**WISPALS: Wisconsin Project for Automated Libraries**

“We have connections between our collections.”

###### WISPALS Executive Committee In-Person Meeting Minutes

###### Monday, July 18, 2016

**Chippewa Valley Technical College**

[**620 W. Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701**](https://goo.gl/maps/pHeYmGjhiYu)

**RCU Room 100A**

**Time**: 10:10 am – 3:00 pm, 3:15-4:00 optional

**Members Present**: Hans Baierl (MPTC), Deborah Blum (WTC), Kelly Carpenter (LTC), Gary Flynn (GTC), Linda Gau (NTC), Maria Hernandez (MSTC), Juan Jiménez (WTC), Terry Kemper (WCTC), Kim LaPlante (NWTC), Donna Melanz (LTC), Vince Mussehl (CVTC), Jane Roisum (FVTC), Scott Vrieze (WITC)

**Consortium Managers Present**: Melody Clark (WiLS), Andrea Coffin (WiLS), Stef Morrill (WiLS)

**10:10 Call to order (K. Carpenter)**

**10:10-10:15 Welcome and approval of June minutes (K. Carpenter)**

K. LaPlante moves to approve; J. Roisum seconds. No discussion. Motion passes.

**10:15-11:45 Strategic Planning Part 1 (S. Morrill)**

Background: See the Theming Worksheet and WISPALS Strategic Planning Slides for themes from the short- and long-term goals worksheet and connections to projects or services from other consortia.

The group prioritized the themes for discussion. The group identified the following seven themes as most important: Staff Training / Process Improvement, Resource Sharing, Facilities / Service Point Changes and Assessment, ILS Improvements, Information Literacy, Outreach and Marketing to Students, and General Outreach and Marketing.

The group then identified activities for each of those themes that could be undertaken by WISPALS.

**11:45-12:00 Marketing, branding, and promotion (A. Coffin)**

The group identified the five non-member technical colleges (Blackhawk, Nicolet, Southwest, Madison College, and Madison Area Technical College), new technical college library directors, college administration in change of finance, and the Wisconsin Technical College System as potential audiences for promotion. Specific items to use in promotion include: the WISPALS Annual Report, financial savings created by the consortium, orientation materials to new directors (WISPALS members or otherwise), invitations to non-member colleges to attend meetings and share their initiatives to find potential collaborations.

The group also discussed branding initiatives, and there was some concern expressed that branding efforts may not be the most effective promotion strategy for the consortium. There was some support for changing the logo, and for crafting an “elevator speech” to help share what WISPALS stands for and what the consortium does.

**12:00-12:45 Lunch**

**12:45-1:15 ILS Training (M. Clark)**

A brief overview of Create Lists, Statistics, Web Management Reports, and Decision Center was given.

**1:15-2:15 Strategic Planning Part 2 (S. Morrill)**

The group prioritized the activities identified during the morning session. See the planning spreadsheet for the full outcome, clarification, and discussion. The top activities to move forward with are:

* Information Literacy: Create a repository of information literacy resources; share curriculum for ACRL standards; get info lit curriculum into WIDS. WiLS suggests creating a repository with this topic as proof of concept.
* ILS: Catalog of create list reports and share good examples of them.
* ILS: Collect or create training videos that are specific, updated, and contextual; add more visuals in documentation (EDS as an example).
* ILS (and beyond): Create avenues or leverage existing ones to better share practices among WISPALS members, including statistics, specific questions and answers, and general broad initiatives such as information literacy and improving access / recognizing barriers. Consider the best platform for sharing this information in one place that is appropriately private, not complicated, and ideally already integrated into existing work. Some suggested platforms include libstats, Basecamp, WISPALS website. Community participation is key.
* ILS: More in-person best practice sharing to create a community of practice, such as annual forums for specific roles. This could include getting catalogers, acquisitions, etc., together in-person and/or virtually with an agenda and set of questions for one another. This may work best on a "need to do" basis rather than regularly scheduled.
* ILS: Remove ability to see other college's patron info
* ILS: Implement knowledgebase

WiLS will develop a draft plan for discussion around these activities.

The group discussed a mission statement. There was some question about whether one is needed. It does help with clarifying and marketing the organization. Committee members are encouraged to send WiLS their library’s mission statement. Some suggestions for statements are: “Empower member libraries through sharing knowledge and resources.” “Support and promote library professionals within the consortium.” “Save money.” WiLS will wordsmith a bit and return to the group with potential drafts.

Another piece of the proposal for the strategic planning is the creation of values. We will discuss this further at a future Executive Committee meeting.

**2:30-3:00 Idea Sharing / Open Discussion Time (K. Carpenter)**

MPTC asks who everyone is using for barcode orders. It was noted that WiLS has agreements with Demco and Computype.

K. Carpenter is having a baby! She will need a replacement as Chair for February, March, and April meetings. Donna Melanz of LTC has volunteered.

**3:00 Thank you and adjourn (K. Carpenter)**

**3:15-4:00 Open textbooks -optional (V. Mussehl)**

*Presentation and discussion about open textbooks initiatives with Mary Purvis, Physical and Life Science Instructor at CVTC, and Ron Keyes, Chemistry Instructor at CVTC.*

OpenStax was Implemented four years ago by M. Purvis, who was exposed to it at a STEM conference by a Microsoft presenter. The cycle of buying new updates to textbooks was very fast, making it unaffordable to students and unsustainable for professors. [See Handout on Advantages and Disadvantages of OpenStax.]

R. Keyes has used the Chemistry book, and finds the quality outstanding. While the Physics book, being the first of its kind, has some problems, it’s definitely workable for 20% of the price of traditional textbooks. Print versions can be purchased for $50, rented for $20. For digital, the Microsoft version is free and Apple version is $5. The text is supplemented by video, high-res images or pdfs, PowerPoints, etc. The OpenStax initiative is based at Rice University, and the science department at CVTC were early adopters because their students were unable to afford traditional textbooks. While there might be new editions to the individual books, the current and past editions will always be available. There are supplemental WebAssign homework packets for homework online available for $50 or so, though the CVTC instructors prefer being able to see the students’ train of thought, which isn’t as easily decipherable in the WebAssign. OpenStax is beginning to get into high school textbooks, but they don’t know if the devices are coming with it. Some may be available in other languages.

There are barriers to adopting OpenStax textbooks: recreating all the curriculum built around the previous textbook to make that switch, the lack of knowledge among faculty, the textbooks are largely not as showy or flashy, no test bank freely available, consistency if your program requires that all instructors of the same class must use the same textbook, unwilling administration, the inability to put the textbook purchase on student loans. M. Purvis and R. Keyes might be willing to present about these textbooks at an event if the attendance numbers are high enough.

Other open educational resources: Chemwiki.ucdavis.edu was a resource suggested that provides chemistry term summaries from multiple textbooks. You can donate to support OpenStax. Mary has been using other free resources – animations from the National Science Foundation, grant-funded projects, etc. Students might find their favorite YouTube teacher and then watch that same person all semester long. Other open textbooks initiatives are uneven.

The library’s role: Some members are printing and instructing others in the use of the textbooks. Librarians could assist with the advocacy and education about the benefits of open textbook initiatives. This is a place to be early adopters, or be the resource to the college about open textbooks / open education resources. K. LaPlant has a LibGuide to share. At CVTC, there was an e-textbooks committee meeting to understand what the library can do to help prevent students from having to purchase textbooks, such as using ebooks and Films on Demand. Deans and other decision makers were present at this meeting to listen and learn to develop a plan. Other ways to save students money on textbooks include: Follett’s price comparisons; Barnes & Noble College has a program that guarantees all the books will be available by the time classes start and participating colleges get a percentage of the textbook cost. MPTC has gone to a private contract with Follett for bookstore services. NWTC gets requests to be a resource about Creative Commons, especially for grant-funded initiatives, and organize all the data (cataloging it for discovery) to get resources on the Creative Commons website.

**Next Meeting**: August 17, 2016 at 9:00 AM via Conference Call

To Participate: Dial: 1-888-394-8197. Enter participant passcode, 887730.