name. The poor and the elderly are most apt to need assistance in obtaining proper documentation.

Looking For Your Feedback: Supporting Collaboration Survey

By Marge Loch-Wouters



In the spirit of work at the national level through ALA's State Ecosystem Initiative and the new [Public Library & School Library Collaboration Toolkit](#) done through collaborative efforts of AASL, YALSA, and ALSC, WEMTA, WLA, and DPI are working together to support and foster communications and collaborations among Wisconsin public and school librarians in order to better support the communities we serve. Each quarter we will share a resource, strategy, or example with you that could be used as a talking point in your community. Please use these ideas to initiate or continue to build relationships with public and school librarians.

Almost two years ago a small group of librarians started thinking about the great things happening with public and school libraries and wanted to find a way to both promote these efforts and encourage even more collaboration. We began with great conversations and created this "Tidbit" column, which has become part of the WLA and WEMTA newsletters. Now, as we look toward the future, we are looking to all of our colleagues throughout Wisconsin to participate and help channel our group's energy in the most productive, and effective direction.

We began gathering feedback at the WLA Conference last fall where we interviewed and surveyed people who

visited our table in the exhibit hall, which was hosted by the Department of Public Instruction. As a way to say thank you, each participant received a sticker proudly announcing, "I'm Connecting Wisconsin Libraries."

Since not everyone is able to attend these conferences, and we truly want to hear from as many public and school librarians as possible, here is a [link to our survey](#). Please consider filling it out so that we can get a clearer picture of what public and school collaboration looks like in our state and begin to find ways to overcome some of the challenges that may be standing in our way. We will be analyzing the data and sharing the results of these surveys in spring of 2020.

Thanks, in advance, for sharing your thoughts with us. And, if you want that super awesome sticker for your laptop or water bottle, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Monica Treptow, School Library Consultant, Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning, 2109 South Stoughton Rd, Madison, WI, 53716.

This message brought to you through the collaboration of Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA), Wisconsin Library Association (WLA), and DPI School and Public Libraries. If you are interested in working on future tidbits or have other suggestions for collaborations, please contact Marge Loch-Wouters (WLA) at lochwouters@gmail.com or Micki Up-pena (WEMTA) at president@wemta.org.



Inclusive Services Insights

by Nick Demske, Racine Public Library

"A nonprofit reached out recently. They met a black musician who does performances of black music, from when Africans were abducted and brought to the US until now. The performances intend to educate people about the African American musical diaspora and provide a space to discuss racism. The organization reached out because they are a predominantly white organization and they wanted to "make sure" this event was led by leaders in the black community, not them.

When they came to me for guidance on this, my suggestions were:

1) Pay some leaders from the black community good money to do this or 2) Throw this idea out and start over.

This group had decided what to do, who to bring, even decided a date. They were saying they wanted the black community to take the lead. That makes no sense. Taking the lead involves deciding what to do, who to bring, and the details (a date, for instance).

If you want to support initiatives for any community, create relationships with members of that community, learn what they're doing, ask how you can help. Support what's already happening outside the library. We keep creating programs we hope will matter to diverse communities. If we look beyond ourselves, we find these communities already figured out and organized things that matter to them. Find those things, find the people organizing them and see if they would like your library's support for them. In my experience, the people I reach out to always do."

Nick Demske is a community organizer, a poet, and the Community Resources Librarian at Racine Public Library. He also serves as the County Supervisor of Racine County's First District. His work often focuses on racial justice and criminal justice reform. In his library role, he often consults with local organizations on various issues. He is a member of WLA's new Inclusive Services Special Interest Group. To learn more about the group, contact the SIG chair, Mark Jochem, at mjochem@scls.info.

Preserving the History of Milton College

By Ashlee Kunkel, Milton Public Library

The Milton Public Library, with the use of DPI's digital preservation kits, recently scanned and uploaded slides from the Milton College Preservation Society (MCPS) to Recollection Wisconsin.

Milton College opened in 1844 and was known for its liberal arts programs. Unfortunately, it closed in 1982 due to financial struggles. Today, many of the college buildings are still used for commercial and residential purposes. Specifically, since 1985, the Milton Public Library has occupied the former college library, which was built in 1966.

When the public library started their renovation project in 2015, administration approached Milton College alumni and the MCPS to see how everyone could work together to preserve the history of Milton College, now and in the future. With funding help from the alumni, the library now houses Milton College memorabilia, files, yearbooks, and other information and provides two display cases so library visitors can appreciate an

important part of Milton's past. This partnership also gives some permanency to the future of the MCPS as they are faced with aging alumni and volunteers.

When the DPI digital preservation kits became available, library staff approached members of the MCPS on whether they wanted help in visually preserving the college history, which also plays a part in the library's history. MCPS did not have the means to scan their slides, which featured the groundbreaking of the library building, interior shots of the library, and other college happenings. Staff worked with college alumni to identify people, places, and activities in the slides. The pictures will be viewable on Recollection Wisconsin near the end of April.

Milton prides itself on its history and the library is thankful to be a part of preserving the history of Milton College through the use of DPI's kits.



Lakewolves: Connecting the Next Water Protectors to the First

By Laura Killingsworth, Wisconsin Water Library

The Wisconsin Water Library at UW Madison's mission is to support the collection, preservation, and distribution of science-based resources in the state of Wisconsin. Through the UW Aquatic Sciences Center and its two programs, the Water Resources Institute and the Sea Grant Institute, these goals are achieved by participating in outreach events across the state of Wisconsin, supporting educational and research activities of the Aquatic Sciences Center, and preserving the library collection for future and historical value.

You may recall from the 2019 Summer WLA Newsletter, the Wisconsin Water Library collaborated on an underwater photography exhibit titled, "Under the Surface – A Photographic Journey of Hope and Healing". This program was funded by a grant from Wisconsin Sea Grant and was on display throughout Madison in the fall of 2019.

An extension of this project was created at Bayfield High School. This program is titled "Zaaga'igan Ma'iinganag", which means "lakewolves" in Ojibwe. It is an immersive program that helps students gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the lakes as well as the relationship between science and the arts. Led by Toben Lafrancois (Northland College), Rick Erickson (Bayfield High School), and Ian Karl (Northwest Passage), young people of all backgrounds who have grown up on the coast of Lake Superior had an opportunity to explore the lake and its watershed through underwater photography.

The program is also dedicated to exploring the connections among nature, resources, and culture. The Lakewolves learned Ojibwe place names for all of the dive sites. The first names form a common bond of respect between the waters, youth, and elders. This helps to "connect the next water protectors to the First by honoring Ojibwe names."

The students had their own goals as well. They hope that through these photographs, they can share the water and their cultures, and by doing so, revealing their mutually dependent futures. One student stated, "I want people to feel meaning in my photos, feel meaning in their hearts, and go on to do something with that feeling still in their heart".

The Wisconsin Water Library is proud to be involved in this project. To borrow the exhibition to display in your library or for more information, please contact Anne Moser at akmoser@aqu.wisc.edu.

The Importance of Volunteer Leadership: A Report from the Nomination Committee

By Betsy Bleck, Chair, WLA Nomination Committee

Volunteer leaders make the WLA world go 'round! It takes hundreds of volunteers for WLA to offer ongoing, innovative, excellent support to the library community. So let me ask you, Goose and Maverick style: Do you feel the need? The need...to lead?

If you do want to get more involved, rest assured that we will get you situated in the right role for you. WLA's Nomination Committee exists to help align volunteer talents with the best leadership opportunity possible. The Nomination Committee consists of Plumer Lovelace (of course!), Rachel Arndt, Sarah Cournoyer, Vince Mussehl, and myself. We are the lucky ones who get to help you find the leadership opportunity that matches your schedule and interests!

Speaking of the Nomination Committee, we are looking for a few more members. Would you like to join us? We meet online only, once per month. If you like talking to people and would like to learn more about the people power it takes to make WLA work, the Nomination Committee is for you!

If the Nomination Committee doesn't sound like a fit for you, don't sweat it: There are volunteer leadership opportunities to suit everybody! You can help plan conferences, determine who receives literary awards, or help set the direction for your section, from RASS to READ. If you are feeling the need to lead, please contact WLA today, or contact me directly: Betsy Bleck, bbleck@economowoclibrary.org, or (262) 569-2193, ext. 207!

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get the full experience of being a WLA member... volunteer!

Becoming a volunteer allows library professionals to develop leadership skills, create professional development opportunities, expand career networks, and learn more about your Association. It also plays an important role in advancing the mission of the Association and benefiting libraries throughout the state. If you are interested in volunteering, send your message to wla@wisconsinlibraries.org; include in the subject line, "WLA Volunteer." Thanks for your continued support.

YOU'RE NEWSWORTHY!

Submit news, ideas, updates, and stories for the 2020 Summer WLA Newsletter to editor Colleen Hallfrisch at hallfrischc@uwosh.edu



[edu](mailto:hallfrischc@uwosh.edu) by June 5, 2020.

Helping Patrons Navigate Health Information Online

By Caitlyn Mowatt, Wisconsin Health Literacy, a division of Wisconsin Literacy, Inc.



wisconsin
literacy



wisconsin
health
literacy

Technology continues to improve, and more people look online for health information, managing care, and trusted advice. Despite the increasing use, there is a digital divide for many individuals that greatly impacts their ability to find and access trusted quality health information.

Wisconsin Health Literacy (WHL) developed a digital health literacy program, Health Online: Finding Information You Can Trust, to focus on improving the digital divide. Thanks to the support from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine - Greater Midwest Region (NNLM-GMR), WHL has been facilitating community-based workshops for patrons and train-the-trainer sessions for librarians all over Wisconsin since 2018.

"You're never too old. At 91 years old I'm still learning and try my best," said a library patron during the community-based workshop.

The program reached several diverse populations as 180 participants identified being 55 years or older, 53 identified having low literacy, and 78 identified being an English Language Learner. The project reached 17 different ethnicities in 22 Wisconsin counties. For the full results of phase 1 of the program, go to <https://wisconsinliteracy.org/health-literacy/programs/current-programs/health-online-finding-information-you-can-trust.html>.

Staff at Cobb Public Library stated that "All participants were amazed at what they thought they knew, but really didn't.

They learned: how to use safe websites using complete thoughts, not just one word, to find information, and to realize the first site listed is not always the best."

The project met the following objectives: increasing confidence in finding reliable health information online, identifying ways to check for credibility, learning about resources provided by the NNLM, and exceeding sustainability expectations. The most noted accomplishment was a high demand for the project to be implemented in more libraries throughout the state than the grant allowed.

Currently, WHL is in the second phase of the program, supported by NNLM-GMR, with an additional 25 community-based workshops and 10 train-the-trainers for library professionals. The National Institute of Health's (NIH) All of Us program also contracted with WHL to implement the project on a national level. If you're interested in learning more about these programs, email Caitlyn Mowatt at cmowatt@wisconsinliteracy.org.

