

Technology Report

April/May, 2024

Systems Administration

- Windows 11 upgrades for staff PCs are ongoing.
- We are planning a VMware upgrade from version 7 to version 8. VMware is the platform we use for managing our virtual servers. We are also planning to upgrade the firmware on our new SAN for the first time. Neither upgrade will cause downtime.
- We have upgraded the IDPA server backup system to the latest version. LEAN WI has also upgraded the system they host at their datacenter.

MyPC

System Time Limit change – At the [Tech Committee on April 10, 2024](#), the proposal to raise the MyPC daily time limit from 2 hours to 4 hours was discussed, and the committee voted to implement the change. SCLS staff changed the system limit to 4 hours (240 min) on Wednesday, May 1 before the libraries opened. SCLS staff also submitted feedback about the settings to the MyPC developers and a request that, if possible, settings be added so time limits could be set at the site or location level instead of at the system level to improve management options for consortia.

Server replacement – SCLS staff replaced one of our MyPC servers 4/22-4/23 --- this included upgrading the MyPC server software, upgrading the TBS Portal, and changing the configuration for how webpages are being delivered (the change in configuration was done to improve support and to resolve an issue where links in emails to scheduled reports were not working correctly). This was a BIG change and resulted in some unexpected issues, most of which were cleared up during the week of the upgrade. We've have had some lingering login issues, however, and SCLS staff have gathered details and logs, and worked with TBS to track down the suspected issues which likely result from a bug in the software related to how SIP information is being handled. TBS is working with the developers to report and correct the issue.

Microsoft 365

SCLS staff have gotten the go-ahead to purchase additional licenses for 365 which will give us more management options for implementing improved email security. We are currently testing and revising our procedures and will share more information directly with libraries in upcoming months.

Infosec Cybersecurity Training

SCLS is looking into expanding our cybersecurity training program to include all library staff with 365 email accounts through SCLS. This will be a discussion topic at the June Technology Committee meeting. SCLS staff have been working on plans for implementation and reporting.

Cost Formula Work Group

The 2024 Cost Formula Work Group for the 2025 Budget met 4 times and developed the following proposal which was presented at the May All Director's meeting. The 2025 fees will reflect these changes.

Allocate funds from SCLS State Aid Contribution to Rural and/or small libraries as follows;

- a. Reduction for Population
 - i. <2500 = \$1000
 - ii. 2500-4999 = \$750
- b. Reduction for Locale (Locale codes)
 - i. Rural Fringe (41)=\$250
 - ii. Rural Distant (42)=\$500
 - iii. Rural Remote (43)=\$75

Increase PC support fees by 4% (\$10 per PC) in order to cover the gap between income and increasing costs.

Apply the SCLS additional state aid contribution of \$25,000 to the Infrastructure budget to reduce fees for all libraries.

E-Rate

At this time, about 3/4ths of the 2024 E-rate grants have been approved. Grants approved in 2024, typically are not reimbursed until the following year (in this case, 2025). After July 1, we will be able to receive reimbursement for the 2023/2024 E-rate grants which were primarily for broadband.

Data Services

Patron PSTAT verification testing – In May, I developed an R script to calculate the expected PSTAT value for patrons based on the address data in their patron record. The script matches geolocations to various geographical units (municipality boundaries, US Census Tracts, school districts, voting wards) and assigns a PSTAT depending the relevant geography. I created a test data set of ~8000 records, and we are currently gathering feedback from libraries on the preliminary results reports.

Per Capita Comparison dashboard – Using the preliminary library service date from the 2023 DPI Annual Report, I updated the [Per Capita Comparison](#) dashboard on the SCLS Tableau Public profile. The dashboard allows users to compare per capita measures both by library and by county and includes data for all Wisconsin Public Libraries.

Scripting projects – I've been working on various scripting projects in April and May:

- I finalized a Python script to create the monthly [Library Statistics Summary](#) report. This script replaces an existing Python script that was becoming difficult to maintain. It also incorporates minor formatting changes in the report spreadsheet (cell locations, headers, etc.).
- I worked on a Python script to generate the monthly Payments and related reports, including the [Lost and Paid at Another Library](#) report and [Damaged and Paid at Another Library](#) report. The script aims to replace a multi-step process with several manual procedures with a single

script to derive all three reports automatically. This script is currently in the testing phase to ensure it is producing accurate results.

- Finally, I've started work on a Python script to create MARC records for SCLS library digitized content from the Content DM project. The script will read metadata from the item records formatted using the Dublin Core standard and translate the values into MARC format. Eventually, the records of the digitized materials could be added to the LINKcat catalog to enhance discoverability.

- Tim Drexler