

Counties and Systems

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Session Objectives:

- Understand county planning, payments, and tax exemption
- Learn about the benefits of library system membership
- Understand system eligibility for state aid

43.11 County Planning

Committees

- All counties should have a county plan for library service, particularly for residents not served by a local library
- A county may appoint a planning committee (or existing county library services board) to create, review or update the plan

43.11 County Planning

County Plan for Library Service

- Shall include full access to public libraries participating in the public library system (for residents not served by a local library) and reimbursement for that access
- Plan should address the county's participation in the library system
- May provide direct services (books by mail, bookmobile) or contracted services or provide improved services countywide and in municipalities that have libraries

43.11 County Planning

County Plan for Library Service, Continued

- May require municipal cross-border payments for circulation (not to exceed actual cost)
- May also include minimum standards
 - If approved by the county board of supervisors, as well as
 - By the local library boards of at least 50% of the participating municipalities representing at least 80% of the population of participating municipalities in the county [s. 43.11(3)(d)]

43.12: County Payments

- Requires reimbursement of at least 70% of the operating costs for serving non-resident borrowers (aka: rural residents)
- Act 150 (1997) required payment to libraries within the county
- Act 420 (2006) required payment to libraries in adjacent counties
- Act 157(2013) enabled libraries to bill consolidated county libraries
- Circulation used as measure of resident/non-resident use
- Claims must be submitted by July 1 for payments to be made March 1 of the following year
- Some counties have their library systems distribute funds

43.64: County Tax & Exemption

- Provides authority for counties to tax for public library services
- A municipality that supports a public library can be exempt from the county tax if the municipality appropriates and expends for a library fund an amount above the defined minimum, which is based on the equalized value of the property taxed for county library service
- The request must be calculated and submitted annually
- Not all library communities will exempt from the county tax

Benefits of Library Systems

- Facilitate and enhance resource sharing
 - ILS
 - ILL
 - Delivery
- Provide specialized staff assistance and continuing education
- Improve communications and provide network support
- Support use of new technologies
- First “line of defense” for libraries

43.13 – 24: Library Systems

Library Systems Statutes Overview

- 43.13 Division (DLT) review of public library systems
- 43.15 **Standards for public library systems (& membership requirements)**
- 43.16 Resource libraries
- 43.17 Public library systems; general provisions
- 43.18 Withdrawal, abolition, and expulsion
- 43.19 Federated public library systems
- 43.21 Consolidated public library systems
- 43.24 **State aid**

43.15(4)(c): System Membership Requirements

1. Established and operated according to Chapter 43.
2. County must belong to the library system and meet membership requirements for counties.
3. Is authorized by the municipal body to participate in the system
4. Library board must approve an agreement with the library system to participate in system activities, provide interlibrary loan to other members, and provide the same services, on the same terms, that are provided to local residents.
5. Library director must have the appropriate certification from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, work in the library at least 10 hours per week while open.
6. Open a minimum of 20 hours per week and must expend at least \$2500 per year for library materials.

43.24(2): System Eligibility for State Aid

- State aid is the funding that systems receive, as appropriated by the legislature
- In order to receive state aid, certain services are required by law:
 - Written agreements with all member libraries
 - Written agreement with resource library (statutorily supplies back up reference, ILL, and development of specialized collections)
 - Referral or routing of reference and ILL requests from member libraries to other member libraries and libraries outside the system
 - In-service training for member library personnel and trustees

43.24(2): System Eligibility for State Aid

- Services required by law, continued:
 - Electronic delivery of information and physical delivery of materials
 - Service agreements with adjacent library systems
 - Professional consulting services
 - Other service programs that meet the needs of residents of the system area
 - Promotion and facilitation of services to users with special needs
 - Cooperative and continuous planning with other types of libraries
 - Planning with the Division (DLT) including a technology plan
 - *If* reimburse member libraries for ILL, shall not exceed actual costs