

**MEMORANDUM:**

**To:** Winnefox Library System Trustees  
**From:** Clairellyn Sommersmith, Director  
**Subject:** Report of System Activities  
**Date:** March 18, 2026

**Library Statistics and Annual Reports:** All 30 libraries completed their Annual Reports. The information provided in the Annual Reports provides me with the information I need to begin the county budgeting process. The April and May LAC meetings will include discussion and drafting of the 2027 budget requests from libraries to their home counties.

By the end of the month, I will also have provided the rural resident usage and reimbursement figures across adjacent counties lines to all Winnefox libraries. Individual libraries will decide which counties to ask for reimbursement. Final numbers are due to me in May so I can send the billing to those counties in June.

Relatedly, both Waushara and Green Lake County LACs will be working on new five-year agreements with their county oversight committees. These agreements spell out the funding model used for library reimbursements and highlight priority services the library will provide to county residents in the next five years.

**Conferences:** Angela Schenider, Crystal Marschall, and I will be in Minneapolis the first week of April attending the Public Library Association Conference, which is held every other year. In addition to attending sessions presented by my public library colleagues, I will be speaking to vendors like OCLC, SirsiDynix, and Polaris.

Other staff also have continuing education opportunities this upcoming month. Jeramiah Harland and Pete Hodge will be attending the Governor's Cybersecurity Summit, a two-day conference in Appleton highlighting new resources and procedures for protecting organizations from cybersecurity threats. Annie Larson and Karla Smith will be attending the SirsiDynix Cosugi virtual conference, a three-day learning and networking opportunity for SirsiDynix customers.

**Staff News:** Winnefox has hired a new ILS Specialist! Annie Larson has previously worked at the Sussex Public Library and College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, where she was the digital humanities librarian. Prior to her official start date, March 9, Annie had the opportunity to observe our quarterly All-WALS training. Since starting, Annie has been inundated with all there is to learn and has been specifically diving into learning about the online catalog.

Keetra Baker, who manages the Winnefox archive page, recently launched new collections from Fond du Lac and Oshkosh Public Libraries. These local history collections include Fond du Lac's city maps, directories, and postcards, and a collection of photographs from local Oshkosh photographer Lewis Hine. These collections along with all of Winnefox's hosted digitized documents can be viewed at [winnefox.org/archives](http://winnefox.org/archives).

Jeramiah, Angela, and Keetra have been working on prepping system staff and member libraries for the ADA Website Accessibility changes that will need to take place in the next year. Due to municipal/service population sizes, the Oshkosh Public Library and Winnefox websites will need to be in compliance with new accessibility standards by the end of April of this year. The deadline for all other member libraries is April of 2027. Jeramiah is working on updating the Oshkosh website and putting together a checklist for member libraries, and will be offering an introductory accessibility workshop

session on April 16. He will also be the staff guest at our May board meeting, presenting on the new Winnefox/Extranet pages.

Staff recently added two significant pieces to the Creative Studios rotation in preparations for Summer Reading Program activities: a Nex Playground, which is a video game device that can read the participants' bodies as they play/interact with the games; and a foam machine for summer outdoor fun.

**Library News:** Teresa Schmidt, the Bureau of Libraries' Public Library Administration Consultant, hosted the New Public Library Director Training Camp in March. Three Winnefox Library directors participated this year: Merrra Albosta, Plainfield; Carly Terry, Pine River; Rachel Fuller, Fond du Lac.

Ripon Public Library has been hard at work on their remodel. The children's section has been completed and is now open to the public. The library is still getting pieces for the space, but the immediate improvement of that section has been noted by the public. The adult section, downstairs meeting rooms, and parking lot are still under construction, with the project completing by November of this year.

**State News:** The Bureau of Libraries has created a committee to evaluate and revise the Wisconsin Library Standards, with the goal of debuting the 7<sup>th</sup> edition in September 2026. Two Winnefox directors are on the statewide committee handling this project: Nancy Bell, director at the Ripon Library, and Darryl Eshete, Oshkosh Public Library director.