2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

APPROVED OCTOBER 16, 2019

WISPALS MISSION

WISPALS Library Consortium advances the teaching and learning missions of its member institutions through sharing information and creating collaborative and financially responsible solutions to common challenges. (Adopted 2016)

WISPALS VALUES

We work toward solutions that are financially responsible and efficient in order to provide the best possible service to our college community.

We educate one another and we are committed to learning together.

We stay on the forefront of librarianship, each developing our professional skills while innovating and experimenting to further our collective and individual missions.

We work to highlight the value of technical college libraries to our institutions and to the wider library community.

WISPALS PURPOSE

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 2018-2019 OFFICERS

Board President - Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College
Executive Committee Chair – Gary Flynn, Gateway 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

Amber Stancher, Mid-State Technical College

Hans Baierl, Moraine Park Technical College

Linda Gau, Northcentral Technical College

Kim A. LaPlante, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Amy Manion, Waukesha County Technical College

Juan Jiménez, Western Technical College

Abby Dillon, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM WISPALS 2018-2019 CHAIR

The 2018-2019 fiscal year provided WISPALS continued opportunities for collaboration, exploration, and professional growth. Some highlights for this year have been in the areas of cooperative purchasing, ILS (Integrated Library System) exploration, and professional development opportunities.

The year also provided us with the opportunity to begin exploring the future of our ILS. As we approach the end of our initial five-year commitment to Innovative's Sierra ILS, the consortium formed an ILS exploratory committee to begin reviewing our current contract for negotiation opportunities, while also exploring future needs and wants from an ILS and ILS vendor. As we complete this exploration, the committee will present a well-researched recommendation to the Executive Committee.

WISPALS also experienced a year of continued growth in the area of collegial sharing between institutions. The consortium used the Basecamp platform to expand conversations and sharing in a variety of areas, including OER initiatives, Instructional Services, and staff retention strategies. This continued sharing and collaboration has helped to save members staff time, benchmark against similar institutions, and adopt practices that have been proven effective at other institutions. In addition, WiLS staff offered consortium-wide Sierra ILS training opportunities to learn more about Sierra Serials functionality and Sierra Reports and Statistics.

In the area of cooperative purchasing, six WISPALS members collaborated with five non-WISPALS institutions to form the WISCAL consortium, providing a shared collection of electronic books utilizing the Overdrive platform. This collaboration provided participating institutions the ability to utilize their combined purchasing power to develop a collection that can be used by all institutions, while also providing an opportunity to build an institution-specific collection using the same platform.

Each year, I am continually reminded as to why WISPALS is worthwhile. Thanks for another great year!

- Gary Flynn, Gateway Technical College
WISPALS Chair, 2018-2019

WISPALS STATISTICS

For 2018-2019, WISPALS libraries served 659,907 students, faculty and staff.

Between all eleven schools, they have a combined total of 854,034 titles available to their users via the shared consortium catalog.

In 2018-2019, 74,412 physical items were checked out to patrons with an additional 29,407 renewals.

2018-2019 HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Planning

In August of 2018, the WISPALS Executive Committee met to connect with one another and with non-member technical colleges, to review the previous year's progress, and devise strategic initiatives for the consortium for the coming year. Much of the work for these initiatives, listed below, was guided by WISPALS subcommittees, small groups of members of the WISPALS member community, and project managers. A detailed account of the progress for each of these initiatives can be found in the linked reports:

1. Develop a process for product comparison and test that process on available nursing streaming video resources. (K.Aldrich, V. Mussehl, J. Roisum; Full report)
2. Investigate options for the future of the shared ILS and shared bibliographic records. (ILS Investigation Workgroup, Full report)
3. Develop shared training/resources around technical services functions (Technical Services Committee; Full report)

In addition to the more complex initiatives above, shorter term projects were identified and completed within the academic year.

1. Utilize OER Basecamp for sharing information
2. Utilize Instructional Services Committee for "on demand" instructional support
3. Share evaluation of Credo's Instruct (formerly InfoLit Modules)
4. Discuss accessibility in instructional services
5. Continue work on the authority project with Marcive
6. Review functions in Sierra to determine functions and determine agenda and potential training sessions
7. Learn about and share strategies and training on staff retention.

Instructional Services Committee

The WISPALS Instructional Services Committee met four times in 2018-2019. Throughout the year, Committee members educated one another on the following topics: open educational resources (OER) in library instructions; web accessibility resources and tools; Credo's Instruct (formerly InfoLit Modules), a product providing information literacy instruction through videos and modules; and inclusive teaching practices. In addition, the Committee provided ad-hoc instructional resource services to the rest of the consortium as needed and shared information and experience one other another on many topics, including marketing and promoting instructional services, drawing students into the library space, technology and website challenges, optimizing search engines, and professional development opportunities.

Technical Services Committee

The WISPALS Technical Services (TS) Committee has had two Committee meetings in 2018-2019. The Committee continues to oversee the ongoing authority records update project with Marcive and has recommended the continuation of this project into 2019-2020. In 2019, the Technical Services Committee has been working on gathering technical services documentation to develop shared training resources around TS functions. This Committee has also helped to identify training topics for the 2019 quarterly training webinar series.

User Services Committee

The WISPALS User Services Committee has had two meetings in 2018-2019. During this past year, the Committee shared various circulation policies with one another, comparing and discussing the documents. The policies discussed include food and beverages in the library, charging fines, overdue periods, checkout limits and periods, booking and more.

Throughout the year, the Committee has utilized Basecamp to ask questions and share ideas related to user services. Topic discussed include patron record retention, patron counters, loan rules, reviewing student library assistants, patron privacy, as well as security training and procedures.

Cooperative Purchasing

In 2018-2019, WISPALS provided the cooperative purchasing coordination and management for 68 electronic resource subscriptions with nine vendors, totaling $355,342.51 for the year. The consortium continued to advocate for reduced yearly price increases for electronic resources and of the 57 renewing subscriptions, 51 renewed at lower than a 5% increase from the previous year and 46 renewed below 4%.

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 (CVTC) Library liaisons further strengthened relationships with College faculty and programs through classroom instruction, faculty training, and coaching in the use of open and affordable educational resources. Some of the library's highlights from 2018-19 include the library's participation in WiLS Ideas to Action Fund for resource affordability in Wisconsin, the Department of Education's $2.5 million Open Textbook Pilot grant, and the new library and information services associate degree program saw its first cohort of graduating students.

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) Library continues to work on supplying affordable resources to students by promoting open educational resources (OERs) throughout the college. FVTC Library is working with Appleton Public Library to make FVTC ID cards a public library card so students have access to Appleton Public Library's online resources. FVTC Library also heads up the committee for Pecha Kucha Nights to create a space for community members to learn more about FVTC and the Fox Cities in general.

Gateway Technical College (GTC) Libraries experienced another year of expanding services and resources available to its learning community. A few of the highlights include helping with the selection and adoption of several OER textbooks at the college, the formation of a college-wide OER committee, and joining a consortium of libraries to increase purchasing power to offer a rich collection of ebooks via Overdrive.

Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) Library has a robust equipment checkout collection that is used by students, faculty, and staff. This collection is added to often; new and popular equipment this year include laptops, Surface tablets, mobile hotspots (for staff checkout only), digital voice recorders, phone and laptop power cords, portable monitors, and Bluetooth headphones. Also, LTC's OER / Zero Textbooks Cost (ZTC) program picked up momentum

over the last year. The Library printed 10-20 copies of each adopted OER book for students to checkout from the library for the semester if they desire a print copy.

Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) Libraries worked with student services to become a pick up location for emergency gas and food gift cards for students. Library and online learning staff worked together to develop modules that list available research databases in the college's learning management system to bring research tools where students work and appreciated both opportunities to support students.

Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) Library went through a review process of materials to check for relevancy. Due to the lack of updated resources, Mid-State applied for and was awarded funds through the Wisconsin Technical College System grants to purchase updated resources for program students in the coming year.

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Library was redesigned as the Timberwolf Learning Commons (TLC) in 2018-2019, which is a one-stop shop for academic support and tutoring that includes access to the IT Help Desk, Academic Resource Center, and Library. The library now has zoned areas to support student collaboration and quiet study through several new spaces such as the Student Collaboration room, silent study areas, and a learning lab. In addition, NTC has added a recording room and staff training room for faculty on the 2nd floor. The IT Help Desk, ARC, and Library created a Canvas course with content to support online learners.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) Libraries expanded their research work to include providing lists of OER materials to faculty teams and supporting their adoption. These research reports are in addition to the hundreds of labor market and best practice reports created for leaders each year by the Library staff. The Library team also implemented LibGuides CMS in order to add custom program guides to each Blackboard course.

Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) Library helped instructors prepare for the transition from Blackboard to Canvas this year by presenting three breakout sessions at the January faculty in-service called "Resources for your Courses: Using the Canvas Commons and WCTC Library Links." The Library has also been an integral part of the college's student services assessment initiative. WCTC LIbrary started using Springshare's LibWizard function to assess learning after library instruction sessions and attended the WTCS "Circle of Assessment" conference with staff from the college's Office of Accreditation, Self-Study, and Assessment.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) Learning Resource Center staff ran through hands-on training with the Springshare software LibGuides over the summer. Creating various drafts for different courses and programs, they have been promoting the use of guides with faculty. The Learning Resource Center has been able to connect with new and long-time instructors to highlight how course guides can help students navigate the various resources.

Western Technical College (WTC) Library's 2018-2019 academic year was full of excitement and challenges. Completing a $1.1M remodel, the library and tutoring services were combined into the new Learning Commons. The remodel created more open space for students, added three collaboration spaces, and made space for a writing center, math center, and health science center. Over the past year, Western Technical College Library has seen an increase in the number of students served (17%), total visits by students (26%), and total time spent in the Learning Commons (43%). They are excited to see these results and look forward to the next year of being a warm and welcoming place for the Western community.

BUDGET

Below is a table of actual expenditures for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Item	Amount
Project management/staff	$100,000
ILS software	$149,359
Electronic resources	$346,342
Other	$7,199
TOTAL	**$602,900**

UPCOMING INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

From the WISPALS Annual Meeting held in August of 2019, WISPALS identified the following as potential initiatives to explore in 2020. Conversations are currently underway regarding prioritization and activities to fulfill these initiatives, if appropriate.

- Pilot sharing of cataloging of electronic resources in which many or all members subscribe.
- Investigate options for the future of the shared ILS and shared bibliographic records.
- Develop strategic plan for training and sharing training resources around technical services functions.
- Share more information with one another about and from professional development events, including conferences, workshops, and online trainings.
- Build on work done in 2019 in product comparison and strategic cooperative purchasing by:
  - continue to develop and improve the existing templated process for holistic electronic resource evaluation and comparison
  - evaluate potential opportunities for cooperative purchases of products that satisfy program needs common among all or many WISPALS members
  - investigate potential opportunities for deeper sharing of electronic resources, including shared product platforms and collections, to find efficiencies in cataloging, collection development, instruction, staff training, etc.
- Work together to develop tools and best practices for increasing library use by campus departments and for general library service advocacy and visibility.