

Merlin Consortium Minutes

May 7, 2020 10:00 am

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/652548949>

Call to Order 10:00 am

Attendance Quorum met

Attending: NWLS: Itzin, Johnson, Kriskovich, Machones

Libraries: Ashland – Adams, Bayfield – Nelson, Boulder Junction – Sanderson, Cable – Lendved, Drummond – Arens, Eagle River – Kelman, Grantsburg – Kelley-Johnson, Hayward – Lank-Jones, Iron River – Pooler, LCO – Pfaff, Land O Lakes – Zelten, Manitowish Waters – Kohl, Mellen – Thewis, Mercer – Schmidt, Phelps – Hutton, Presque Isle – Knaack, Shell Lake – Seaton, Spooner – Bodzislav, Superior – Heskin, Webster – Meyer, Washburn – Pendergrass, Winchester -- Forster.

Approval of Minutes (SL/CA)

Financial Reports (Gostomski) See Report; (/) Budget is in line, there will be some savings from lack of travel to conferences. (SP/ER)

Reports from members and NWLS staff

NWLS Director No reports

Assistant Director No reports

ILS Manager Updates (Johnson) please see report. 102 new users through self-registration on MERLIN catalog. Johnson will be sending out list of these patrons so individual libraries can update county codes and any other information to complete the cards.

IT Update (Kriskovich) Backup server will be in house the 2nd week of May. Self-Checkout information sent out through an email. Kriskovich will send out a survey to gauge interest in libraries purchasing self-checkout stations.

Other Reports

Merlin Business

Discovery Layer (Johnson, Schmidt, Olson, Seaton) Please see report for summary of the three discovery layers compared; Encore, Pika, Bibliocore. Funds for this would be folded into system member fees for 2021 budget, should the consortium go forward with a new discovery layer. This will be discussed at the August Merlin meeting.

Merlin Strategic Plan (Johnson) Johnson reported on some of the actions that occurred under some of the strategic plan objectives. Partnerships; bulk orders, spine label printers, bibliographic and cataloging standards committee membership w/IFLS. Patron Services; centralized cataloging discussions at NWLS, discovery layer research, NWLS migrated file server to RDC system migration is underway, service provider Norvado installed fiber access @ NWLS.

Adjourn 10:50 August 6 next meeting

NWLS Director's Meeting

AM

May 7, 2020

UPDATES

Business Manager (Gostomski) The movie licenses for 2020 cannot be refunded. Send in your collection development receipts when you can. April 30th invoices are being sent out so please watch for them. No public showings outside of your library building.

IT (Kriskovich) Consider grant programming for hot spots and/or extending wifi. Kriskovich is recommending focusing on internal wireless extensions to provide stronger wifi for patron use. He will send out a survey to understand what individual libraries prefer. There will be more than one grant opportunity, so services could be parsed out between different grants. Kriskovich's priority will be to replace existing access points and then create a mesh network to push the signal out further.

WPL & Overdrive (Itzin) A 5% buying pool increase in funding for WPLC was approved by the WPLC board. The proposed increase will be voted on by the steering committee on May 21st. \$250,000 state grant program to focus on holds reduction within Overdrive was also received. NWLS receives \$240 from counties, \$70,000 of that goes into collection development which includes Overdrive and library collection development grants. If there is dramatically less funding from county sources, NWLS would have to consider how to adjust those subsidies for libraries. If you want to know your overdrive statistics email Itzin for specific information.

ALA/WLA Ala is suffering from financial deficits. Divisions are being dissolved. National library legislation week; please contact your elected officials to advocate for support. WLA also suffering financial deficits.

DPI Guidelines for reopening are in process. Please keep a heads up for information coming from the DPI about reopening. According to state statute, the library board has control over opening the library.

Delivery Once / week delivery (Mondays) to get materials back to the owning libraries.
Hold Wiscat returns until further notice. Dropping off and picking up on Monday.
Discussion about how to integrate holds into re-opening; consensus that libraries are not ready for sending out holds yet.

Round Robin

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Adams – Vaughn Public Library