2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2022

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.

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 2021-2022 OFFICERS

Board President - Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College
Executive Committee Chair – Hans Baierl, Moraine Park Technical College
Executive Committee Incoming Chair – Katie Aldrich, Northcentral Technical College

WISPALS MEMBERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Vince Mussehl, Chippewa Valley Technical College

Kathryn Johnston, Fox Valley Technical College

Gary Flynn, Gateway Technical College

Ashley McHose, Lakeshore Technical College

Amber Stancher, Mid-State Technical College

Hans Baierl, Moraine Park Technical College

Katie Aldrich, Northcentral Technical College

Kim LaPlante, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Tina Nygren, Northwood Technical College

Amy Manion, Waukesha County Technical College

Ellen Range, Western Technical College

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM WISPALS 2021-2022 CHAIR

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2021-22 WISPALS Annual Report. WISPALS members continued our lively discussions and persistent work towards affordability for students, the goals of WISPALS, and our challenges and celebrations. Of course, none of what you will be reading would have been possible without the stellar commitment of our members and the unflappable support of the consortia management team from WiLS. I thank all of them for their contributions to make WISPALS better and my year as the Chair quite enjoyable. WISPALS also marks this year as the last for the membership of Chippewa Valley Technical College and we wish them all the best going forward.

Hans Baierl, Moraine Park Technical College, **WISPALS 2021-2022 Chair**

WISPALS STATISTICS

WISPALS libraries serve 896,812 students, faculty, and staff.

Between all eleven schools, they have a combined total of 1,783,279 resources available to their users via the shared consortium catalog.

In 2021-2022, 37,047 physical items were checked out to patrons with an additional 31,302 renewals. Checkouts were down considerably in the previous year (2020-2021) due to the pandemic and closures. This past year saw an increase of 31.6%, still down slightly from before the pandemic.

2021-2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Strategic Initiatives

In June of 2021, the WISPALS Executive Committee held their Annual Meeting to connect with one another, review the previous year's progress, and develop strategic initiatives and activities to support the consortium for the coming year.

Initiative 1: Collaborate to advocate for affordable higher education and open educational resources

Activities:

1. Share experiences and challenges implementing OER
2. Increase knowledge and involvement in curriculum development and modification for OER adoption
3. Share knowledge about effective communication of OER program impact and success

Initiative 2: Collaborate to ensure that the member libraries serve students and faculty equitably

Activities:

1. Develop a process to create and manage a student advisory board
2. Develop a process to create and manage a policy think tank
3. Collaboratively identify and share community resources
4. Gather input and share ideas to increase student usage and engagement

Initiative 3: Collaborate to ensure that member libraries are student-focused in their services and collection

Activities:

1. Share best practices and learn more about assessing the library's impact on student success
2. Help WISPALS libraries develop textbook collections for student use

These initiatives and activities were identified via an analysis of all participating college's strategic plans, a brainstorming activity involving all members of the Executive Committee, and a survey of each member to ensure that initiatives aligned with institutional and library goals for the coming year. Much of the work on these initiatives was guided by WISPALS subcommittees, small groups of members of the WISPALS member community, and project managers. That work is more fully described below.

Instructional Services Committee

The WISPALS Instructional Services Committee met three times in 2021-2022. Throughout the year, Committee members discussed and shared knowledge about how they were providing services – instructional and otherwise – virtually and in person. The Committee also discussed work they were doing to create and share short video tutorials on research topics, professional development opportunities, assessing library services, ongoing public health protocols in the library, and the creation of virtual instruction workshops.

Technical Services Committee

The WISPALS Technical Services Committee met twice in 2021-2022. The Committee continues to oversee the ongoing authority records update project with Marcive, Inc. In December of 2021, the committee provided input on an ILS training plan for the calendar year 2022 which includes a total of nine training sessions. The Technical Services Committee continued its work on updating documented training resources around technical services functions.

User Services Committee

The WISPALS User Services Committee met twice during the 2021-2022 year but also worked on projects and supplied input and feedback outside of those meeting times. The Committee has been charged with developing a

process to create and manage a student advisory board and gathering input and sharing ideas to increase student usage and engagement. They have worked to update the tools and best practices they developed for advocacy, visibility, and increasing use of the library by campus departments and students. In addition, the group continued to share resources around user services.

Faculty User Needs Workgroup

Building on work done in previous years on product evaluation and strategic cooperative purchasing, a small team of WISPALS Executive Committee representatives is continuing to coordinate surveys and conversations with faculty in specific program areas to understand needs that could be met by library staff or resources. In 2021-2022, surveys were sent to faculty in business, allied health, adult education/ELL, agriculture/natural resources, and paralegal/public safety. 153 faculty members responded. Additionally, 12 faculty members volunteered for one of nine virtual focus group conversations, allowing library staff to dive deeper into understanding faculty needs and perceptions of the library.

See a full report of the work completed through May 2022 prepared for the WISPALS 2021 Annual Meeting, which was held on May 23rd, 2022.

Cooperative Purchasing

In 2021-2022, WISPALS provided the cooperative purchasing coordination and management for 66 electronic resource subscriptions with nine vendors, totaling $377,563.27 for the year. The consortium continued to advocate for reduced yearly price increases for electronic resources and of the 66 renewing subscriptions, 54 renewed at lower than a 5% increase from the previous year, 38 renewed at or below 3%, and 10 saw either no increase at all or a drop in renewal pricing.

WISPALS Libraries Supporting Student Affordability

Wisconsin technical colleges, and WISPALS member colleges, in particular, are leaders in efforts to make higher education more affordable for all Wisconsin residents. WISPALS libraries helped students in the state save millions of dollars in 2021-2022 alone by:

- Planning, facilitating, and providing college faculty, librarians, and K12 educators with professional development on using and creating open educational resources (OER) and other affordability measures, such as "unlimited access" e-textbook products, implementing low- and zero-cost textbook courses, increased lending of library e-resources, and more.
- Collaborating with other college departments, such as bookstores and instructional designers, to coordinate and broaden the impact of affordability efforts.
- Leading efforts to develop open textbooks for various programs, including nursing, to be used statewide.
- Creating reserve collections of OER titles.
- Helping individual faculty members identify appropriate OER or other affordable options to support course curriculum, replacing costly materials.
- Advising faculty on issues of copyright and licensing, including Creative Commons licensing.
- Spearheading the sharing of information with the college community regarding upcoming learning opportunities about OER and other affordable material options.

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 had a great academic year! The library was able to use Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) to remodel the space to meet the changing needs of students. Private study pods, a family study room, and collaborative workstations were added, furniture and outlet access were updated, study rooms were remodeled, and gate counters were implemented to better assess space usage. The library partnered with student government to continue to add materials outside of the academic realm such as board, yard, and video games to support the holistic health of students. Finally, the library partnered with the College's new bookstore vendor to streamline OER reporting as well as the faculty and student experience.

Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) Library added two new databases: AtDove, a streaming video collection for the veterinary technology program, and NexisUni, a database for business and legal articles, cases, laws, and regulations. The library also serves to administer the FVTC's LinkedIn Learning subscription for students and supports faculty who want to use LinkedIn Learning in the classroom. The library restarted its in-person instruction programs to individual classes, which they hope to expand and were able to get on the schedule as part of the new faculty orientations. Working with FVTC's Printing Department, the library can now sell PaperCut printing cards to visitors and alumni who need to print or photocopy.

Gateway Technical College (GTC) Libraries were able to capitalize on HEERF funds to invest in five Parcel Pending lockers to be used throughout the college's district to assist in the distribution of library materials after hours and to locations that don't have a library on-site. The library has also moved to tracking library usage statistics in Ref Analytics, which allows the library to look in more detail at frequently asked questions and determine peak times of the day, week, month, or semester.

Lakeshore Technical College (LTC) Library is dedicated to creating a learner-centered environment that supports staff, students, and the greater community. This year they expanded their equipment checkout program, circulating over 600 laptops and 400 hotspots to students. The library also saw increased on-campus engagement with over 500 students attending library orientations and strong participation in library programs, which included Child Center Storytime, Coming Out Day, and the launch of LTC's first ever campus-wide Common Read.

Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) three campus libraries all saw double-digit increases in circulation, in large part to students checking out laptops to use at home and in class. Students also spent more time on campus, as study room usage increased and the tally of reference questions grew.

Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) Library moved towards purchasing high cost textbooks so that students could have a free check-out option. The library continues to participate in lowering textbook costs for students district wide.

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) Library devoted its efforts this year into creative outreach and support of students. The library provided mobile research support at strategic campus locations, offered in-person and Zoom appointments, added its walk-in hours to the tutor calendar, surveyed students regarding communication channels, expanded workshop offerings and added a bookable option for one-on-one requests, began lending mifi for students in need, and designed an end-of-semester Project Party to create a sense of community, celebration, and support for our students. In addition, the library provided support beyond its usual services, such as acquiring an e-book collection on Employee Health and Wellness, offering a faculty book club on College Belonging, beginning a campus-wide library newsletter, offering extra professional development and service

touchpoints with presentations and tours, and creating a digitally hosted Writing and Research Services Flyer to facilitate effortless integration of service support.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) Library hired and trained new staff members, expanded the Tech101 video series and Eagle Hour technology training sessions for students, and revamped the Ask a Librarian and Ask an Eagle FAQ sites. The Library also upgraded their discovery search engine, moved to Single Sign-On for most resources, and increased the integration of Library resources with the LMS. The Librarians also started a successful diversity, equity, and inclusion book club called "Include Me."

Northwood Technical College (NoTC) Library redesigned their website to better communicate to our students and staff. Newly added OER links and materials are included in the library website and a chat feature added to the site to provide support.

Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) Library, in a restructuring at the college this past year, moved from the student services division to the academic affairs division. The library designed of four essential research workshops as Canvas LMS course modules, which are used asynchronously by instructors and thereby accommodate hybrid learning formats. Library staff also provided presentations on library resources and services to each campus at the start of the fall term, created a new developing readers' collection for English language learners, and supported resource and curriculum development for the creation of new associate of arts and associate of sciences degrees.

Western Technical College (WTC) Learning Commons' team continued to prioritize development of personalized supports, digital collections, and online learning materials for students and staff. The team also focused on collaboration, partnering with various departments across campus to contribute to college-wide student success initiatives and leverage library infrastructure and resources including LibGuides and LibAnswers to engage, connect with, and guide students.

BUDGET

Below is a table of actual expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Item	Amount
Project management/staff	$110,000.00
ILS software	$134,423.10
Electronic resources	$376,099.27
Other	$1,734.87
TOTAL	$622,257.24

LOOKING FORWARD

In May of 2022, the WISPALS Executive Committee met to discuss their shared expectations and aspirations from the consortium and its services. The purpose of this exercise was to ensure that all members of the consortium benefit from the collaborative efforts in a way that supports their own institutions' goals and suits their staffing capacity. In September 2022, the project managers provided a document outlining the close of the 2021-2022 Initiatives, the beginning of an ILS Exploration Initiative over the next two years, and guidance for how the consortium will simplify its work and onboard new projects. It was determined that these new projects will deliberately and clearly define roles and responsibilities, timelines, and outcomes while maximizing the efforts of the project managers and minimizing the time contributions of the member colleges.