

State Librarian Report to the WYLD Network June, 2025

Faced with the foreseen sunset of the ILL software that the WYLD Network has been using for two decades, the WYLD Office engaged in a thorough assessment of available options. Over the course of several months, the WYLD Office determined that the best solution for in-system lending is to leverage existing architecture in the Symphony integrated library system for sophisticated hold management. WYLD has been working with Grove for Libraries to customize the online catalog (Aspen) to phase out VDX, and with an independent contractor to customize the staff interface in SirsiDynix WorkFlows. A testing phase is planned through June 2025, with training for all libraries scheduled for late summer. Complete migration off of VDX for in-system lending is planned to take place in early October 2025.

The Wyoming State Library (WSL) welcomed three new staff members this year. With the new Resources Sharing Librarian position acquired in 2024, the State Library staff continue to work diligently to ensure excellent service to Wyoming libraries, government agencies, and key stakeholders.

Cristine Braddy, Cass Kvenild, and I met with our Congressional Delegation in March for Voices for Libraries. We discussed some of the amazing work that our libraries are performing in Wyoming. We shared statistics and new resources. Our elected officials and their staff shared their interest in current policies impacting our state. They are interested in being kept informed of how they can help moving forward.

State Library priorities have not changed:

1. **Shared library infrastructure**, including the statewide Integrated Library System, interlibrary loan software, and electronic resource platforms (OverDrive)
2. State Library **staff**
3. State Library programs and projects **required by statute**
4. Statewide library databases, resources, and digital content, and State Library programs, projects, and collections that are not required by statute

Budget News:

The state of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and their grants programs has been in fluctuation for the majority of the federal fiscal year of 2025. WSL experienced a temporary disruption in accessing Grants to States funding. This occurred when a new director was appointed to IMLS, and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) was attempting to apply the requirements of Executive Order (EO) 14238, Continuing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy, to the IMLS programs and staffing levels. WSL was eventually re-granted access to its 2024 federal money and awarded 50% of our 2025 grant. Any change to State or Federal funds will result in a change to State Library provided resources. The Shared Purchases Committee has provided WSL with a prioritized list of statewide library

databases and resources provided by WSL. The State Library uses federal Library Services and Technology Act funds and state general funds to pay approximately 75% of the cost of the ILS software and hardware and 100% of salaries of the five WSL staff members who manage the system.

The Wyoming Library Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program (WLMCF) was granted a total of \$21 million dollars to fund construction projects in ten Wyoming counties. The projects vary in scope and cost, but all of them will enhance services and increase community partnerships, strengthening support for Wyoming residents applying for jobs, searching for family education resources, or addressing health concerns. All WLMCF grant projects are currently in progress, and site visits to provide support will take place during the summer and fall of 2025. Construction projects will be completed by the end of 2026 or before.

Cost Analysis

WSL updated the Cost Analysis of the shared ILS using comparable system quotes for five representative libraries from SirsiDynix.

Conclusion:

The WYLD Network's shared Integrated Library System (ILS) still costs member libraries 3-10 times less than if they contracted for their own system with a comparable number of features. Five State Library staff manage the WYLD ILS; local libraries would need 1 to 1.5 skilled FTEs, or to contract for outsourced services, to operate their own system. An outsourced service would cost considerably more in addition to contracting for their own system. Smaller libraries and colleges would be the most likely to face unaffordable expenses.

FY25 Project Updates:

WSL initiated the "Let's Ride!" marketing campaign to promote its free resources and services to Wyoming state employees, businesses, and residents. This eight-week campaign, with an additional advertisement in the Frontier Days program, spotlights seven key offerings: research guides, digital collections, elearning tools, virtual libraries, patents and trademarks assistance, reference services, and business resources. The goal of the campaign is to increase awareness of these valuable WSL resources.

WSL conducted 48 training sessions with more than 352 library workers, state employees, teachers, Wyoming residents, and others during the FY25 period. Archived training videos were accessed 7,972 times and watched for over 641 hours. WSL hosted 4 library directors for a group orientation and held a Wyoming Library Directors' workshop in October.

WSL collaborated with the Colorado State Library (CSL) and WebJunction on a Digital Collection Stewardship project. This initiative involved WSL and CSL hosting learning groups focused on the creation, maintenance, and best practices of digital collections. From August 2024 to April 2025, they facilitated three multi-state learning groups, engaging a total of 45 participants.

The Wyoming Legislation Digital Collection was added to the Plains to Peaks Collective for DPLA (77,908 records). Wyoming Legislation is the last of the State Library Digital Suite Collections to be added to the

Plains to Peaks Collective of DPLA. The addition of Wyoming Legislation into DPLA completes a robust collection of Wyoming history that is available to users, further enhancing access for Wyoming historical information (163,043 WSL records total in DPLA).

The University of Wyoming Libraries, Wyoming State Archives and Wyoming State Library hosted the 2025 AI Summit for library staff and cultural institutions. The AI Summit featured a lineup of librarians and campus colleagues who are actively exploring what AI means for the future of our work. The conference had a lot of interest with 75 attending in person and 27 virtually.