

WISPALS 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED AUGUST 2016

WISPALS MISSION

The WISPALS Library Consortium provides member libraries shared access to an integrated library system, information resources, electronic databases, and other services and technologies at reduced costs. It promotes the exchange of knowledge, skills, and best practices for libraries. WISPALS also serves as a liaison between member libraries, and local, state, and national library organizations and vendors.

WISPALS OFFICERS

Board President - Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College

Executive Committee Chair – Scott Vrieze, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

Executive Committee Incoming Chair – Kelly Carpenter, Lakeshore Technical College

WISPALS MEMBERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES



Vince Mussehl, Chippewa Valley Technical College

Jane Roisum, Fox Valley Technical College

Gary Flynn, Gateway Technical College

Kelly Carpenter, Lakeshore Technical College

Maria Hernandez, Mid-State Technical College

Hans Baierl, Moraine Park Technical College

Kristin Kruzan, Northcentral Technical College

Kim A. LaPlante, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Terry Kemper, Waukesha County Technical College

Ron Edwards, Western Technical College

Scott Vrieze, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

WISPALS STATISTICS

For 2015-2016, WISPALS libraries served **676,365** students, faculty and staff.

Between all eleven schools, they have a combined total of **980,500** titles available to their users.

In 2015-2016 over **81,000** physical items were checked out to patrons.

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM SCOTT
VRIEZE, WISPALS 2015-2016 CHAIR

Welcome to the 2015-2016 WISPALS Annual Report. This year was characterized by profound changes in our consortium which made for a stronger, more robust organization that better serves the needs of our member institutions. Those changes included a new consortium management contract with WiLS, a non-profit organization that now performs many of the duties previously accomplished from within the Consortium. We feel that this cost-effective solution ensures both stability and a high level of service quality in the management of the WISPALS organization. Our second transition was our planned migration from our Ex Libris Voyager library software system to a more robust Sierra system. Special thanks go to Kim LaPlante from NWTC for guidance during the transition period between the departure of the previous WISPALS coordinator and the hiring of WiLS. As a result of these changes, on behalf of WISPALS member libraries, I can attest that WISPALS has emerged as a stronger organization as we enter a new academic year.

- Scott Vrieze,
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS

SERVICE

New Consortium Management Contract with WiLS

In November of 2015, WISPALS contracted with WiLS, a non-profit membership organization of libraries across Wisconsin and beyond, to provide services following the resignation of the previous Consortium Coordinator. WiLS provides a broad view of library service in the state as well as a great deal of experience in managing library consortia. WiLS also has established relationships with vendors in cooperative purchasing and an awareness of potential collaborative opportunities for service enhancement and cost savings. WiLS will provide the consortium with services in consortium management, ILS administration, cooperative purchasing, and fiscal agency.

Cooperative Purchasing

In 2015-2016, WISPALS provided the cooperative purchasing coordination and management for 55 electronic resource subscriptions with eight vendors, totaling \$355,994.36 for the year. In an effort to create more efficiency and make cooperation easier among WISPALS members, a project was begun to align the start dates of the various subscriptions with the hopes of further grouping the subscriptions to find additional cost savings. In addition, WISPALS began an initiative to improve relationships with electronic resource vendors and to further advocate for the member colleges with vendor representatives.

Sierra Implementation

The majority of 2015 was spent preparing, training and implementing a new integrated library system. WISPALS had been on Ex Libris' legacy system, Voyager. In August of 2015, WISPALS went live with Innovative Interfaces' Sierra and Encore. The remainder of the year has been focused on learning the new system and training staff, faculty and students.

EDS Implementation

Several WISPALS libraries purchased EBSCO's Discovery Service (EDS) and began work in 2015 on integrating their new Encore and EDS catalogs, many going live in the Spring of 2016. EDS provides a

streamlined search for students and faculty to obtain research, either electronically or in print, in one search.

TECHNOLOGY

New Website Development

WISPALS also began development on a new website to ensure that publicly available information about the consortium is correct, and to update the site's look and feel. Pages about each member college library was added, including contact information and a photo, and a directory of all WISPALS-involved staff was created to facilitate communication and information sharing among the consortium members.

THE STRENGTHS OF THE MEMBER LIBRARIES

Each individual member of WISPALS holds expertise, wisdom, and experience with which they strengthen the consortium as a whole.

Chippewa Valley Technical College coordinates and collaborates to provide the best resources to students. CVTC has focused on a much-needed evaluation and inventory clean up in the past year. The library has excelled at taking underutilized resources and making them discoverable and accessible. CVTC has also excelled at increasing in-class library instruction.

Fox Valley Technical College Library is dedicated to supplying great customer service and resources to students to help them achieve their career goals. The library collaborates with FVTC staff, faculty and the greater community to continue to grow and develop with emerging technologies to better serve students.

Gateway Technical College excels at job assistance and retaining graduates locally. The GTC library staff works proactively with faculty to develop collections that support the college's curriculum.

At **Lakeshore Technical College**, customer service is a priority. The LTC library staff is responsive to students' needs and staff members are willing to try new things, be flexible, and utilize what resources they have in order to innovate.

Moraine Park Technical College has emphasized cross training their staff members in instructional technology to ensure staff and the library are valuable and necessary assets to the college and better equipped to help students.

Mid-State Technical College is less automated than some libraries, but this allows them to be very hands-on with their community; they know the collection, their students, and their faculty well.

Northcentral Technical College has an excellent connection to and relationship with college faculty and staff. This connection allows the library to gather meaningful feedback and helps promote the library and its services to the college community.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College excels at providing the same services to all students, even those who never step foot in their physical libraries. NWTC library staff works hard to make sure that their students in Hong Kong, the local high school, or three buildings away all have access to the resources, services, and assistance that is provided to the students sitting ten feet from the Library Desk.

Waukesha County Technical College has a strong library Instruction program, conducting over 200 sessions a year. The WCTC library staff customizes their instruction to faculty and student needs and are a vital part of the curriculum.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College has established strong connections to students in order to provide personalized service for them. The WITC library is integrated with technology support as part of a combined Educational Technology Center and Learning Center.

Western Technical College has worked to promote the library across its campus and many regional centers to reach all students, faculty, and staff served by the college.

ACTUAL BUDGET

Below is a table of actual expenditures for FY2015-16. Because of the transition of the fiscal management to WiLS, the July 2015 – December 2015 numbers are provided by Gateway Technical college and the January 2016 – June 2016 numbers are provided by WiLS:

	July 2015 – December 2015	January 2016 - June 2016	Total
Project management/staff	\$43,611.00	\$50,000.00	\$93,611.00
ILS software	\$114,359.00	\$19,200.00	\$133,559.00
Electronic resources	\$325,703.00	\$72,444.00	\$398,147.00
Other	\$(4,855.00)	\$ -	\$(4,855.00)
	\$478,818.00	\$141,644.00	\$620,462.00

UPCOMING GOALS

Strategic Planning

During 2016, WISPALS is undertaking a planning process with three goals:

1. To provide information to WISPALS Executive Committee members about similar consortia and their missions and service areas in order to spark thinking about possible roles and activities for WISPALS.
2. To discuss the purposes of WISPALS and develop a new mission statement and values for the WISPALS consortium.
3. To identify, prioritize, and plan for strategic initiatives and activities for the consortium.

WiLS is facilitating this planning process. Information has been collected and disseminated to the Executive Committee about five similar consortia. WISPALS member institutions were asked to complete an exercise to identify short and long-term goals for their individual institutions, of which six of the 11 institutions responded. The information collected from other consortia and the member institutions will be used in planning activities at the annual in-person Executive Committee meeting, which will kick off the development of strategic initiatives, a new mission statement, and values, to be completed by the end of 2016.