



2024-2025 Annual Report

September 2025

WISPALS, the Wisconsin Project for Automated Libraries, was organized in 1989 by librarians at Gateway Technical College, Moraine Park Technical College, and Waukesha County Technical College. Now, [eleven total colleges form the membership](#) of the consortium, representing over 60% of all the technical college students in the state and nearly two-thirds of all the technical college credentials granted.

The **WISPALS mission** is to advance the teaching and learning missions of its member institutions through sharing information and creating collaborative and financially responsible solutions to common challenges.

The **WISPALS values** are to work toward solutions that are financially responsible and efficient in order to provide the best possible service to the college community; to educate one another and learn together; to stay on the forefront of librarianship, each developing professional skills while innovating and experimenting to further collective and individual missions; and to work to highlight the value of technical college libraries to member institutions and to the wider library community.

The **WISPALS purpose** is to provide 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.

The eleven WISPALS colleges have a combined total of 2,207,821 resources available to their users via the shared consortium catalog. In 2024-2025, 28,171 physical items were checked out to patrons with an additional 23,212 renewals.

WISPALS 2024-2025 Officers

Board President: Dr. Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College

Executive Committee Chair: Alison Moffat, Northwood Technical College

Executive Committee Incoming Chair: Amy Manion, Waukesha County Technical College

WISPALS 2024-2025 Executive Committee



Madeleine Pitsch, Blackhawk Technical College
Kathryn Johnston, Fox Valley Technical College
Gary Flynn, Gateway Technical College
Alyssa Gromowski, Lakeshore College
Amber Stancher, Mid-State Technical College
Hans Baierl, Moraine Park Technical College
Katie Aldrich, Northcentral Technical College
Kim LaPlante, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
Alison Moffat, Northwood Technical College
Amy Manion, Waukesha County Technical College
Ellen Range, Western Technical College

Welcome Message from the WISPALS Chair



My on-campus office has a banner that reads “Together We Will See It Through.” It’s a good reminder to me to practice our college value of interdependence (especially when my “I can do it myself!” instincts kick in).

Over the course of the 2024-2025 academic year, WISPALS transitioned to a new integrated library system: OCLC’s WorldShare Management Services. A consortium project of this magnitude required us all to practice interdependence, and the WISPALS team really came through! During regular implementation meetings throughout the year, WISPALS members openly shared best practices, troubleshooting tips, and supported one another.

As this annual report reflects, the WISPALS consortium continues to collaborate, innovate, and support. We truly are better together.

- Alison Moffat, Northwood Technical College, WISPALS 2024-2025 Chair

2024-2025 Consortium Highlights

Core services

Integrated library system (ILS) support and administration continues to be WISPALS' principal service. The ILS is the main access point for staff, students, and community members to access the library's holdings. The library uses the ILS to catalog, index, and track materials and patrons, place orders, and lend out materials. WISPALS maintains and updates the system for all members as well as provides training, user guides, best practices and procedures.

In addition, consortium members continue to participate in a suite of cooperative purchases. In 2024-2025, WISPALS provided the cooperative purchasing coordination and management for 66 electronic resource subscriptions with nine vendors, totaling \$346,574.21 for the year. Some members opted to upgrade their OCLC EZProxy self-hosted products to the OCLC-hosted version in order to save maintenance time and provide a more secure authentication mechanism for students to access library resources. The consortium continued to advocate for reduced yearly price increases for electronic resources and for the 52 ongoing subscriptions, all renewed at lower than a 5% increase from the previous year and 46 renewed at or below 4%.

Upgrading the library experience

After an extensive ILS exploration process in 2023-2024, WISPALS selected OCLC's WorldShare ILS platform in June 2024. Migration began in August 2024. In December 2025, WISPALS began twice-weekly training and meetings with the implementation staff at OCLC. Throughout this time, the libraries worked to clean up and update their data in their current ILS before the data migration began at the end of March 2025. All libraries went live by July 1, 2025.

Collaborating on shared needs

In November 2024, responding to expressed need from staff at member libraries, the Executive Committee formed the Archives Interest Group. This Interest Group's aim is to provide a dedicated space for staff with experience with or looking to create digital or physical archives to share information, build a network, and identify specific learning needs. The Group has met three times to learn about options for digital archives, including infrastructure and guidance from Recollection Wisconsin, and share their experiences storing, selecting, and processing materials for archiving.

Highlights from the Member Libraries

Blackhawk Technical College Library completed its first Collection Development procedure cycle, which integrated faculty participation and data review in the selection of new library databases and resources, ensuring that the library collection meets curriculum, faculty and student needs. The Librarian created and led a series of pre-semester workshops titled 'Winning Academic Strategies' prior to the start of the Fall 2024 semester. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% agreement on: "I learned something new that will help me succeed," "I am more aware of academic support," and "The content was well presented and organized."



Fox Valley Technical College Library, in addition to the migration to WorldShare, also reconfigured a library storeroom to provide a better workstation for staff. A few students have been creating art on library whiteboards, which have made the library more inviting, in addition to having a coloring book table. Library staff are designing more themed displays each month to encourage use of the collection and celebrate national commemorations and issues that affect students. FVTC underwent the accreditation process in spring 2025 with the Higher Learning Commission, and its accreditation has been reaffirmed for another ten years.



Gateway Technical College Library Librarians worked with 20 faculty to adopt OER materials for 27 courses as part of the Wisconsin Technical College System OER grant. This will result in major cost savings for the student population. The library team also went through a system migration for its Integrated Library System, along with the rest of the WISPALS Consortium, which was a success and will be a big upgrade in services and resources available to students.



Lakeshore College Library experienced a year of change in 2024-2025! The library kicked off the year merging the Academic Support & Tutoring department with the library, and also onboarded Alyssa Gromowski as the Library & Academic Support Manager. The library conducted assessments on both physical spaces and services to ensure it continues to meet students where they're at. The library also completed a weeding project and data cleanup in preparation for the big WorldShare implementation.



Mid-State Technical College Library partnered with McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids to offer patron support from both Mid-State and McMillan staff at the McMillan Memorial Library location. Together, they supported over 30 patrons from both the community and from Mid-State.



Moraine Park Technical College Library upgraded to a hosted proxy server to give students and employees seamless access to resources off campus. Informative library modules were developed for our learning management system to bring library information and resources closer to where students work. Library and book themed quotes continue to be installed on the walls at each campus library, including this one from Groucho Marx: "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."



Northcentral Technical College Library offered a new Tech Tips workshop on OneDrive and Word to boost student skills at the semester start, as well as a new workshop on generative AI with ethical and research applications that was well-attended by students and staff. In addition, NTC Library added a new streaming video collection on Artificial Intelligence which includes conceptual, practical, and critical thinking topics. Faculty-library collaborations were highlighted at Faculty Development Days and continue to grow in new avenues, such as research appointments within a course assignment. With a focus on all learners, the NTC library met with regional campus staff to provide updates on new ways to connect regional students with services. In addition, the library launched LibGuides, providing an accessible and interactive platform with research and topical resource guides that are easily linked into NTC courses.



Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Library weeded collections at each location, migrated to the new WorldShare system, implemented new procedures, and updated over 4,500 links throughout Canvas and the library's websites. The library supported student success by updating the Ask a Librarian and Ask an Eagle FAQs, Library Guides, and Technology 101 videos to reflect changes to the student portal, Workday, and the new Library Search, and by checking out over 1670 laptops and 200 hotspots. Library staff also served on the Steering Committee for the College's digital accessibility efforts and started updating the library's websites and OER resources. In addition, librarians provided research for strategic initiatives and managed faculty OER textbook remixing and publishing projects.



Northwood Technical College Library participated in the WTCS OER grant, which supported 14 instructors in adopting, adapting, or creating OER for 17 courses across the college. When possible, print copies of OER were purchased for the



library to support students in engaging with the texts in a way that works best for them. The library also built a number of OER supports for faculty, including a Maestro training, town hall sessions, and an OER web page. The library also worked on improving the college's course reserve process prior to transitioning to WorldShare.

Waukesha County Technical College Library encouraged the campus community to step into their newly refreshed space, now with a secure and welcoming entrance, and find more than just books on the shelves. Over the past year, the WCTC Library continued to serve as a vibrant campus hub, forging partnerships and expanding services in creative and impactful ways. The library collaborated with the Belonging, Access, and Cultural Engagement office to support their movie club with streaming video selections, and worked closely with the Nursing program to offer the UpToDate database, advancing clinical decision-making with trusted, evidence-based resources. Library support extended across disciplines, from in-depth citation help for Digital Literacy in Healthcare students to webcam lending for Math & Science testing needs, and even resources for the Interior Design Club's student book club discussions. The WCTC Library energized campus life with an interactive escape room for the day-long Administrative Professionals retreat, and provided hands-on fun through a Valentine's Day book folding craft with Student Life. The library welcomed faculty collaboration to provide unlimited ebook access to a federal labor law textbook, and contributed to the Dental Hygiene program's accreditation process. Hosting the College Coffee & Conversations event allowed the library to showcase services like its new self-checkout machine, while a seat on the Academic Technology Advisory Committee and leadership role in the Wisconsin Library Association's inaugural "On the Road" regional event reflected the library's growing voice across the campus and profession.



WAUKESHA
COUNTY TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

Western Technical College Library concluded several major initiatives this year including the migration to WorldShare and the completion of its 2023–2025 OER grant, which supported

faculty across disciplines in developing 32 new Open Educational Resources to enhance access and affordability for students. The Learning Commons/Library's language and literacy efforts also remained strong, supporting a wide range of learners including English Language Learners, parenting students and their children, prospective students, students recovering from traumatic brain injury, and current program students. This year, the library partnered with the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and the Eminent Speakers of the La Crosse Area to bring Ho-Chunk language programming to the Western community and cultivated partnerships with the La Crosse County Library, La Crosse Historical Society, the School District of La Crosse, Arcadia Public Library, and Norwalk Public Library to support multicultural language learning. Finally, the library celebrated the retirement of Student Learning Librarian Linda VanSistine-Yost with deep appreciation for her contributions and years of service.



Budget

Below are the actual expenditures for WISPALS' 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Item	Amount
Project management/staff	\$100,000.00
ILS software and related costs	\$172,938.60
Electronic resources	\$347,474.21
Other	\$619.05
TOTAL	\$621,031.86

Looking Forward

ILS migration process

With the ILS migration process coming to a close this year, the WISPALS libraries will continue to learn to navigate and set up the new system for optimal efficiency. The libraries will be focusing the next several months on developing best practices and procedures for all aspects of the ILS system.