

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.

“Our WISPALS membership provides not only financial savings, but also centralized support for our Integrated Library System (ILS). This eliminates the need for local IT staff to learn (and stay current with) the intricacies of this (very specialized) system, and provides local library staff with a centralized source of support regarding systems changes and customizations. In short, by filtering the huge amount of information that accompanies each upgrade, WISPALS staff eliminates the need for librarians (and IT folks) at each college to ‘reinvent the wheel.’”

—Gail Piotrowski, Librarian,
Northcentral Technical College

2010–2011 WISPALS Officers

Board President, Acting

Bryan Albrecht, President,
Gateway Technical College

Chair, Executive Committee

Gary Flynn, Library Manager,
Gateway Technical College

Incoming Chair, 2011–2012

María Hernández, Library Services Manager,
Mid-State Technical College

2010–2011 Highlights

Technology.....

In May 2011, WISPALS replaced their current Voyager Server with a hosted hardware option located at Ex Libris, our Voyager library vendor. After performing an extensive system evaluation of our current hardware, it was decided that the hosted option offered the best price/performance, security, disaster backup, and reliability while maintaining the WISPALS staff management and control of the server.

WISPALS plans to upgrade to Voyager 8.x in January 2012. This upgrade will provide our libraries with enhancements in the areas of patron communication and data manipulation. There will now be an option to utilize SMS text messaging to communicate with patrons about such things as overdue materials, etc. Also, through the use of a new Global Data Change facility, libraries will now be able to make changes to database records system-wide in bulk. This previously would have had to be done individually record-by-record. This will result in savings of staff time previously dedicated to perform these changes manually.

Service.....

WISPALS staff organized resources for the evaluation of Discovery Service products. These products will allow students to search the catalog and all the library's electronic resources from one search point of entry. It uses intuitive searching that is up-to-date with students' searching habits enabling them to find more comprehensive results. WISPALS staff coordinated presentations and demonstrations of these products, participated in teleconferences and webinars showing the technical side of these products, acted as contacts between the vendors for submitting questions and following up for additional information. WISPALS staff worked with the product representatives to provide significant discounts on their quotes.

"The full group membership—the discounts, the training, the shared knowledge of fellow members—allows us to move library services forward in ways that we couldn't on our own."

—Matt Rosendahl, MLIS, Director, Learning Resources,
Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

WISPALS staff worked aggressively in database renewal prices. Most database subscriptions came in under a 3% increase, with all under a 5% increase over last year's prices.

WISPALS staff resolved issues with vendors including being persistent that vendors issue refunds that were due to members, attaining credits for schools if the vendors did not resolve technical issues in a timely manner, and requesting new representatives if members were unsatisfied with them.



"In these tough economic times, our membership in WISPALS has enabled Mid-State Technical College to maximize its library budget and allowed us to acquire resources to help our students succeed that may not have been possible alone."

—María M. Hernández, Library Services Manager,
Mid-State Technical College



Membership.....

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College completed implementation of the Voyager ILS. This replaced a much outdated ILS allowing the library to better support their students' needs.

Full Member and Participating Member pricing was provided for Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. Membership information was sent to Nicolet Area Technical College.

Strategic Plan.....

The WISPALS Executive Committee created a new Strategic Plan for 2011–2013.

WISPALS Staff will be investigating our options for a possible replacement of our Docutek ERes Electronic Reserves server currently in use by some of our libraries. This server is currently maintained in a virtual environment at WCTC and managed by the WISPALS Staff. Possible scenarios that will be explored are continued usage of the Docutek Server as well as our schools exploring possible utilization of their in-house courseware systems (such as Blackboard) as a repository for electronic reserves documents.

WISPALS & Member Libraries:

Staff Highlights

WISPALS was a sponsor of the Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians (WAAL) 2010 Conference held in April.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College Director of Learning Resources, **Matt Rosendahl**, is on the Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) Board. He is also Chair of WLA's Resource Sharing Roundtable.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College's LRC Technician, **Adam Brisk** is co-chair for WAAL 2011 Conference. He was Technology Chair for WAAL 2009 and 2010 Conferences, Technology Chair for WLA 2010 Conference, and Exhibits Chair for WLA 2011 Conference. He is also a member of the Library and Information Technology Advisory Committee, Department of Public Instruction.

Fox Valley Technical College's **Val Magno** is the Education Chair for Fox Valley Library Council.

Fox Valley Technical College's **Jane Roisum** is finishing a 3-year term on the WLA-Support Staff Section. She was the Chair for the 2010 WLA-SSS Conference held at Fox Valley Technical College.

Western Technical College Director of Library Resources, **Ronald Edwards**, presented, "Marketing the Academic Library: Expanding Your Role on Campus and Increasing Your Profit Margin," at the 2011 Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians (WAAL) Annual Conference in Stevens Point, WI. He also presented, "Creating A Diversity Plan on Campus in 60 Minutes," at the 2011 Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education (WACTE) Annual Conference in Appleton, WI. Ronald was also a member of the Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) Board.

"WISPALS membership means that we have more bargaining power with resource vendors. By bargaining collectively the WISPALS coordinator gets us a much better deal. In addition to devoting more time to the negotiation process (than we would be able to do individually) she also gets the vendors to compete with each other for our business, which results in lower prices for all of us."

—Gail Piotrowski, Librarian,
Northcentral Technical College

Actual Budget

2010–2011.....

Capital \$186,467.19

Operating \$276,879.06

Revenue \$4,159.00

Average annual cost per member: \$25,170.82*

**This figure does not include the cost of subscription databases. Individual member library costs will vary based on services purchased through WISPALS and/or membership level.*

Upcoming Goals

Continue to support new librarians and staff at WISPALS colleges. This includes being an advocate, providing ILS and database troubleshooting and general support, providing product information and pricing for subscriptions, as well as being a resource for them in all matters related to the consortium or consortium purchased products and services.

Continue to market WISPALS to new administration at the WISPALS member colleges.

Minimize prices and maximize discounts. Renegotiate all existing database subscriptions with the goal of no larger than a 5% increase (3% preferred). Negotiate new subscription pricing aggressively.

Update the Content Management System (CMS) on the WISPALS site to promote more efficient resource sharing between members.

Support members in the implementation and production of Discovery Service products that bring them up to date with the latest library technology that fits the needs of current students searching and research trends. WISPALS staff will serve as the central contact for support.

Promote additional membership and advocacy within the WTCS districts and throughout the library community.

Explore grant opportunities

“WISPALS membership saves us a great deal of money, time, and energy that I would otherwise spend on vendor negotiations and automation support. Membership also provides the collective knowledge and experience of our consortium members and staff, which I find invaluable.”

—Hans Baierl, District Librarian, Moraine Park Technical College

Member **WISPALS Representative**

*Chippewa Valley
Technical College* Kristen Raney
Manager of Student Services

*Fox Valley
Technical College* Karsen Parson
Library Manager

*Gateway
Technical College* Gary Flynn
Library Manager

*Lakeshore
Technical College* Linda McCabe
Library Manager

*Mid-State
Technical College* María Hernández
Library Services Manager

*Moraine Park
Technical College* Hans Baierl
District Librarian

*Northcentral
Technical College* Gail Piotrowski
Librarian

*Northeast Wisconsin
Technical College* Kim LaPlante
Manager of Product Research
& Library Services

*Waukesha County
Technical College* Colleen Cullen
Reference Librarian

*Western
Technical College* Ronald Edwards
Director of Library Services

*Wisconsin Indianhead
Technical College* Matt Rosendahl
Director, Learning Resources



WISPALS Personnel

Jennifer Brosek,
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Robert W. Becker,
WISPALS System
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