

WiLS Mission:

WiLS is a Consortium of member Wisconsin libraries that offers services in areas of shared bibliographic information, resource sharing, inservice training, and other cooperative activities relating to the changing nature of information technology.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Work together as a community to keep libraries relevant and important in the electronic age.

The perception that information needs can be met “on the Internet” continues to prevail. In order to survive and thrive libraries must not only provide access to electronic information but make access easy for users and must be available to assist users both within the library and remotely. WiLS can provide the collaborative structure for libraries to license electronic content and related searching tools and can serve as a coordinator of cooperative developments such as virtual reference and the creation of digital libraries.

Work together as a community to address the next generation of issues surrounding electronic content

Copyright and intellectual property issues are becoming more and more of a barrier to the delivery of electronic content. At the same time libraries are seeking to establish their role as publishers of electronic information through digitization of content and managers of learning objects. While such issues are not on the immediate horizon for all sizes and types of libraries, Wisconsin libraries must be participants in the shaping of intellectual property rights policies to reflect the needs and interests of libraries and library users. The WiLS role in addressing this goal will be as sponsor of programs and as monitor of national forums from which information will be collected and shared with members.

Work together as a community to retain the Wisconsin resource sharing tradition within the context of dramatic changes, technical, financial and functional, in the way we do interlibrary loan and document delivery.

The world of Interlibrary Loan is going through a period of significant transformation. How needed materials are requested (unmediated), how they can be delivered (electronically), how libraries share locally and regionally (shared local systems) and how important ILL is within the range of library services are all changing. We must work collectively to develop new policies and procedures to accommodate the changes. WiLS has three roles to play in this area. First, WiLS must address the evolution of the WiLS ILL service program; second, WiLS will serve as discussion leader / facilitator for member libraries in addressing issues within their libraries, and third, there is a training role for WiLS.

Expand participation by Wisconsin libraries in the OCLC cooperative in order to strengthen the cooperative, to increase the “Wisconsin voice” within the cooperative and to extend the values of the cooperative to more libraries in the Wisconsin community

OCLC is the largest organization devoted to collaborative development and provision of services to facilitate efficient and cost effective libraries. It is a community where libraries of all sizes and types participate in decision-making, have access to a variety of services and benefit from research and development focused on library needs. It is in the best interests of Wisconsin libraries to be active members of this community and it is a critical aspect of the WiLS role as OCLC agent for Wisconsin to make this happen.

ACTION PLAN

Keeping Libraries Relevant

1. Continue to seek the best possible price on electronic resources desired by member libraries through the WiLS Cooperative Purchasing Service
2. Cooperatively investigate and implement systems that make searching for information as simple and as accessible as possible
 - Closely monitor investigations on-going within UW System for “one search” software that allows library users to search across a variety of information resources with a single search. Share the results with WiLS members; develop licensing opportunities for other libraries as appropriate and possible
 - Promote participation by Wisconsin libraries in the OCLC pilot of the Cooperative Access Service (linking of WorldCat and libraries to web search engines)
3. Facilitate development of a statewide virtual reference cooperative
 - Continue and expand the “AskWisconsinLibrarians” service both in libraries participating and in hours of coverage
 - Investigate options for linking this service to other virtual reference services in Wisconsin libraries (Docutek, Ref24x7, LSSI)
 - Develop a core collection of electronic reference materials for use by librarians providing virtual reference
 - Investigate options for providing non-English virtual reference
4. Promote and facilitate Wisconsin digital library
 - Establish statewide planning group, with representatives of existing digital library projects, to identify options and make recommendations for linking of the various digital library developments within the state
 - Continue providing educational opportunities related to OCLC’s digitization services
5. Continue to expand participation in cooperative ventures related to Ebooks
 - Continue to grow the netLibrary collections through a more focused approach to collection development to facilitate marketing and promote increased usage
 - Investigate Ebook providers offering simultaneous user based licensing

Intellectual Property Issues

6. Provide educational opportunities regarding national developments on copyright and intellectual property issues particularly in relation to the delivery of electronic content.
 - Coordinate access to national teleconferences on copyright and intellectual property issues
 - Provide educational opportunities and planning forums related to creation and management of learning objects
 - Closely monitor implementation of new courseware (Desire2Learn) within the UW System and share information with other Wisconsin libraries
 - Closely monitor UW Madison pilot project on (Dspace) creation of an institutional repository

Transformation of ILL

7. Identify methods for transfer of interloan requests across the primary interloan systems used by Wisconsin libraries
 - Work with UW libraries on ISO request transfer of ILL requests ILLiad-to-ILLiad
 - Work with DLTCL to facilitate ISO request transfer between WISCATILL and OCLC ILL system
8. Review the current financial structure of interlibrary loan within the WiLS membership addressing key issues such as:
 - Need for continuation of referral credit system
 - Alternative methods and funding to support access to WiLS interloan service for public and school libraries. (Alternative to State Resource Sharing Contract)
 - Cost effectiveness and options for linking TOC to pay per article services
9. Facilitate continued development of electronic document delivery by and between Wisconsin libraries
 - Implement ILLiad's Odyssey software within WiLS; promote use of this software to non ILLiad libraries

Increase participation in OCLC

10. Increase awareness of OCLC's cataloging solution for small libraries (CatExpress) to expand membership of Wisconsin libraries in the OCLC community
11. Investigate feasibility of OCLC's Group Catalog Service for those libraries interested in WorldCat based virtual union catalogs and ILL through subscription
12. Share information with members regarding research projects of OCLC and how such projects will be of value to libraries.
13. Promote and coordinate the appointment of Wisconsin library leaders to OCLC Committees and Task Forces; provide opportunities for appointees to report on investigations and results of their work.