

Partnership

Objective 1: The consortium will investigate merging ILS services with other systems.

Action	Updated 3/2022	Time Frame	Status
Create document focused on Merging ILS.	Actively exploring ILS options parallel to WVLS and MCFLS. Sharing notes and demonstrations.	2022	Ongoing
Provide form for directors, staff input.	Provided form 11/2021 for evaluation of Sierra and its features and functionality.	Fall 2021	Completed
Reach out to WVLS & IFLS. Schedule a meeting.	WVLS and MCFLS are evaluating their current ILS and exploring new ILS. We are sharing documents, notes and demonstrations. Sherry has met with Marla at WVLS.	Fall 2021	Completed
Address potential issues of a merged ILS by identifying fears and pitfalls, describing how problems and conflicts could be addressed in a reasonable way.	This was somewhat addressed at planning session. As more concrete plans develop, conflict resolution may become more active, but as of present, we seem to all be looking in the same direction. Review project WIN documentation. ILS Exploration Committee working on options ILS Exploration committee is meeting regularly. RFIs extended in March 2022.	2022	Ongoing

Objective 2: Investigate other potential shared services and standards.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Reach out to other systems for bulk supply purchasing opportunities.	Purchasing bulk supplies and receipt paper with IFLS & WVLS annually.	Spring 2021	Completed
Contract with another library system to provide a marketing consultant for NWLN	Exploring the status of other library systems also looking for marketing services or offering contracting marketing services. Budgeting for service in 2022.	Winter 2022	In progress
Reach out to normalize bib standards with other systems.	Have formed an alliance of catalogers throughout Wisconsin to work on statewide steps toward inclusive headings and issues of centralized cataloging. NWLS staff coordinated meeting with the group and formed a listserv to maintain connection.	October/November 2020	Completed
Continuing to reach out to normalize bib standards with other systems.	Regularly updating our list of inclusive headings. Share this work with statewide colleagues by December 2021. Presented this work at WLA 2021.	Summer 2021	Completed
Reach out to other system bib standards committees to meet jointly.	Working with the cataloging Slack group, Jackee has been observing meetings at IFLS and meeting with Katie at WVLS. Working with WRLS on authority control processes.	Spring 2021	Ongoing

Relevance

Objective 1: Positive, consistent marketing of services and support of libraries.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Promote relevance of libraries and the library system.	An active marketing team, led by Leslie Mehle has been formed and is meeting regularly.	2021	Ongoing
Consortium-specific marketing materials. Partner with other system marketing coordinators to collaborate.	2021: Stay-At-Home Showcase, Read Across Wisconsin, Network Brochure, Patron drive during National Library Card Sign Up Month (September). 2022: Working on one project quarterly.	September 2021	Completed

Objective 2: Seek and promote programming, services and resources.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Coordinate marketing of existing Network services.	Successful rebrand from Merlin to NWLN. Bi-Monthly online directors discussions to share ideas and support. PIKA roll out completed. New patron cards designed and distributed. Evaluation of digital services.	Summer 2021	Completed

Objective 3: Develop stakeholder understanding of system (vs. single library) model and benefits.

Action		Time Frame	Status
List of stakeholders.	Develop a list of those with a vested interest in library system success.	Fall 2021	Ongoing
Educational marketing materials to share with stakeholders.	Develop talking points about the relevance & support of libraries.	Fall 2021	Ongoing

Patron Services

Objective 1: Develop a plan and timeline for centralized cataloging.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Decide what options are available (system cataloger or partner with other consortia)	Centralized cataloging fully implemented for all items types and all libraries as of March 16, 2022.	March 2022	Completed
Develop a funding plan.	Centralized cataloging is a part of our 2022 Resource Library Contract.	August 2021	Completed

Objective 2: Investigate ways to improve online catalog.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Discovery layer options & costs.	Approved decision to implement the Pika discovery layer.	September 2020	Completed
Develop a funding plan.	Pika budget approved.	September 2020	Completed
Install discovery layer.	New discovery layer implemented.	April 2021	Completed

Objective 3: Promote backup plans for service outages.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Arrange for NWLS head end access to switch to the RDC.	Moved NWLS staff to new domain in RDC. Migrated NWLS file server to RDC. The new servers located at RDC are up and running and NWLS system migration is complete. Router configurations for migration have been finished. Wireless configurations are set.	March 2022	Completed
Investigate local options for alternative internet access.	Norvado has installed their fiber access to the back server room April 2020. Could be used as a secondary connection in the future for backup ISP.	End of 2022	Completed

Objective 4: Promote WebSierra for outreach use.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Provide access to staff for WebSierra.	Logins for WebSierra have been activated.	September 2020	Completed
Provide continuing education on mobile outreach and examples.	Office hours held and recorded August 11th for mobile outreach.	Summer 2021	Completed

Objective 5: Evaluate ILS options.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Investigate available options.	ILS Exploration Committee has narrowed down the choices, attended demos and issued RFIs to CARL-X & Koha.	March 2022	In progress.
Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of options.	ILS Exploration Committee has developed a list of options and surveyed members about current Sierra functions used to develop RFIs.	March 2022	Completed

Positioning for the Future

Objective 1: Align with state level practices (directions).

Action		Time Frame	Status
Participate in PLSR related activities	DPI waiting on state technology departments for CE portal software. Statewide delivery changes to be implemented by 2024. Oversight of statewide delivery will be proposed to WPLC in the next few months. A consultant has been hired by DPI to explore changes to the funding formula. Sherry will be on a special LD&L committee working with the consultant.	2021-2022	Ongoing
Consult with SRLAAW to keep abreast of the status of ILS and System mergers.	Marathon County in transition. Still monitoring WVLS, IFLS and waiting for other opportunities. In merger news, there is a possible system merger between Arrowhead and Lakeshores.	Winter 2022	Ongoing

Objective 2: Funding for additional system staff.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Investigate grant opportunities.	Working outside of LSTA Funding. Internship possibilities.	Spring 2022	Ongoing
Seek alternative sponsors.	Utilizing resource library contract for Youth Service Consultant, considering system funding for Adult Services Contract. Using System funding for expansion of ILL Support Specialist hours.	2022	Completed

Objective 3: Development and expansion of digital collections.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Investigate possible streaming and other digital resources.	Completed Digital Services Patron Survey. Digital Services Committee to decide on next steps. Two NWLS libraries have added Kanopy and two are exploring adding Hoopla. System staff helping with implementations.	Spring 2022	In progress.

Objective 4: Develop specialized consulting/training resources which can be shared through the state.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Highlight inclusive services.	Have formed an alliance of catalogers throughout Wisconsin to work on statewide steps toward inclusive headings and issues of centralized cataloging. NWLS staff coordinated meeting with the group and formed a listserv to maintain connection.	2021	Completed
Highlight accessibility services.	Reflexive content now available in our new catalog, curbside pickup has become ubiquitous throughout the library system. Pika is working towards meeting the new Colorado accessibility standards. This will enhance our accessibility by default.	2022	Ongoing.

Objective 5: Add more libraries and patrons to the consortium.

Action		Time Frame	Status
Open consortium membership to school libraries in the area.	WEMTA/WLA partnership, started conversation at Ashland High School. Consulted with Grantsburg School District.	Winter 2021-2022	Ongoing
Encourage community libraries to become members.	Minong, Siren.	Winter 2021-2023	To do
Investigate possibility of more branch libraries.	Are there any tiny community libraries that could be enhanced by becoming a branch of an existing public library?	Winter 2021-2024	To do
Conduct patron drive activities.	Held successful patron drive in September. Added 587 new patrons.	September 2021	Completed
Investigate and encourage tribal libraries.	Bad River, St. Croix (Hertel). Actively working with Red Cliff.	Winter 2021-2026	Ongoing
Develop a plan for outreach.	Talking points, identifying community partners to begin conversations, cost-benefit analysis for all of the above.	Spring 2022	To do