

Director's Report

August 2024

My Activities

Discussions between the villages and library boards of Wyocena and Pardeeville continue, as they contemplate the idea of forming a joint library under s. 43.53. Doing so would primarily relieve Wyocena of the difficulties in meeting the library's statutory requirements. Each municipality has requested our involvement throughout this entire process. Tracie Miller and I will work together to provide the assistance needed to form a joint library agreement that is beneficial to both library locations.

Hutchinson Memorial Library in Randolph has hired Wendi Dykstra to be the new library director, effective August 15. We are committed to assisting Wendi in her transition to this new role. She brings many skills and community connections with her, all of which will be utilized as director.

I attended the meeting of the System and Resource Library Administrators' Association of Wisconsin (SRLAAW) in Wausau on August 2. We saw a presentation and discussed an interesting project called [LIFT Wisconsin](#) (Legal Interventions for Transforming Wisconsin), which is a collaboration between the Economic Justice Institute, Inc., Legal Action of WI, Inc., UW Law School's civil legal clinics, Center for Patient Partnerships, and Employment and Training Association. This group views public libraries as natural partners in their civil legal justice efforts. We also continue discussions regarding the 2025-27 biennial state budget proposal for public library support.

Jean Anderson and I have begun working with the consultant who will facilitate our strategic planning focus groups. We are so excited to begin this process!

The coordinators and I have begun developing the annual system plan, a statutory obligation to the DPI that must be submitted no later than October 15 of each year. Because of the timing of our board meetings, the 2025 system plan will be ready for approval by the SCLS board at the September meeting.

My six month performance review has been completed. I sincerely thank the SCLS Board of Trustees for giving me the incredible opportunity to lead the finest staff a public library system can have. I love this job more every day.

Our Member Libraries – What They Are Excited About

Rosemary Garfoot Public Library – Cross Plains

RGPL is very proud of their programming collaborations with local businesses. They hosted a library card sign-up with the Creekside Scoop, who gave away free ice cream with each library card

registration. They hosted a trivia night as a fundraiser for the library's sixtieth birthday. They have also reported that their adult programming has quadrupled, with help from Kelly!

Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library

The library in Marshfield has been moving some amazing existing staff into leadership positions. They have also been reorganizing their young adult area and adding seating space. Next, they will tackle a major weeding project.

Rio Public Library

Rio Public Library had over 100 people of all ages in attendance for their eclipse viewing party. With a municipal population of approximately 1,100 people, that's nearly ten percent! That is just one example of the robust and well-attended programming taking place in Rio. They are currently planning their fall programming and school visits. They really need to replace their service desk, tables, and many chairs, but finding the funds is proving a challenge. Costs continue to rise, while village and county funding remain flat.

Stoughton Public Library

Stoughton Public Library is very proud of its new outdoor programming space. People were very happy to use it over the summer; staff are working on acquiring picnic tables for the space. They are also working on a space needs assessment, as they are out of space inside the library. The library is well used so they need new carpeting, HVAC, and additional staff as well. The director shared that they are happy with the services that SCLS provides, and they find Tim Drexler's dashboards and data helpful!

Respectfully submitted by,

Shannon M. Schultz