

OWLS Director report

January 17, 2019 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

Continuing education

The Northeastern Wisconsin CE Partnership is up and running for 2019. NEWI will provide several continuing education activities throughout the region, coordinated by Joy Schwarz at Winnefox. These free workshops and webinars are designed for the professional development of library directors, staff, and trustees. Upcoming events and other news can be found here: <https://newilibraries.org/>.

The first CE event of the year will be the Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference, January 23-24. Trustees are welcome to participate in any of the online sessions.

OWLS-Winnefox ILS merger exploration

The ILS merger exploration committee met on December 19th and January 9th. The primary topic of both meetings was bylaws and governance. We are also scheduling a meeting of cataloging staff and have recruited volunteers for an ILS platform shopping committee. Committee meetings are open, and trustees are welcome to attend. You can follow the work of the committee here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/samarbeid/home>

AAC meeting

OWLSnet member libraries will meet in Appleton on January 18th for our first AAC meeting of 2019. Key topics of discussion will include the ILS merger exploration and Lucky Day collections. The complete agenda is available here: <https://owlsnet.org/owlsnet/aac-meeting-january-18-2019>

PLSR update

The PLSR Steering Committee is reviewing the feedback that was submitted via the survey and other communications regarding the draft recommendation report. This will result in the committee creating its final report that it will deliver to the Department of Public Instruction, completing the committee's work. The latest draft and the survey results can be found here: <http://www.plsr.info/>

Bandwidth upgrades

On Sunday, 1/13, Dave installed our new Badgernet router. The new router has more capacity, allowing us to increase the bandwidth between OWLS and the Internet (Wiscnet) from our current 500Mbps to 1Gbps, and to increase the bandwidth between OWLS and the Badgernet cloud from 500Mbps to 1Gbps. This in turn will enable us to increase bandwidth at OWLSnet member libraries from their current 20Mbps to 50Mbps between now and June. These bandwidth increases are a "capacity" increase, not a "speed" increase, but once bandwidth capacity has been maxed out on a specific circuit then speed will also suffer. The additional bandwidth will help the libraries during times of heavy network usage and provide the OWLS and NFLS technical support staff with additional network capacity for remote support and Windows Update needs.

Annual reports

Molly, Amanda, and Evan have been very busy compiling 2018 annual report statistics. These were submitted to DPI on 1/11, and we anticipate that the online form for library annual reports will be prefilled with system supplied data and opened to libraries this week.