

Lakeshores
LIBRARY SYSTEM

Presenter info:

- Steve Ohs;
- Originally joined LLS as a library development coordinator and technology specialist in 2010;
- Now in the administrator role (since 2014);
- Responsible for running the system day-to-day and according to the policies of the LLS board of trustees.

What Lakeshores Library System is:

- One of 16 “Regional Public Library Systems” in Wisconsin;
- A voluntary membership organization;
- We provide support services, including cooperative purchasing and consulting for our member libraries;
- Operating funding comes from the State of Wisconsin;
- Overseen by DPI’s Public Libraries Team.

What Lakeshores Library System is not:

- Not an actual library;
- Not management of our member libraries;
- Not a provider of direct service to the public;
- Not funded by county or municipal dollars;
- Not a part of DPI or state government (considered a statutory “local” government agency for administrative purposes).

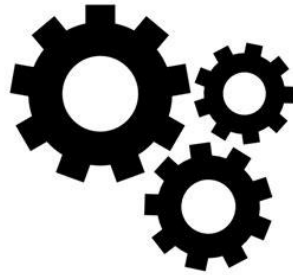
LLS' primary job in a nutshell:

“To help our member libraries provide the best possible service to anyone who visits a public library within the counties of Racine or Walworth.”

How we accomplish this:

- Broad-impact IT (wide area network and library-management software);
- Local-impact IT (expert management of computers, servers, VOIP phones, printers, etc. within each library for a fraction of “market rate” cost);
- Cost-sharing (drive down per-unit costs by facilitating group purchases of computer equipment, supplies, and digital resources);
- Delivery service (daily courier van that allows libraries to be more efficient by sharing resources);
- Free summer programs for member libraries (LLS books and schedules family-friendly programs at each member library every summer);
- Facilitate working relationships between stakeholder groups (libraries, municipalities, counties).

Switch Gears



County plans of library service (1 of 3):

- Statutory requirement (s. 43.11);
- Counties must adopt and maintain a “plan of library service” in order to participate in a regional public library system;
- These plans must include the following:
 - A commitment to provide library services to county residents living in municipalities without libraries;
 - How that service will be provided, and how municipal libraries in the county will be reimbursed for providing the service (a funding formula);
 - A method for allocating system board trustees between the member counties of the system.
- Plans may also include other elements:
 - Specific procedures, timelines, and other informational content;
 - Minimum service standards (if also adopted by 50% of municipalities with libraries).

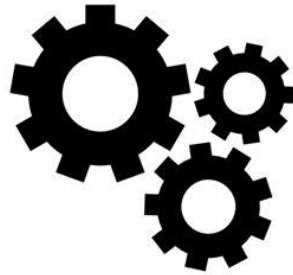
County plans of library service (2 of 3):

- Plans of library service must be developed by a county library planning committee, and approved by the board of supervisors.
- In Racine County, the five (5) individuals appointed to the LLS board of trustees were originally appointed to serve as the planning committee.
- LLS has facilitated the process of developing the plan, gathering feedback from the library directors in the county, and assisting the stakeholder groups in communication to get the process done.

County plans of library service (3 of 3):

- An update to the plan was due to occur during the summer of 2019.
- The draft updated plan before you tonight was prepared by the library planning committee in early spring of 2021.
- Changes to the content of the plan are minimal:
 - Dates and times
 - Updating of the library service list contained in the attachments
- The library directors in Racine County were provided the opportunity to supply feedback.

Switch Gears



Library adaptations over the past year (1 of 3):

- As for many types of organizations, the past year has been unprecedented;
- Each library (and library board) had to make the most appropriate decisions based on local directives and conditions;
- New service models were invented or “borrowed” from other sectors in order to continue to provide services to residents of the county.

Library adaptations over the past year (2 of 3):

- Plexiglass shielding;
- Deep-cleaning and HVAC system upgrades;
- Curbside pick-up;
- Virtual programs delivered via Facebook Live and other platforms
 - Storytimes for kids;
 - Cooking demos;
 - Crafting clubs;
 - Book discussions;
- Mobile hotspot checkout;
- Installation of powerful wifi repeaters outside the library;
- In some cases, library staff delivered library materials directly to patrons' homes in their personal vehicles.

Library adaptations over the past year (3 of 3):

“If there’s one thing I can leave you with today, it’s that during the past year, libraries in Racine county and throughout Wisconsin have stepped-up, finding ways to serve their communities under extraordinary circumstances.”

“During this season of COVID19, Burlington Public Library has helped in solving the “isolation” problem and boredom. Many facilities and places to travel may be shut down, but we can still go places through reading. We have also enjoyed the family-appropriate activities through the library such as the Teddy Bear New Years Eve party, which was very creative and cute.”

“The library has saved us hundreds of dollars in books and videos. It has also made us feel more a part of the community.”

“They have gone above and beyond to keep the family entertained and reading throughout the pandemic”

“As a person in the compromised group, the library has been my lifeline during Covid lockdown. I have read books on Libby, taken on-line courses ranging from investments to speed reading, picked up books at the no-contact delivery, and I recently learned that they are offering on-line programs, too. Honestly, though, I can’t wait for the day I can return in person. I miss it more than any other thing in my community.”

“The public library was instrumental for me when I was searching for a job. I did not have internet access at my home and couldn’t apply for jobs. Being able to go there with my laptop and use the free wifi to apply for the jobs was a major help and I still have that job today. My children and I have use the library to of course borrow books, movies, music and more. They have participated in various of the children's programs and activities and the librarians have seen them grow up right before their eyes...”

Thanks for your time!

Steve Ohs, Administrator
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