



2025-2026 Annual Report

September 2026

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 3,598,197 resources available to their users via their catalogs. In 2025-2026, 65,378 physical items were checked out to patrons.

WISPALS 2025-2026 Officers

Board President: Dr. Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College

Executive Committee Chair: Amy Manion, Waukesha County Technical College

Executive Committee Incoming Chair: Kirsten Moffler-Daykin, Western Technical College

WISPALS 2025-2026 Executive Committee



Macaela Willadsen, Blackhawk Technical College
Kathryn Johnston, Fox Valley Technical College
Gary Flynn, Gateway Technical College
Alyssa Gromowski, Lakeshore College
Amber Stancher, Mid-State Technical College
Laura Lauderback, 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
Kirsten Moffler-Daykin, Western Technical College

Welcome Message from Amy Manion, WISPALS 2025-2026 Chair

Artificial intelligence has changed the landscape of higher education with remarkable speed. In the span of a few years, questions that once seemed theoretical have become practical and immediate: How should students use generative AI? What does information literacy mean when machines can produce remarkably convincing answers? How do we help faculty and staff understand both the possibilities and limitations of these tools? And, perhaps most importantly, how do we ensure that our libraries remain places where people can find trustworthy information, develop sound judgment, and learn to navigate an increasingly complex information environment?

For WISPALS, the answer has been collaboration. No single college library can possibly keep pace with a technological transformation of this magnitude on its own. Together, however, we can share what we are learning, compare approaches, raise questions, experiment with new ideas, and learn from one another's successes and missteps. Our consortium provides something particularly valuable in a moment of rapid change: a professional community in which we do not have to begin from scratch every time a new question emerges.

This year, our conversations about AI have therefore been about much more than the technology itself. They have been about our shared role as educators, information professionals, and partners in student success. We have explored how AI is affecting

library instruction, reference services, research, information literacy, and the work of librarians themselves. We have shared resources and emerging practices and, just as importantly, created space to ask difficult questions together. In a period when the technology can seem to change faster than institutions can develop policies around it, our consortium gives its members a place to pause, think critically, and move forward together.

Perhaps that is the greatest value of WISPALS in the age of AI. We cannot predict exactly where this technology will take our colleges, our profession, or our society. But we can make sure that none of us has to navigate that uncertainty alone. By pooling our knowledge, curiosity, creativity, and experience, we are building a collective capacity to respond thoughtfully to change and helping to ensure that, even in an AI-driven future, our libraries remain essential guides to learning, discernment, and human connection.

- Amy Manion, Waukesha County Technical College, WISPALS 2025-2026 Chair

2025-2026 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 2025-2026, WISPALS provided the cooperative purchasing coordination and management for 57 electronic resource subscriptions with nine vendors. Due to the migration to a new ILS platform, many members no longer need to purchase a separate discovery layer for their catalog, saving consortium members many thousands of dollars in cooperative purchases over the last two years. The consortium also continued to advocate for reduced yearly price increases for electronic resources. For the 45 ongoing subscriptions, all except one renewed at less than a 4% increase from the previous year, for a total of \$290,172.37 in 2025-2026.

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. In 2025-2026, the Group met six times to learn about options for digital archives, including information about the [Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative](#) internship program (in which two WISPALS members are currently participating), and share their experiences storing, selecting, and processing materials for archiving.

Understanding Artificial Intelligence and the library's role

The burgeoning of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has had a profound impact on all educational institutions, and WISPALS colleges are not immune to it. AI is altering the technical and community college landscape. Faculty are forced to understand and implement it as students are rapidly embracing it. Libraries are striving to support staff, faculty, and students in their safe and ethical use of AI. Libraries are tasked with researching and providing resources, tools, and services to help their students and staff in this rapidly changing climate. In response, WISPALS has created an AI Resource Guide to help WISPALS member libraries navigate AI use in their institutions, libraries, and collections.

Additionally, at the WISPALS Annual Meeting held at WCTC in June 2026, WISPALS invited Kris Turner, Associate Director, University of Wisconsin-Madison Law Library, to present on AI in libraries. Members were able to learn new ways to support their students and staff in their AI use as well as learn how to navigate the continuously changing landscape.

Creating digital resources usable by all

Like many other public institutions, WISPALS member libraries have been preparing for compliance with Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act, ensuring that digital resources are accessible to anyone in their campus communities. While ultimately those deadlines were extended, the consortium continued its accessibility work and created an ADA Title II Resource Guide, containing background information, educational opportunities, tools, and services to create accessible digital resources and remediate existing ones for optimal accessibility.

Supporting staff growth

In the summer of 2026, the WISPALS Executive Committee authorized money for a scholarship to attend the Wisconsin Association of Academic Libraries (WAAL) conference, being held in August at Marquette University in Milwaukee. The scholarship covered the cost of conference registration as well as up to two nights in the conference hotel. In return, to extend the learning opportunity to the whole consortium, the selected attendee will provide a recap of their conference experience as either a recorded video, a written account, or a presentation delivered at the Committee's September 2026 meeting.

Highlights from the Member Libraries

Blackhawk Technical College Library welcomed the new Librarian, Macaela Willadsen, in late October 2025. In the Spring 2026 semester, the library restarted its Due Dates Book Discussion group. They have also begun an application form for students to apply to check out laptops and are hosting a Techquity event at the beginning of August. This summer, the college campus switched from Starfish to both Advise and Accudemia for scheduling with students. Additionally, the Librarian is participating in the Open Education Resources (OER) Grant to help faculty research articles for their projects.



Fox Valley Technical College Library completed the migration to WorldShare and conducted training to help the campus learn the new system. They implemented the WorldShare course reserve pages and allocated funds to purchase many of the required textbooks. The library also ensured compliance with the ADA for online resources, especially its LibGuides, and helped the campus at large achieve compliance. The library also migrated to a new room booking system, Microsoft Booking, and conducted a complete inventory of the collection.



Gateway Technical College Library had the pleasure of working with WiLS and Recollection Wisconsin to host a UW-Madison intern who has helped organize and write procedures to begin digitizing Gateway's archives. Although this will be an ongoing project, the intern was sponsored by Recollection Wisconsin, and the library team couldn't be happier with the momentum that was started. Also, the library is leading round two of the WTCS OER grant, currently supporting 19 instructors who are implementing OER materials in 27 different courses. Additionally, the library team also worked closely with the Veteran's Support Services team to develop programming for the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This included displays in the library and elsewhere on campus, and library team members are developing kits that visitors can take to create children's toys reminiscent of children's toys in the late 1700s.



Lakeshore College Library had a blast this year focusing on collaboration with other divisions as well as off-campus communities. Some favorite projects include Justice-Involved Backpacks with faculty and students in the Manitowoc and Sheboygan jails; "Looking for the Good" communications to recognize staff and faculty for the ways they support a kind and collaborative work culture; and Emerging Readers, a new collection



to provide Adult Ed / ELL students with library materials that they can learn and grow from. Throughout the year, the library also hit some fun milestone statistics. They had the highest ILL borrowing in a decade (50% growth from last year!) as well as the second highest ILL lending in College history! The library has also grown its Peer Tutor roster from 7 to over 30, a result of the Academic Success team putting in the work to build relationships with Faculty. The library's favorite memory from the last year is when two tutors were offered their dream jobs in a competitive field! It's rewarding to see students' hard work pay off and the ways in which their passions positively impact the community.

Mid-State Technical College Library offered "10-Minutes with the Coach" sessions, introducing practical strategies to help students succeed. Sessions included time management, time blindness, active reading strategies, previewing and annotating texts, making inferences, evaluating, paraphrasing, and building vocabulary. This not only brought students to the library, but it also allowed them to quickly sample some of the services offered within the library.



Moraine Park Technical College Library had many successes this year, including the addition of two new digital resources that provide patrons with 24/7 access to information and reading materials. Through membership in the WISCAL consortium, the library expanded its collection to include ebooks and audiobooks. They also added NewsBank, a newspaper database that provides up-to-date digital access to newspapers from around the world, including local publications. Both resources have been enthusiastically adopted by students, faculty, and staff, with strong usage statistics demonstrating their impact and reinforcing the value of expanding the library's digital collection.



Northcentral Technical College Library had a very successful and innovative year, reaching eight new student groups with information literacy and services instruction, creating a SharePoint central platform of service points and information for staff and faculty, and connecting with all faculty in a live presentation about the new WorldCat Discovery tool and support. The spring semester featured two well-attended events: Bring Your Child to the Library Day (with an estimated 45-50 total participants, including adults and children) and the Spring Project Party (with the largest turnout yet of 42 students). In addition, the library archives featured NTC history in several ways: through hallway and room displays, through weekly Throwback Thursday social media posts (a collaboration with Marketing), and through an Archives Spotlight in the library's monthly newsletter. This summer, the NTC Library was a host site for the Recollection Wisconsin digitization internship, and digital viewing of NTC archive collections will be available in the near future!



Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Library achieved major milestones, including finalizing and implementing a comprehensive co-curricular assessment plan to strengthen how they measure and improve student library support. The library updated all Technology 101 / Research Tip videos, library FAQs / guides, and previously published OERs to meet current accessibility standards, while also providing research and project management for 32 current OER projects funded through the WTCS grant. The library team expanded their AI instruction guide and began developing student-facing AI learning sessions, implemented new WorldShare features to streamline services, and partnered with the United Way to distribute Techquity laptops to students, increasing access to essential technology.



Northwood Technical College Library, supported by the 2025-2027 WTCS OER grant, has completed 21 OER projects (and counting!). The library on the Superior campus is currently undergoing a remodel; the space will reopen in the fall with more individual study/testing rooms, an AV recording room, and enhanced services.



Waukesha County Technical College Library continued to advance student success, faculty support, and community engagement through several significant initiatives. Recognizing the growing importance of artificial intelligence in higher education, the library developed a comprehensive generative AI interactive online tutorial and accompanying student guide that have been exceptionally well received by both students and faculty, providing practical guidance for the ethical and effective use of these emerging tools. The Open Educational Resources (OER) program also continued to gain momentum. The library generated new faculty interest by presenting at the College's faculty in-service, and celebrated a major milestone by partnering with a sociology faculty member to publish the school's first LibreTexts OER textbook, further expanding access to affordable learning materials. Beyond campus, the library strengthened its commitment to community engagement by continuing to serve on the planning committee for the local One City/One Read initiative (Waukesha Reads), and by welcoming a local high school's AP students to the Library for a hands-on research session that introduced them to college-level databases and information literacy skills. Finally, the library completed a substantial update of its website to meet new federal accessibility guidelines, ensuring that online resources are more accessible and inclusive for all users. Together, these accomplishments reflect WCTC Library's ongoing commitment to innovation, collaboration, access, and service to both the campus and the broader community.



Western Technical College Library bid Linda Van Sistine-Yost farewell as she retired and moved to the other side of the state. In turn, the library welcomed Abby VonArx to the team! Abby brings a wealth of knowledge from K-12, higher education, and public librarianship. In addition to supporting the Business and General Studies Divisions and OER work, Abby has been working



with student-parent initiatives to cultivate more family literacy events for students with children and grandchildren. The library team has also been busy with accessibility remediation for all digital resources and supporting its second cohort of OER fellowship participants. The library was also excited to welcome Luke Alvin, the new OER publication specialist, to the team this summer. Additionally, this past year, Western's library started meaningful partnerships with La Crosse County Public Libraries and multiple Hmong community groups to bring Hmong/English Storytime opportunities for the campus and the larger community.

Budget

Below are the actual expenditures for WISPALS' 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Item	Amount
Project management/staff	\$107,000.00
ILS software and related costs	\$235,666.67
Electronic resources	\$290,172.37
Other	\$769.07
TOTAL	\$633,608.11

Looking Forward

Resource Guides

A strength of the WISPALS consortium is their ability to share ideas and information with one another in a welcoming and collaborative environment with others who work in very similar institutions and with similar staff and student populations. The group has harnessed this ability this past year by creating resource guides around shared needs, including artificial intelligence and accessibility, as discussed earlier in this report. WISPALS has already identified topics for future guides and will continue to develop, update, and share these resources with one another.

Artificial intelligence

WISPALS will continue learning and sharing with one another how they are learning, adapting, and teaching appropriate and ethical uses of AI to their students and how they are supporting staff and faculty in AI use as well.