



April 8, 1999

Representative David W. Ward
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 304 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison 53708-8953

Dear Representative Ward:

I urge you to vote in support of Governor's budget line on funding for UW libraries. It is badly needed. Systemwide the library budget has not increased in the last ten years. Even though the general consumer price index has slowed down in recent years, libraries have experienced double digit inflation. During those ten years libraries have lost purchasing power of 10-18 percent per year as book and journal prices have increased steadily. Over the same period, electronic sources have consumed a growing portion of library acquisition budgets, and electronic information typically is more expensive than related information in print format. Cumulative effect is we have been purchasing less and less of the academic knowledge base despite improved cooperation among UW libraries. More and more book and journal requests have gone unfilled. Many journal subscriptions have been canceled and new journals in emerging fields cannot be ordered. Systemwide, we have canceled over 6000 titles.

That people can get everything over the Internet free is a myth. Most reliable and scholarly information over the Internet are by subscription.

Governor Thompson's library budget funding will allow us to maintain the quality of UW libraries both in print and electronic form, as well as enhance resource sharing by expanding the intercampus document delivery system. Please empower us to serve the students and faculty with sufficient library resources by voting yes on Governor's budget line on funding for UW libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joyce L. Huang'.

Joyce L. Huang
Director, Library Services
Technology & Information Resources





April 8, 1999

Senator Kim Plache
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ms. Plache:

Today I came to speak before the Joint Finance committee in support of the Governor's budget for the University of Wisconsin. I was unable to present my remarks due to time constraints but wanted to pass on a note to you emphasizing my support of the budget.

We are all proud of our great university system and realize how important it is that students have access to a high quality, affordable education. As a UW-Madison graduate, I am especially proud that my alma mater is consistently rated as one of the top public universities in the country.

I am so pleased to see that the Governor's budget recommendations will allow UW-Madison to maintain its excellence. The unique initiative to match funding from the state and students with private gift funds raised from alumni and donors will allow us to make progress in faculty recruitment and retention, maintain and upgrade classrooms and labs, and allow for more research and instructional programs.

I also want to urge your support of the Systemwide budget that invests in items such as libraries, instructional technology, international education, and advising. These are also important to ensure that UW-Madison and other campuses in the system continue to produce well-educated students who can join the workforce.

Finally, I would hope that there is sufficient financial aid available for students. I recognize that our university system is one of the best values in the country, but there are some students and families who struggle to pay even the relatively inexpensive UW-Madison tuition. We need to maintain Wisconsin's tradition of providing a high quality, affordable education to its citizens and provide financial aid-in the form of grants-to those students who would otherwise be denied access to the UW system.

Our local Racine UW-Madison Alumni group has awarded scholarships to local students attending UW-Madison for over 10 years. We know that this is a very small but important role that we as alumni play in continuing to make this education available to the best and brightest students in our state.

Thank you in advance for your support of the budget.

Sincerely,

Christine Shields Kann
Badger Action Network Member, Member UW-Madison Alumni Club of Racine
(414) 886-6255

Karen L. Hanus
User Education/Reference Librarian
Medical College of Wisconsin Libraries
P.O. Box 26509
Milwaukee, WI 53226-0509
Joint Finance Committee testimony: BadgerLink

I would like to see state funding for BadgerLink. BadgerLink is a project of the Division for Libraries and Community Learning. Its goal is to provide increased access to information resources for Wisconsin residents in cooperation with the state's public, school, academic, and special libraries. Funding is being provided through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) from July, 1998 to December, 1999. \$2,536,000 in state funds will be needed to continue BadgerLink in the 1999-2001 biennium (For 1999-2000 the cost is \$836,000 and for 2000-2001 the cost is \$1,700,000).

BadgerLink is available at <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/badgerlink>.

BadgerLink provides information content. Libraries that have received Internet access through TEACH and E-Rate, programs which provided connectivity, can now use this valuable content.

BadgerLink provides access to:

- 4,000 magazines and journals with summaries of articles
- 2,000 magazines and journals with complete articles
- 13 Wisconsin newspapers
- 28 national and regional newspapers
- 1,000 health pamphlets
- 1,000 American History documents
- Databases covering general topics, business, health, and education
- Databases for children and students
- WISCAT, a statewide catalog of 6 million items held in more than 1,100 Wisconsin libraries
- Links to federal and state government information and other Internet sites

Since July 1998, nearly 1,100 libraries and other organizations have registered to use BadgerLink. Individuals can use BadgerLink from their homes, offices, schools, and libraries. Wisconsin residents have made approximately 4.5 million searches and viewed, downloaded, or printed over 5 million pages of information.

There are major benefits related to signing a statewide contract over individual libraries purchasing contracts:

- Cost is lower statewide than if individual libraries buy the products (it would cost about \$50 million for individual libraries to buy the products).
- It's possible to provide access outside the library so residents can use the information from their homes, offices and other locations (an estimated 35% of Wisconsin households have Internet access and this number is steadily increasing).
- Statewide geographic coverage is insured.
- Staff time spent negotiating contracts is not incurred at the local level.

The crown jewel of BadgerLink is free online access to full-text periodicals and newspapers. Many databases only provide the bibliographic reference to an article or document. Then the information seeker must go to a library or other resource to read or purchase the full text of the article. BadgerLink provides access to thousands of articles right online with no additional cost to the information user.

In my institution we use BadgerLink to help provide health related information to patients and families of patients who don't have the expertise to understand the clinical information written for physicians. One of the databases on BadgerLink is called Health Source Plus. This database provides the full text for over 260 health periodicals covering topics such as nutrition, exercise, medical self-care, drugs and alcohol, and much more. It also provides over 1,000 health pamphlets, and 23 health reference books.

BadgerLink is also easy to use. For example, a family member recently tried to find the name and age of the truck driver who was involved in the Amtrak train crash in Illinois. She had no access to a newspaper with information about that crash, so she needed to use online resources. She used online search engines in both the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Chicago Tribune web sites. After about a half hour of searching she found an article that probably contained the information she needed. But, she found that it would cost \$5.00 to purchase the article and she gave up. When she told me what she needed, I suggested using BadgerLink. We found the answer in BadgerLink's full-text newspapers in two and a half minutes with no additional cost. Now, she uses BadgerLink all the time.

BadgerLink is a valuable resource for all Wisconsin citizens. I hope that money can be found to fund this remarkable resource.

TESTIMONY TO THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE
APRIL 8, 1999, RACINE, WISCONSIN

My name is Mary Ellen Close, and I am the Director of the Community Library, a joint public library created by two towns and three villages in western Kenosha County. I am here today to speak in favor of the Wisconsin Library Association's 1999 Legislative Agenda, which is supported by our library's Board of Trustees.

I would ask for your support as well. **BadgerLink** and **public library system aids** are two funding issues that have a direct impact on our library and on the services we are able to make available to our users.

In the short time we have had BadgerLink available, it has become a valuable and heavily used reference tool. There is no more cost-effective way to provide so many magazine and newspaper titles to so many Wisconsin residents. This is truly a program that benefits everyone.

Wisconsin created its first library systems five years before the Community Library came into existence, and the Kenosha County Library System was born just a few years later. Establishing the system took a lot of hard work; the concept of sharing across municipal and county borders did not come easily to everyone.

In recent years, our library system has come into its own. System dollars have enabled the Community Library to open its doors to all Kenosha County residents, and agreements with other library systems have meant open access across county lines as well. Typically, our residents do not work or shop within the boundaries of our five supporting municipalities. It is important to them that they have access to library services wherever their busy lives take them. Within the past two years, the implementation of the first stages of our *Comprehensive Library Technology Plan for the Kenosha County Library System, 1998-2003*, has made the benefits of system resource sharing even more obvious to all of our library users. In fact, some former non-users have become regular library patrons.

We now have in place a countywide telecommunications network serving all seven public library locations in the county. Everyone has access to a common catalogue of the libraries' holdings, to the Internet, to BadgerLink, and to a variety of other online services. This is just the beginning. If the rapid change in technology of the past few years is any indication, we can look forward to dramatic new improvements in library service in the years to come.

Public library system aids make much of this program possible. A commitment by the State to fund library systems at the 13% index level would ensure our ability to maintain the service level we have now achieved, and to meet the new informational and recreational needs of our citizens.

I urge you to enact the Department of Public Instruction's proposals to increase public library systems aids and to fund BadgerLink at \$2,536,000 over the next biennium.

Testimony submitted by:
Mary Ellen Close, Director
Community Library
24615 89th Street
Salem, WI 53168

TESTIMONY TO THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE
APRIL 8, 1999, RACINE, WISCONSIN

I am Jill Hartmann, Acting Director of the Racine Public Library. I am here today to speak in favor of funding for BadgerLink, and for adequate funding of Wisconsin's public library systems. These are two programs that will affect not only my library and the community we serve, but all residents of Wisconsin.

BadgerLink is an incredible resource at an extremely economical price. To put the cost of BadgerLink in perspective, I would like to use the Racine Public Library's situation as an example. In 1998, we spent \$10,000 to purchase electronic indexes for magazines and newspapers. This bought us indexing for 400 magazine titles and five national newspapers, compared to the 4,000 magazine titles, 13 Wisconsin newspapers, and 28 national and regional newspaper titles that are indexed by BadgerLink. Moreover, our subscription did not include any full-text, nor did it provide access from school libraries, offices, or homes in our community. In other words, \$10,000 bought us less than one-tenth of the resources that are available with BadgerLink, and that access was available only in the library. Remember, too, that Racine Public Library is one of the larger libraries in the state. Most of the public libraries in Wisconsin are not able to afford even \$10,000 worth of indexing.

At a cost of \$2,536,000 over the next biennium, BadgerLink is an excellent value. By funding this program you will continue to make quality information available to the citizens of Wisconsin, and it is a resource that can be of use to everyone from grade school age on up.

A second program of both local and statewide concern is the level of funding for **public library systems**. These systems were instituted in Wisconsin in 1972 with the goal of providing good access to knowledge, to information resources, and to other library services for all citizens of the state, regardless of the size of their local library, by broadening the funding base for public libraries to include counties and the state, as well as municipalities, and by sharing resources. Since 79% of public libraries in Wisconsin are located in communities with a population of 10,000 or less, the need for cooperation

among libraries and the need for adequate state funding has not diminished. Although technology has facilitated continuous improvements in the process for sharing library materials, there is still a great need for development in the small and medium size libraries in order to provide other services.

In the Lakeshores Library System, comprised of Racine and Walworth Counties, we are especially concerned about improving services to youth and to the disabled. We would like to hire system staff who could obtain grants for programs in these areas, and could also provide training for local library staff. If funding for systems and the formula for distributing it remains as it is, state aid for Lakeshores will be reduced during the next biennium, and we will be cutting system services, rather than expanding them.

In 1998, the legislature passed and the Governor signed a law requiring the Department of Instruction to submit a budget request for system aid at a level equal to 13% of local and county expenditures for library service in the prior year. I urge legislature and the Governor would to abide by that law. The increase in funding will allow Lakeshores and other library systems in Wisconsin to continue improving library services and access to library materials for all residents of the state.

Testimony submitted by

Jill Hartmann

Acting Director

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TESTIMONY TO THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE
APRIL 8, 1999, RACINE, WISCONSIN

I am Douglas Baker, Chair of the Wisconsin Library Association's (WLA) Library Development and Legislation Committee. I am also Director of the Kenosha Public Library and the Kenosha County Library System. I am here today to speak in favor of the Wisconsin Library Association's 1999 Legislative Agenda, which is attached to this testimony for the record, and which has been endorsed by the Boards of Trustees of both the Kenosha Public Library and Kenosha County Library System.

We believe that the Governor's budget proposal misses an excellent opportunity to set good public policy for libraries in this state, and we want to work closely with you and your colleagues to make a better budget for this coming biennium. An important issue for us is the continuation of the **BadgerLink** program. This exciting new electronic resource brings over 4,000 magazine and newspaper titles to Wisconsin citizens at their businesses, homes, schools, and libraries over the Internet. The cost effectiveness of this program is its best selling point, since subscriptions to this service on a library to library basis would be at least thirty times more expensive than providing it by the state. **BadgerLink** is a real winner for Wisconsin taxpayers, and the Department of Public Instruction's proposal to fund it at \$2,536,000 over the next biennium should be enacted.

A second significant issue of concern is the critical and ongoing need to adequately fund Wisconsin's public library systems. Year after year of funding freezes have left library systems without the resources necessary to effectively carry out the mission for which they were created. During the last session of the Legislature, a Legislative Council Study Committee found that significant increases in funding were required to make library systems strong and vital partners in the delivery of library services in this state. Failure to meet this

demonstrated need has, over time, threatened the development of services at our public libraries; and failure to fix this problem now threatens the continued existence of this important program for the future.

Specifically, in Kenosha County, these funds go directly to help pay the costs of the *Comprehensive Library Technology Plan for the Kenosha County Library System, 1998-2003*. This plan lays out a program to build, maintain, and expand a countywide telecommunications network among the seven public library locations throughout Kenosha County. This network serves as the backbone for a wide range of new, cutting edge electronic services from the Internet and BadgerLink on one hand to a shared catalog of all the public library collections in the County on the other hand.

We in Kenosha County are poised to move ahead into the next century and to embrace new opportunities that advance library services in ways we cannot even imagine today. To do that, we need a strengthened commitment from the State of Wisconsin to hold up its end of a funding partnership that began twenty-eight years ago. Public library systems were established then to promote the sharing of library resources and to encourage library development. Let's stay true that vision. Please fund library systems at the level necessary to keep this program healthy and viable.

Testimony submitted by:

Douglas Baker, Director

Kenosha Public Library

and

Kenosha County Library System

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1999 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Public Policy Opportunities and Challenges

Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) membership includes librarians, libraries, library trustees, and friends representing all types of libraries in Wisconsin. Therefore, our legislative agenda necessarily encompasses a broad range of interests. All of these interests share a common purpose to improve and promote library and information services for the people of Wisconsin. We believe library services address essential informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs within Wisconsin and deserve strong legislative support.

WLA endorses the Wisconsin Library Technology Strategic Plan issued as a result of the Library Technology Planning Conference, co-sponsored by the Department of Public Instruction and Department of Administration in 1998. The Plan's broad vision for Wisconsin is "Access for anyone, from anywhere, at any time." Many initiatives in this Legislative Agenda advance the goals of the Strategic Plan.

GOALS FOR THE 1999-2001 BIENNIUM

Fund BadgerLink: BadgerLink improves access to information resources by funding statewide licenses with vendors for cost effective Internet access to over 4,000 magazines, journals, and newspapers for Wisconsin citizens at their businesses, homes, schools, and libraries. WLA supports state funding for this exciting new service after federal funding expires in December, 1999. Program cost for the biennium:

1999-2000	\$ 836,000	(6 months)
2000-2001	\$ 1,700,000	(12 months)
Total	\$ 2,536,000	(18 months)

Support and Strengthen University of Wisconsin Library Collections: The UW libraries, located on twenty-six campuses throughout the State, provide collections and services that are essential to Wisconsin's high-tech industries, businesses, hospitals, and government agencies. WLA recognizes the vital importance of maintaining the specialized information resources that support advanced study and research in Wisconsin and enthusiastically endorses the Regents' request for \$12 million in new funding this biennium for UW library print and electronic collections.

Increase Public Library System Aids: These funds provide a wide range of services to Wisconsin residents through their local libraries, including interlibrary loan, programs and grants to enable open access, delivery, automation, central collections, consultation, continuing education, and resource library services. As mandated by 1997 Act 150, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, the Department of Public Instruction has presented a budget funding library systems at 13% of local library expenditures. WLA supports this much needed increase in library system aids and the more equitable system aid formula proposed by the Department in connection with this increase in system aids. Program cost for the biennium:

1999-2000	\$ 18,391,000	Change to base: \$ 5,141,200
2000-2001	\$ 19,494,500	Change to base: \$ 6,244,700
Total	\$ 37,885,500	Change to base: \$11,385,900

Restore the Common School Fund Income: WLA endorses the restoration of the full amount of the Common School Fund income to its original purpose, namely "the purchase of library books and other instructional materials for school libraries..." [Wis. Stat. § #43.70(2)]. WLA strongly opposes the use of interest on the Common School Fund for any other purpose.

Establish a Public Library Lending Incentive Aid Program: WLA supports an initiative to provide aid to local public libraries which encourages open access for all Wisconsin citizens to those libraries. Program cost for the biennium:

1999-2000	\$ 7,495,500
2000-2001	\$ 7,570,400
Total	\$15,065,900

Fund State Resource Contracts: WLA supports full funding for the four contracts: Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Wisconsin Interlibrary Services, Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan, and the Cooperative Children's Book Center. Program cost for the biennium:

1999-2000	\$ 1,012,000	Change to base:	\$ 38,300
2000-2001	\$ 1,047,300	Change to base:	\$ 73,600
Total	\$ 2,059,300	Change to base:	\$111,900

Provide Flexibility in School District Revenue Caps for Educational Technology: WLA favors legislation providing for flexibility in revenue controls on school districts for the purpose of purchasing computer technology.

Promote Access to Electronic Information: WLA endorses efforts to improve access for all libraries and schools to the information superhighway. These include:

Continue and Improve TEACH Wisconsin: WLA supports the continued funding of TEACH Wisconsin initiatives including: discounted BadgerNet access for schools and libraries; subsidized loans for telecommunication infrastructure; competitive grants for training and technical assistance; and technology block grants. WLA favors revisions in the TEACH Wisconsin legislation which would make it easier for public libraries and public library systems to participate in this program.

Open Up the Universal Service Fund: WLA supports making the rules which govern the use of the Public Service Commission's Universal Service Fund less restrictive, so that schools and public libraries have easier access to this fund for the purpose of low cost telecommunication.

ONGOING GOALS

The Wisconsin Library Association monitors all legislative initiatives as they pertain to library needs and interests. This includes the Common School Fund income and issues related to intellectual freedom, access to information, and confidentiality in the use of library materials and services. WLA supports the Division for Libraries and Community Learning's (DLCL) leadership, staffing levels, and service responsibilities in administering programs that extend and improve library services throughout the state. WLA actively supports efforts to broaden the availability of communications technology for educational and informational purposes. WLA supports open access to state documents and information. WLA recognizes the importance of statewide library resources and their need for statewide support. WLA favors legislation which would expand public library system services to all types of libraries.



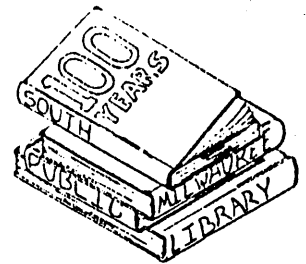
South Milwaukee Public Library

1907 10th Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI 53172

phone: (414) 768-8195

fax: (414) 768-8072

Robert M. Pfeiffer, Director



April 8, 1999

TO: Members of the Joint Finance Committee

FR: Bob Pfeiffer, Library Director

RE: Badgerlink

I am here today to testify in support of funding for the Badgerlink database

South Milwaukee is a medium sized public library that serves the residents of South Milwaukee and surrounding communities. Badgerlink allows us to offer over 4000 magazine, journals and newspapers to our residents that they would not otherwise have access to. The businesses in our community have found this database to be very useful. In the past they would have to request articles through interlibrary loan, which would take days or weeks to get. We have found that many of the journals and magazines that they need are in Badgerlink. This is a great service that we are able to offer our businesses in the community.

Another area that we find Badgerlink very useful is in helping people who are doing research on local companies. Many times this research is being done in preparation for a job interview. While the South Milwaukee Library subscribes to the Business Journal, there was not an index to the periodical. The Business Journal is one of those journals in Badgerlink. Keyword searching has proved to be very valuable in helping the user find the business that they are looking for.

The animal EBSCO database is very useful to us in serving the students. Animals are a very popular homework assignment. Badgerlink allows us to quickly print out information about the animal, along with a phonograph. (See attachment).

In conclusion, Badgerlink is a great resource for both librarians and the public. We urge the Joint Finance Committee to support funding for this valuable reference resource.

PROUD PAST.....PROMISING FUTURE

Result 1 of 15

[Refine Search](#)[Result List](#)[Find More](#)[Print/E-mail/Save](#)[\[Go To Full Text\]](#)[\[Tips\]](#)**Animal:** American black bear**Kingdom:** Animalia**Phylum:** Chordata**Class:** Mammalia**Order:** Carnivora**Family:** Ursidae**Genus & Species:** Ursus americanus**Geographical Locale:** Northern Mexico; United States

Abstract: American black *bears* may have black, white, brown, or even blue fur. They are the most common species of *bears*. These animals live in forests and woodlands. They mostly eat vegetation, including twigs, leaves, buds, fruit, nuts, corn, shoots, and berries. They also eat grubs, insects, carrion (dead animals), fish, small animals, farm animals, birds and eggs, bees, beehives and honey, and garbage.

Subject(s): [BLACK bears](#)

AN: 9500300018

ISSN: 1079-1434

Database: EBSCO Animals**Print:** [Click here to mark for print.](#)[\[Go To Citation\]](#)

Best Part

American black bear

American black *bears* are four to six feet (1 to 1 3/4 meters) long and 2 1/2 to 3 feet (3/4 to 1 meter) tall at the shoulder. They weigh between 260 and 330 pounds (100 to 125 kilograms). The fur is short and may be white, brown, and blue, as well as black.

Black *bears* mostly eat vegetation, including twigs, leaves, buds, fruit, nuts, corn, shoots, and berries. They also eat grubs, insects, carrion (dead animals), fish, small animals, farm animals, birds and eggs, bees, beehives and honey, and garbage. The brown (grizzly) bear and wolves are enemies of the American black bear.

Black *bears* dig dens into hillsides, but they may also live in caves or large, hollow logs. During the winter *bears* sleep in dens which protect them from the cold. Many people think that *bears* hibernate in the winter, but this is not true. When animals hibernate, their body temperatures drop, and the animals become less active so that it appears that they are sleeping very soundly. *Bears* eat a lot in the summer and store up fat in their bodies for the winter when food is hard to find. They sleep a lot during the winter, but their body temperatures remain high. They also awake and leave their dens on mild winter days.

American black *bears* tend to live alone, except for a mother with her cubs. Black *bears* mate between May and July. Gestation (duration of pregnancy) is between seven and eight months. The female usually gives birth to one to four cubs. At birth, the cubs only weigh about one pound.

American black *bears* have a life span of about 30 years in the wild. It is not known how long they live in captivity.

To access images, select from the list below:

PHOTO (COLOR): One subspecies of American black *bears*: Alaskan black bear



SEE IMAGE

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**Testimony to the Joint Finance Committee
Wisconsin State legislature
April 9, 1999**

I am Gayle Falk, Director of the Burlington Public Library. I am speaking today from the perspective of a librarian who has worked in academic and public libraries, as a reference and a children's librarian.

I would like to urge you to increase funding for the four state resource contracts that include the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan, the Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan service, and—most especially—the Cooperative Children's Book Center.

As you have heard, the CCBC is a nationally recognized resource library on the UW campus which serves students, educators, librarians, parents, and other interested adults. Its collection serves as a tool for reviewing, evaluating and selecting children's materials. Staff members at the CCBC develop excellent resource compilations that evaluate and recommend materials by topic and genre. On site, the CCBC offers book discussion groups, tours, reference assistance and continuing education courses. CCBC also offers a web site and a listserv that reach participants around the world.

To make their services even more valuable, the CCBC offers displays and workshops at library and education conferences, as well as in libraries around the state. This provides a chance for librarians to personally evaluate materials before selecting them, and assists educators in locating the best children's materials on topics of interest.

I believe so strongly in the mission of the CCBC that I joined the Friends of the CCBC to help support their work, and served three years on the CCBC Advisory Board, one year as president.

The CCBC is a tool that serves all the librarians and educators of the state, and through them the children of the state. It is a nationally recognized

treasure that we have supported and nurtured right here at home. Please support the increase of funding needed to enable the CCBC to continue to serve as the first-rate resource library we need and depend upon!

I would also call your attention to funding of our public Library systems. As a member of the Lakeshores Library System, the Burlington Public Library receives educational opportunities, reference assistance, technology assistance and training, help with grant writing, and interlibrary loan and delivery service to mention just a few benefits. Without these services, what we could offer our patrons would be just what we had in our own building, and just the resources and training that we could afford to purchase ourselves. This would be a terrible loss to our patrons, who now benefit from every reference question we refer, every class and workshop we attend, every book we send to or receive from another library, every grant that enriches what it is possible for us to do or provide. But years of funding freezes to systems have resulted in cuts in services to us, and ultimately to our patrons. Please give the public library systems the money they need to do their work, and help us do our work in serving the public.

Gayle A. Falk
Director, Burlington Public Library
166 East Jefferson Street
Burlington, Wisconsin 53105
414-763-7623

My name is Kathleen Thomson. I have been a children's librarian in Wisconsin for 20 years. I am presently Head of Children's Services at the Kenosha Public Library. I am here to speak in favor of the Library Service Contracts which provide funding for the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Cooperative Children's Book Center and interlibrary loan contracts.

The Cooperative Children's Book Center, usually referred to as the CCBC, is a noncirculating examination and research library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. In addition to providing a collection of current, retrospective and historical books for children and young adults, it provides Wisconsin librarians, teachers, and students informational and educational services based on the collection. Also it supports the teaching, learning and resource needs related to children's and young adult literature.

No other agency, public or private, does what the CCBC does. It fills a vital need by its publications, its reference assistance, its book discussions and seminars. It is known around the nation and even the world as a recognized support for library services to youth on a par by itself. Under the able leadership of Ginny Moore Kruse, it has attained recognition throughout the book world.

CCBC publications such as CHOICES enables hundreds of youth services librarians in public libraries and schools throughout the state to spend their limited book budgets wisely. We do not want to see this valuable resource jeopardized.

It is crucial to the maintaining of the high standard of library service that we in Wisconsin pride ourselves on to maintain the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the proposed level. The young people of Wisconsin and those who serve them are counting on you for this.

Thank you.

Kathleen Thomson, Head of Children's Services

Kenosha Public Library

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Phone: (414) 595-3740

**Testimony on the Governor's budget proposal re Badgerlink and the Common School Fund
April 8, 1999**

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my concerns regarding cuts in the proposed state budget for both Badgerlink and the Common School Fund. I am a library media specialist at Menomonee Falls High School. We were a grateful recipient of a TEACH grant and very recently have networked our school and library, giving students access to the Internet. As you know, TEACH was funded by reducing the Common School Fund by \$5,000,000. Per pupil allocations for school libraries dropped from \$14.84 per child in 1997 to \$11.64 per child in 1998. The price of books rose from 1997 to 1998, as did the number of students in Wisconsin schools. We were thankful for the assistance in financing improved technology in our school, but we cannot absorb further cuts in the Common School Fund.

Research repeatedly shows that there is a direct correlation between quality library media centers and reading proficiency. Does it make sense to raise the standards bar for reading proficiency while dramatically decreasing funding for school library materials?

One of the most important uses of Internet access in high schools is access to online periodical databases. Badgerlink provides all schools and libraries with access to over seven million full text documents. Most importantly, these seven million articles are from reliable sources. It is imperative that students differentiate between information obtained on the worldwide web and information obtained from a legitimate database.

Badgerlink allows students to obtain information on a wide variety of topics. For example, in the past two weeks I have assisted students with searches on such topics as drunk driving laws around the world and the effect of W2 on childcare demand in Milwaukee. These topics are nearly impossible to research in a high school setting without the aid of online databases.

Until this year we have always used microfiche for our periodical databases. Microfiche is no longer available for a wide variety of current periodicals and we are forced to use online sources. If the state does not continue funding of Badgerlink we must come up with \$20,000 to \$30,000 to purchase similar resources for our school district. This will be a yearly expense and I do not know where the money will come from. How can the state government justify saving taxpayers \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 a year when those same taxpayers will have to pay over ten times that amount to finance the necessary resources for their schools and libraries if they are purchased by individual institutions?

If Badgerlink is not funded, there will be many school districts in Wisconsin who will not be able to purchase similar resources. One of the best features of state funding of online databases is that it equalizes resources around the state. Poor districts have access to as many magazines and newspapers as wealthy districts. If Badgerlink is not funded, you will be encouraging inequality in an important area of education.

Two years ago I was invited to participate on a national advisory board for UMI, one of the vendors used in Badgerlink. There were representatives from school districts all around the country. Each one of those school districts utilized free databases provided by their state. They were all very surprised that Wisconsin did not offer such a service to schools and libraries. I am proud that Wisconsin has developed the Badgerlink project and I strongly urge you to refinance it each and every year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Handler
Library Media Specialist
Menomonee Falls High School



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY

TESTIMONY TO THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE, APRIL 8, 1999
RACINE, WISCONSIN

I am Beverly DeWeese, Deputy City Librarian of Milwaukee Public Library, and Head of Central Library, which houses the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the Interlibrary Loan Services Milwaukee office. Both services are funded by the State, and I am here today to speak about the very positive impact these two programs have on the citizens of Wisconsin.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN SERVICES

Since Milwaukee Public Library is a hundred years old, by default, its collection of over 2.5 million items contains some very unique items which are of value to many Wisconsin citizens. In addition to a significant retrospective collection, Milwaukee Public Library houses a number of special materials, such as a complete patent collection, an extensive commercial and military standards collection, federal and state statutes, Great Lakes ship files, art auction records, retrospective Milwaukee telephone and city directories, specialized genealogical materials, and complete runs of local Milwaukee papers. Milwaukee Public Library is also a federal and state depository and has over a million documents one can access.

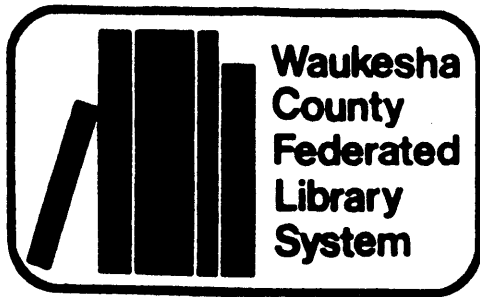
Because of state funding of the Interlibrary Loan Service, Milwaukee Public Library can share these marvelous, sometimes rare resources with all the citizens of Wisconsin. In 1998, Milwaukee Public Library Interlibrary Loan Service received 25,441 requests. These requests came from every type of library and represented individuals living in every part of Wisconsin. It is our pleasure to share materials in our collection. However, since retrieval of these resources is sometimes complex and often labor intensive, Milwaukee Public Library must rely on the Interlibrary Loan Services state contract to enable us to provide this service. We appreciate the financial support the state has given us, and we ask that you continue this financial support so that all Wisconsin citizens can have easy access to a valuable collection.

REGIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

The Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, as part of the Talking Book Program of the Library of Congress, provides Braille and recorded books and playback equipment for those Wisconsin residents who, for any physical reason, cannot read normal print or hold a normal-sized book. The Library's current collection is approximately 178,000 cassettes, discs, and Braille books and reference materials. The Regional Library also produces taped and Braille materials on Wisconsin and materials by Wisconsin authors which it has published in these alternate formats. In addition, it offers a dial-up daily news service, Newsline for the Blind. The collection and the services offered by the Regional Library make it possible for the differently-abled citizens of Wisconsin to have equitable access to the educational, recreational, and informational library resources that other Wisconsin citizens have.

Last year, the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, housed in Milwaukee Public Library's Central building, served 12,853 Wisconsin residents and 637 institutions. The Regional Library mails out an average of 1500 items per day and receives back an equal amount. One hundred twenty-five cassette and/or record players are mailed out weekly, with an equivalent number returned for repair and/or deaccessioning. An average of 1500 telephone inquiries are answered monthly. Handling the different formats, keeping them in repair, and making the collection available to those who need it are fairly labor-intensive tasks.

Though the Library of Congress furnishes the bulk of the materials in the collection, the staff and general materials required to make these resources available to differently-abled Wisconsin citizens is supported by a state service contract. The Regional Library expresses its deep appreciation for this state support. And we now urge the state to continue financially supporting the Regional Library at an adequate level so that these Wisconsin residents can access, enjoy, and benefit from its collections. For some Wisconsin citizens, the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is truly a necessity.



321 Wisconsin Avenue / Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186 / (414) 896-8080

THOMAS J. HENNEN JR.
System Director

**Testimony by Thomas J. Hennen Jr.
Director of Waukesha County Federated Library System
To the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee
April 8, 1999**

Good morning, my name is Tom Hennen and I am the director of the Waukesha County Federated Library System. Until February 1 of this year I was the Administrator of Lakeshores Library System, serving Racine and Walworth Counties.

I am here today to urge you to amend the budget to include the recommendations by the Department of Public Instruction for \$5,141,200 GPR in FY00 and \$6,244,700 GPR in FY01 to fund public library systems. The Waukesha County Federated Library System Board and the Lakeshores Library System Board have endorsed these proposals.

This will be at a level equal to thirteen cents for every local and county dollar spent for public library service in the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year for which the aid is paid. It is in accordance with s. 43.24 (6), Wisconsin Statutes.

Participation in public library systems is voluntary for counties and municipalities. In recent years, the stresses of years of slow or non-existent growth in state funding coupled with great growth in library use, has led many Waukesha libraries and their parent municipalities to question the value of participation. The present, inadequate level of funding jeopardizes the full participation by all libraries in the state, not just in Waukesha.

A hundred years ago, Wisconsin's first state Librarian, Frank Avery Hutchens, and the first Chair of the Free Library Commission, Senator Stout, shared a glorious vision for Wisconsin. They wanted to see a day when one could go to any community in the state and ask not *whether* there is a library but *where* it might be located. We all enjoy the fruits of that vision today. Every Wisconsin resident can point to at least one library as his or her own. Our vision should be a day when all Wisconsin residents can point to all libraries in Wisconsin as their own.

With the Internet, not only will they be pointing, but pointing and clicking. But I ask you to please remember that we need to "Balance the Books and the Bytes." Please fund public library systems better so that public library systems can continue to lead the way for traditional library services AND electronic services.

Member Libraries:

BIG BEND BROOKFIELD BUTLER DELAFIELD EAGLE ELM GROVE HARTLAND MENOMONEE FALLS MUKWONAGO
MUSKEGO NEW BERLIN NORTH LAKE OCONOMOWOC PEWAUKEE SUSSEX/LISBON WAUKESHA

Friends **O**f **W**isconsin **L**ibraries

News * Views

Inc.

Volume 36 Issue 3 - Winter, 1999



Fall Conference in Marshfield - 10/98

(Carole Edland, State Board Member, Friends of La Crosse Library, submitted this data.)

The eleven year old Marshfield Friends told of their many activities to benefit their library and its goals: book sales, book shelf in library (each 25 cents - honor system); give a kid a book; books for babies; bulb sale, et al.

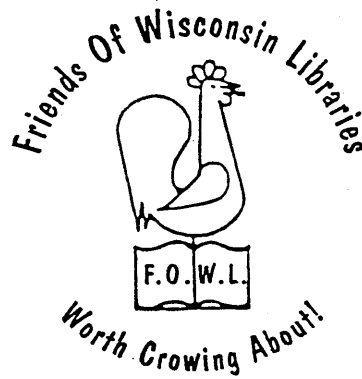
Sr. Mary Ellen Paulson, FOWL President, spoke of a suggested change in our state motto to "Forward Environment," as submitted by one of the Friends' groups. She also showed her huge map of Wisconsin with all the library systems on it and those Friends' organizations that have responded to her requests. In addition, she award a number of Certificates of Appreciation, including one to Carole Edland and the Friends of the La Crosse Library.

The first speaker was Dr. William Washington who told of the sources of help found on the Internet for looking up any subject. His particular interest was his family history which he was able to trace to the early 1800's. He also stated that the State Historical Society in Madison had many helpful means of tracing genealogy.

Dr. Sally Drew from the WI Department of Public Instruction was next with a marvelous presentation on "Badgerlink" to be found at the web site <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/badgerlink>. This site contains thousands of periodicals and millions of books and other materials. In order to keep this funded, it must be USED and SUPPORTED; tell your government officials. A bill is coming up this year and must be passed by the state congress in order to continue this funding. The third speaker: Jeff Kleiman, history Professor at UW-Marshfield/Wood County, captivated his audience with his humor describing the strategy/trials of putting together a massive account, "The Marshfield Story" (1872-1997) commemorating the city's 125th year. Six strategic points were considered as they began with a core group of 12 people; the whole became a community project. A second book to focus on family history is planned for publication in July, 2000.

Thank you, Marshfield Friends! Hope to see all of you in Janesville, April 24, 1999.

Edit-or



Greetings from "the new kid on the block!" Let me tell you a bit about the "original" bookworm. (Often, I've said I was born with a book in my hand. Poor Mother!) Graduating from Oak Park-River Forest High (IL) and Lawrence University, Appleton, I began (as a college sophomore) a long, lively career in radio broadcasting, primarily in advertising sales and sales management. Currently, I "wear" several "hats." I've enjoyed six years on the Friends' Board of what we now call the Hedberg Public Library: two as Secretary, three as Treasurer and now I'm Secretary again, plus numerous committees over the years. Hat #2 - Gainesville Literacy Council, another love, for which I'm President as well as Placement Coordinator ("matchmaker" between tutors and students, and I've tutored, as well.). Hat #3 - AAUW, Board member and Publicity Director. And my newest hat - #4 - the new Editor of FOWL.

Having the curiosity of a child, is it any wonder I enjoy my computer so much. (It's my favorite "toy.") Being a voracious reader, I collect books including signed first editions (and dust!), and adore my special place of all my travels: Copper Harbor, Michigan. Now you know some about me, I'd like to meet you, preferably in person or by e-mail: bkwrmtcl@jvl.net.com. Please let me know what you'd like to see in future FOWL issues. And again, I send each of you special greetings!!

President Paulson's Participation

What a great Conference in Marshfield last October! Thanks to all who made it so. Some fine decisions were passed by your board that day. First, beginning in the Fall of 2000, FOWL will have a day at WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION - WLA's meeting instead of a separate FOWL Fall Conference. Second, mileage refund for board members was raised to 30 cents a mile. Here's an urgent plea: if you haven't already entered our 1999 Awards, see the July newsletter for a form, or just send by March 31, one page of Membership ideas to FOWL, 2367 S. 84th St., West Allis, WI 53227-2501.

Remember, every entering group gets copies of the entered pages-what worked, what's challenging in getting, renewing, keeping FRIENDS. Wisconsin Public Libraries' founding dates (all of them) as gathered by FOWL for the Sesquicentennial were displayed on a gigantic map showing each county. The WLA presentation of same was well received. FRIENDS' groups are beginning to ask for such a "Show and Tell." If I'm available, will be glad to do it. The Date Line, over a hundred feet of it, will be ready by my next talk. The latest review of FOWL's Bylaws is enclosed. Please note a couple typing corrections: ARTICLE IV, Section 1, line 2, 1st word "Executive;" ARTICLE VII, line 4, 7th word "be." The delay in this newsletter focused on Library Legislation being planned. Even now, I wish that requests for action could be more definite. But this must go out. Hopefully more details will accompany the next newsletter. Our new editor, Carole Bennett, is definitely in no way responsible for the delay. Before our October meeting, she had some things ready-had spent hours on same. Thanks, Carole. Sorry about the delay. As always, FRIENDS, I remain at your service,

wishing you
PEACE! HOPE! JOY! Sme

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY - Please take action to advocate for libraries!

The following are recommended by WLA with which FOWL has an affiliation.

1. FUND BADGERLINK - this is a resource which was so ably presented at our Marshfield meeting; FREE internet access to more than 40 newspapers, 4,000 magazines, six million books. <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/badgerlink> Let all know how you or others can use this fine resource, a federally funded service which needs to be state supported in 2000.
2. RESTORE THE COMMON SCHOOL FUND INCOME - "for the purchase of library books and other instructional materials for school libraries"
3. PROMOTE ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION -
 - a. Continue and improve TEACH WI
 - b. Open up the Universal Service Fund so schools and public libraries have easier access to this fund for low cost telecommunication
4. SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN UNIVERSITY OF WI LIBRARY COLLECTION
5. INCREASE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AIDS
6. ESTABLISH A PUBLIC LIBRARY LENDING INCENTIVE AID PROGRAM
7. FUND STATE RESOURCE CONTRACTS -
 - a. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
 - b. Wisconsin Interlibrary Services
 - c. Milwaukee Public Library/Interlibrary Loan
 - d. Cooperative Children's Book Center (Member of FOWL)
8. PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPS FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Contact Governor Thompson (608) 226-1212 State Capital P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53702-7863 Office 115-E

Sec. of Administration, Mark D. Bugher (608) 226-1742 P.O. Box 7864
Madison, WI 53707-7864

Your legislators!

PICK THE ONE OF EIGHT ABOVE WHICH YOU MOST WANT BUDGETED; send a post card or call. Or send 8 post cards - get the message out that FRIENDS OF WI LIBRARIES are advocates for WI library needs and interests.

COME ONE! COME ALL!
to the
SPRING, 1999, FOWL CONFERENCE
on
April 24, 1999
at
WISCONSIN'S LIBRARY OF THE YEAR
HEDBERG PUBLIC LIBRARY, JANESVILLE

CONGRATULATIONS to the FRIENDS of McFarland Public Library who received the Citation of Merit at the WLA Annual Conference in Lake Geneva in October.

WELCOME to the FRIENDS of Milwaukee Library who came into existence through the merger of Bookfellows and the Literacy Group.

List your Book Sales. It's free and easy: <http://www.booksalesinamerica.com>

EVENTS CALENDAR

- | | | |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 1999 | SPRING CONFERENCE | Janesville |
| 1999 | FALL CONFERENCE | Because Wausau is unable to host we will begin a year ahead of time and met with WLA at LaCrosse. More details in the next newsletter. |
| 2000 | SPRING CONFERENCE | Sussex |
| 2000 | FALL CONFERENCE | in connection with WLA Green Bay |

If you are interested in hosting a Spring Conference, please send that notice to FOWL 2367 S. 84th Street West Allis, WI 53227-2501.

Join our National group, FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES U.S.A.

Get a wealth of information in their News Update.

Congratulations to Franklin for being featured in the Advocacy & PR section. FOWL was mentioned in the "State Friends" column. Correction: our website is: www.cheesestate.com/friends



**FOLUSA
UPDATE**



FOWL Membership Application

Complete this section and return it to the Friends Of Wisconsin Libraries, c/o FOWL Treasurer June Hoeltke, N10738 Artesia Beach Rd, Malone, WI 53049. Make checks payable to FOWL. Dues are renewed annually, and are due on May 1st.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ST _____ ZipCode _____

Phone # _____

of Board Members _____ (needed if you choose \$25 membership)

Yearly Dues Are

Individual	\$7
Friends Organization	\$15
Friends Organization (all board members receive newsletter)	\$25
Corporations	\$25
Individual Lifetime	\$100

Amount Enclosed

\$ _____

E X C H A N G E

X

C

This time the "Exchange" is coming from Connecticut's Newsletter. It is crammed with super ideas. FRIENDS throughout Wisconsin as well as other states can gain from

H

these. Keep the newsletters coming, all you wonderful state FRIENDS' groups. We

A

N

gain by sharing.

G

E

Connecticut creativity:

"Sweets for the Sweet," a program aimed at seniors who are invited to the library for refreshments, party favors (designed by FRIENDS), fellowship and to browse newest library materials.

Celebrity Book auction - 140 - signed books (1st editions & copies accompanied by greetings & photos - \$3,000.00

Video produced from start to finish by FRIENDS taught lighting, editing, shooting, etc. by the local public-access TV station.

Fierce advocates for library issues at budget time and year-round. (BRAVO)

Upped FRIENDS' ranks from 140 to 812 by ambitious mailing, starting a web page, expanding the range of volunteer opportunities, new fund raising programs.

In April, celebrated FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY month.

New State Librarian: "As a public librarian I don't know how I would have survived without my FRIENDS' GROUP...intend to work with FOCL to support & grow local FRIENDS."

FESTIVAL OF TREES - intended to present library as cultural hub of the city schools, non and for profit organizations invited to decorate holiday trees to reflect each one's activities.

Membership Committee - collected 2500 members and \$100,000.00 by innovative program of brochures, bookmarks, other publicity, a membership booth offering sought after premiums for children and adults.

Princess Di Beanie Baby Raffle - \$10; only 1,000 sold.

FRIENDS sponsored bus trips, twilight concert series.

Potluck supper & social - bring main dish/dessert or \$10. And a new or collectible item for teacup raffle.

Expanded magazine collection for all ages; donated extensive tapes to learn foreign language.

During library renovation, Barnes & Noble accepted book sale donations.

Gala revue of music & theater - \$40,000.00

Page of the Year Award: high school sophomore cited for diligence, friendliness, willingness to learn.

Close cooperation between library staff, library board, FRIENDS, other organizations; benefit entire community.

Book Sale Etiquette - Never open early; it causes ill will. Thank local newspapers for publicity, especially if it was free.

(Submitted for this newsletter by FOWL President, Sister Mary Ellen Paulson)

1998 - 1999 FOWL LEADERS

President	Sister Mary Ellen Paulson, O.P. 414-327-4713 paulson@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us	2367 S. 84th Street West Allis, WI 53227-2501
East President	David L. Sartori 920-922-0411	325 Chapleau Street N. Fond du Lac, WI 54937
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Treasurer	June Hoeltke 920-795-4630	N10738 Artesia Beach Road Malone, WI 53049-1200
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Directors/Library Systems		
Arrowhead	Gary Silver 608-758-6690	(W) 210 Dodge Street Gamesville, WI 53545
Eastern Shores	Nancy Lewis 920-458-9503	311 Michigan Avenue Sheboygan, WI 53081
Indianhead	Barbara Nelson 715-234-8769	711 W. Knapp Street Rice Lake, WI 54868
Kenosha County	Lin Swartz-Truesdell 414-942-3721	812 56th Street PO Box 1414 Kenosha, WI 53141-1414
Lakeshores	Nancy Elsmo 414-639-2737	6439 Durand Avenue Racine, WI 53406-4934
Manitowoc/Calumet	Corinne Krob 414-683-4863	808 Hamilton Street Manitowoc, WI 54220-5390
Mid-Wisconsin	Shirley Pohlman 920-748-5544	665 Emerson Street Ripon, WI 54971
Milwaukee County	BarbaraMichaels 414-964-3591	3464 N. Humboldt Boulevard Milwaukee, WI 53212
Nicolet	Steve Ferris 920-592-3896 or 920-497-7400	PO Box 2545 Green Bay, WI 54306
Northern Waters	Janet Blair 715-385-2050	5386 Park Street PO Box 09 Boulder Junction, WI 54512-0009
Outagamie-Waupesa	Alberta & Donald Churchill 920-734-4974	2515 E. Crestview Drive Appleton, WI 54915
South Central	Carol Chapman 608-222-7392/FAX 608-257-5444	6407 Bridge Road Madison, WI 53713
Southwest Wisconsin	Sue Tiller 608-326-6086	800 S. Wacouta Ave. PO Box 217 Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Waukesha County	Joanne Smith 414-246-6250	W264 N7130 Thousand Oaks Drive Sussex, WI 53089
Winding Rivers	Carole Edland 608-788-5687	N2016 Hickory Lane La Crosse, WI 54601
Winnefox	Norma Maxwell 920-231-7803	1630 Mt. Vernon Street Oshkosh, WI 54901
Wisconsin Valley	Shirley Klinner 715-748-2244	PO Box 237 Medford, WI 54451

2367 S. 84th Street
West Allis, WI 53227-2501

Inc.



An Affirmative Angle=====

SPECIAL SESQUICENTENNIAL THOUGHTS (Part of FOWL's Project)

- RICE LAKE:** "Thank God for Libraries. Libraries Educated our Pioneers and continue to Educate from Birth to those 100+."
- DE SOTO:** "WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE A LIBRARY IN OUR LITTLE HISTORIC TOWN."
- PRAIRIE DU CHIEN:** "We are the second city in Wisconsin."
- HAZEL GREEN:** "Our future builds upon our past."
- CASSVILLE:** "Home of Wisconsin's First governor, Nelson Dewey."
- ALGOMA:** "Libraries lead Wisconsin learning."
- WAUKESHA:** "To the next 150."
- BELOIT:** "May the second 150 be as rewarding!"
- THERESA:** "Libraries have been an important part of history & will continue to be so."
- LOMIRA:** "To keep gathering local and genealogical history."
- PRINCETON:** "How lucky we are to live in such a wonderful & progressive state, filled with natural beauty & great people."

(Another Set of **Special Sesquicentennial Thoughts** will be in the next newsletter. Also, please find the "EXCHANGE" page inside this issue.)



Inc.

Friends of Wisconsin Libraries

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1999

President Paulson's Participation

Though we recently had quite a snowstorm in the Milwaukee area, we do need to think SPRING. I mean the Spring Conference in Janesville on Saturday, April 24, 1999, beginning at 9 AM. FRIENDS of Hedberg Public Library have worked hard and long to set up a fine program and have high hopes for a large turnout.

Please return the enclosed registration form as soon as possible.

Thank you to all who made contact with our state legislators since the last newsletter. That advocacy for our libraries is extremely important, more so now than ever. Advocacy is one of FRIENDS primary goals - responsibilities.

Ask your legislators to co-sponsor the Bi-Partisan Library Legislation introduced by Olsen (R) and Grobschmidt (D) - SB 59.

Get to the joint finance committee with your concerns as listed in our last newsletter. Please check the listing for the Budget Hearings. Directors, can we count on you attending same or getting someone to take your place advocating for Libraries at the hearings?

A special push for BADGERLINK and SYSTEMS AIDS is in order. Check closely Cal Potter's message on Page 2.

A note to all FOWL's Board Members:

Enclosed with your newsletter is a copy of the President's Message for you to use in recruiting FRIENDS groups or individuals. The message fits into your Director's blue folder, so ably assembled by our former editor, Deby Greenwald.

If you are one of the Directors who still hasn't received your folder, these will be distributed in Janesville. Folders were set up to assist you in your very much appreciated task of recruitment.

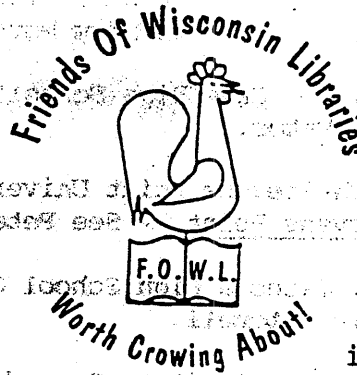
If anyone has an item for the Spring Conference agenda, please call (414) 327-4713

There's an answering machine if I'm not there.

Any FOWL member is welcome to call in suggestions. FOWL needs all the help possible to make our organization the very best that it can be, now and in the twenty-first century.

Sorry for the incorrect listing of my E-mail. The "m" is correct -- Milwaukee Public Schools uses six letters of your last name and your first initial.

My special thanks to Roberta Eberhardy for doing this Spring Newsletter when Carole Bennett was unable to do this issue.



As always, eager to be of service and wishing each of you

PEACE! HOPE! JOY!

SME

MESSAGE FROM CALVIN POTTER OF DPI

IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Hello All Library Lovers -

Please Help!!!

We are looking for people who can provide testimony on WLA's budget issues at each of the Joint Finance Committee's **PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE BUDGET AROUND THE STATE**. Following is the hearing schedule and place:

Each hearing is scheduled for 10:30 AM to 5 PM

Friday, March 26, Brown County Public Library
Auditorium -- Green Bay -- See **Mark Merrifield**.

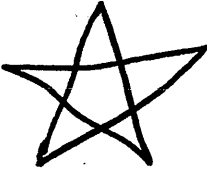
Thursday, April 8, J. I. Case High School Auditorium --
Racine -- See **Doug Baker**.

Tuesday, April 13, UW-Stevens Point University Center --
Alumni Room -- Stevens Point -- See **Peter Hamon**.

Wednesday, April 14, Osceola High School Gymnasium --
Osceola -- See **Milt Mitchell**.

Thursday, April 15, State Capitol, Room 411-S --
Madison -- See **Paul Nelson**.

These are hearings about the state budget, so testimony should be about the money issues. The \$\$ issues for which we need favorable testimony are:



BADGERLINK -- as proposed by DPI
SYSTEM AIDS -- as proposed by DPI
UW SYSTEM LIBRARIES -- as proposed by the Board of Regents, with thanks to the Governor for recognizing the importance of this issue.
A SUNSET ON COMMON SCHOOL FUND \$\$ diverted to TEACH, WI.
STATEWIDE RESOURCE CONTRACTS -- as proposed by DPI
SB 59 - Library Incentive Aid Program

More detailed background information on the DPI budget request is available at the following link:

<http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlcl/pld/libbud.html>

Other helpful hints on how to advocate for the WLA Legislative Agenda are available at WLA's WWW site:

<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis.htm>

Over the next several weeks, links will be added to this page.

Events Calendar

1999	SPRING CONFERENCE	Janesville
1999	FALL CONFERENCE	LaCrosse
2000	SPRING CONFERENCE	Sussex
2000	FALL CONFERENCE	Green Bay
2001	SPRING CONFERENCE	?
2001	FALL CONFERENCE	Appleton

If you are interested in hosting a Spring Conference, please send your invitation in writing to

FOWL, 2367 S. 84th St.
West Allis, WI 53227-2501



An Affirmation Angle

- Amherst Great libraries from little towns grow. Great people from little libraries grow.
- Brandon We've only just begun.
- Cable Change Wisconsin's Motto to FORWARD ENVIRONMENTALLY.
- Columbus Libraries and history walk hand-in-hand.
- Elroy Preserve the Past, Protect the Present, Support the Future.
- Menasha Libraries help patrons remember their past, embrace their present and prepare for their future.
- Neenah Demolition of old building.
- Nekoosa New building dedication April 25, 1998.
- Random Lake Our library preserved the past by renovating a 77 year old building, a foundation to build on for the future.
- Sauk City Communities and Libraries need each other.
- West Allis Building a sound future today.
- Westfield We're ready for the next 150 years!

SPECIAL SESQUICENTENNIAL THOUGHTS
(Part of FOWL's Project)

1998 - 1999 FOWL LEADERS

President	Sister Mary Ellen Paulson, O.P. 414-327-4713 paulsom@mail.milwaukee.k12.wi.us	2367 S. 84th St. West Allis, WI 53227-2501
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Winding Rivers	Carole Edland 608-788-5687	N2016 Hickory Ln. LaCrosse, WI 54601
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Individual	\$7
Friends Organization	\$15
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WISCONSIN
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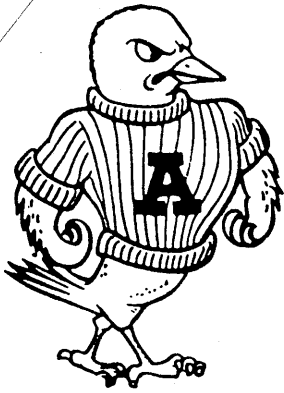
From Around the Country:

- Minnesota: FRIENDS celebrate the birthday of one-year olds with photos and board books.
- Georgia: Build a Kid's Reading Loft.
- Maine: A grant program; seed money to local groups for special projects.
- New Mexico: Received gift of stocks.
- Canada: "A Chance to Enhance".
- Kansas: Published Bylaws in newsletter, as Wisconsin did.



**FOLUSA
UPDATE**

Phone: 1-800-9FOLUSA
E-Mail: folusa@libertynet.org
Website: <http://www.folusa.com>



UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ANTIGO

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

120 S. DORR STREET - ANTIGO, WI 54409

715-627-4355

3/21/99

To Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

As one of two library media specialists serving our 500 square mile district's eleven elementary school library media centers, I am very concerned about the impact of the proposed budget on the operation of our many, tiny libraries in a district with decreasing enrollment.

This year I was thrilled to learn that my students and teachers could have access to magazine and newspaper data bases through Badgerlink. I was familiar with "Primary Search" which works so well for our K-6 schools, but could not afford it due to a cost of about \$600. per school. This year we can access it over the internet via Badgerlink. The value of teaching children how to use Badgerlinks "Primary Search" compared to Childrens Magazine Guide (a print index) is that with "Primary Search", the student types in their subject and immediately receives a "hit list" of all the articles about the topic published in the last 5 or more years in magazines that are at their age/interest level. Some are full-text, others they can find in their library. Compare that to the frustration of looking up their subject in several yearly or monthly compilations of the print-version and dealing with spelling and cross references. I usually get told, "my subject's not in here" after the child looks in the first index. We only subscribe to 15 magazines per school. "Primary Search" indexes over 100 appropriate age-level magazines. Indexes of magazines and newspapers are so much more accessible and up-to-date on computer, I will hate having to return to reliance on print indexes. Teachers also have access to many additional resources not available in our tiny libraries through Badgerlink. Again, with our limited funds and many small schools, we cannot possibly afford to subscribe to any of the individual data bases Badgerlink offers. What a tremendous opportunity Badgerlink has opened for districts such as ours!

Another issue I am very concerned about is the cap on the Wisconsin Common School Library Fund. In our district, this fund is used for all the books purchased for the district library media centers. The amount of money received this year was down \$14,000.00 from two years ago. That is a tremendous amount of books our children did not have access to. Meanwhile book prices keep rising. In our elementary schools we have a number of reading motivation programs that excite and interest our children in reading. Our libraries may be small, but they are very busy places. I love going to the schools and seeing pairs of older and younger students huddled in corners of the library, the hallways, everywhere - reading to each other, or taking Accelerated Reader tests - or talking

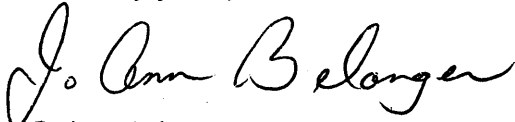
excitedly to a teacher or the library clerk, or me about a book just read. The TEACH funds are certainly necessary as they allow us to obtain the equipment needed to access wonderful materials such as Badgerlink, but if children can't read, they won't be able to efficiently use a computer as that almost always involves a lot of reading. It doesn't seem right that TEACH should be funded at the expense of books.

Another concern I have is the no increase budget for the 4 state contracts and the systems. Our system, WVLS, will take a cut. No increase seems to often result in a cut. Interlibrary loan is very important to our school district. Again, with limited funds, small schools can't afford to purchase lots of resources. Yet our clientele has the same needs for information as people in larger schools and cities. At least twice a week I make trips to our public library to pick up interlibrary loan bags containing information requested by our students or teachers. I would hate to see this practice discontinued due to lack of funds. For the past twelve years, the Childrens Cooperative Book Center in Madison (one of the 4 state contracts) has brought a "Book Fest" to Rhinelander which features the best children's books published in the previous year. I take my entire staff and several teachers to that meeting and use this as the basis for our book ordering. It is so nice to have the opportunity to hear Ginny Moore Kruse (probably one of the most knowledgeable people in the U.S. on children's literature) speak about the books and then having the opportunity to look at the books ourselves is certainly the very best way to make decisions of what is best to buy with our limited funds. I would hate to see opportunities like that lost due to lack of funds.

Ben Franklin established the concept of libraries as the great equalizers in our society. Libraries are a source of free information for all people, whether rich or poor or whether from metropolitan or rural areas. Please help see to it that this great tradition can continue and be enhanced by not pulling the plug on Badgerlink, by taking the cap off of the Wisconsin Common School Library Fund, and by increasing funds for the library systems and the four state contracts.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



JoAnn Belanger
Elementary Library Media Coordinator
Antigo Unified School District



McMILLAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY • 490 EAST GRAND AVENUE • WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WISCONSIN 54494 - 4898
PHONE: (715) 423-1040

**TESTIMONY TO JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF
INCREASING PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AIDS—
LINDA VOLLERT, APRIL 13, 1999**

My name is Linda Vollert. I am President of the Board of Trustees of McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids. I appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of increasing public library system aids.

Public library systems coordinate the sharing of resources among libraries in important ways which are beyond the capability of individual libraries. These systems cannot sustain important services like library automation and materials delivery without adequate State support. Charging individual libraries for an increasing share of these costs will not work; we are under extreme financial pressure from our municipalities. Without a significant increase in the State's support for public library systems, important system services will be lost.

McMillan Library joined the South Central Library System's library automation consortium several years ago. Our library saved \$40,000 in initial costs and \$25,000 per year in operational costs when compared with the costs of a comparable standalone computer system. Our library users moved from an online catalog of 100,000 items to a catalog of 2,000,000 items over night. Our users borrowed approximately 2,000 items each year from other libraries before we joined the automation consortium; in 1998 our users borrowed over 45,000 items from other libraries. What does it mean for the residents of Wisconsin Rapids to have online access to the collection of Madison Public Library? It means a lot. This shared automation system means a lot to Madison too as McMillan Library loans more books than it receives. Sharing resources saves money and increases access to materials for everyone. State funding makes this powerful win-win arrangement possible.

Public library systems like the South Central Library System offer an incredible return for the State funding they receive. Without a renewal of the State's commitment to its partnership with cities and counties, system services will be lost at a time when they have never been more important to the social and economic future of Wisconsin. 13% of the local spending for public libraries is a small price to pay to make this magic happen. I urge you to restore to the budget whatever funds can be found to increase public library system aids.

Thank you.

CHERN'S MILL-VIEW ACRES

Francis Cherney
2830 Cherney Street
Milladore, WI 54454

April 13, 1999

Budget Hearing

My name is Francis Cherney and I am a member of the Wood County Library Board.

I am speaking in favor of funding Public Library System Aid at the 13% it was originally targeted at.

If we want our public libraries to fully participate in the public library system, the public library systems must provide a level of service that makes participation desirable and beneficial to their member libraries. Libraries going it on their own will not be able to provide the information required of their borrowers and users. In Wood County our smaller libraries, especially, are not able to serve the public well without being part of the library system. All libraries depend on sharing resources with other libraries. This is necessary in order to give all the state's residents access to materials they need for their personal and professional goals.

I hope our State can find the way to satisfactorily fund library system aid at the 13% amount. It will help insure that our state residents will have access to the large amounts of information necessary to cope with today's and tomorrow's needs.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you on this issue.



FRANCIS CHERNEY



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

University Library

Stevens Point, WI 54481-3897

April 13, 1999

TO: Joint Finance Committee

FROM: Arne Arneson, Director of the UW-Stevens Point Library
UW-Stevens Point

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of funding for UW-Libraries in the Governor's 1999-2001 State Budget

Dear Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Governor's budget proposal.

I ask for your support for funding a critical library initiative. As you know, Governor Thompson's Budget includes funding for the University of Wisconsin System that will provide \$7.3 million dollars to the UW Libraries. The Regents' original budget request for the UW libraries was substantially reduced in the Governor's budget—cut from \$12 million to a total of \$7.3 million over the biennium. We urge you to keep the Governor's recommendation intact, without further reduction.

These dollars will be designated for the purchase of electronic reference materials, journals, books, and to expand the statewide document delivery system.

This proposal is unprecedented in recent decades. As many of you know, the UW libraries have not received a state-funded increase for library collections for the last ten years. During that period,

- scientific and technical journals have more than doubled in price,
- UW libraries have cut more than 6,000 serial subscriptions.
- UW-Libraries have lost purchasing power of 10-18% each year

This funding is critical to the future of the entire University of Wisconsin System, and it must come now, before our knowledge collections become so inadequate that they may not recover. Governments in the Midwest have invested in the libraries of their state university system throughout the 1990s, with almost all of the other Big Ten universities receiving steadily increased funding for library resources.

Good morning Co-Chairman Gard, Co-Chairman Burke, and members of the Committee. Welcome to Stevens Point and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Peg Allen, a self-employed library consultant based in Stratford, working with Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (NAHEC) and other organizations. I am a member of the Wisconsin Library Association and the Wisconsin Health Sciences Library Association, as well as several national library and health-related organizations. I am here to speak in favor of three initiatives:

1. Funding for the BadgerLink full-text initiative of the Department of Public Instruction, using TEACH funds as proposed by the Governor
2. Increased state support for University of Wisconsin library resources
3. Increased state funding for the Wisconsin Area Health Education Center system, part to the UW Medical School budget request.

BadgerLink full-text databases

BadgerLink full-text databases are periodical and newspaper indexes that cover many subjects, including consumer health and business. Many of the indexed resources are in full-text, which means that the reader does not have to go to a library to request the actual article or pamphlet. BadgerLink allows all Wisconsin citizens with Internet access to search databases and view articles from their home or business, which is particularly important for small businesses and health care organizations that cannot afford to maintain a complete reference library at their place of business.

For example, when writing a grant proposal for the Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center, I was able to find articles on senior citizen's use of the Internet to help them make more informed health care decisions. I was even able to find statistics that showed that rural senior citizens had less access to the Internet than their urban counterparts, which helped support the need for consumer health information centers and workshops for senior citizens in our rural communities.

Because the information in BadgerLink is from reputable published sources, we can recommend it with greater confidence than a general search of the World Wide Web. As you know, anyone can publish on the web, so we also need to teach critical evaluation skills. It's so much better to have resources like the BadgerLink full-text databases that we can recommend as the first place to search, especially when dealing with life and death issues. We really need BadgerLink as a resource to support our plans for offering consumer health information workshops, in partnership with our NAHEC members.

BadgerLink is funded through 1999 by \$2.1 million in federal Library Services and Technology Act funds, and has been criticized because it was started with federal funds. These funds were a one-time opportunity, used because representatives to Wisconsin's February 1998 Library Technology Planning Conference identified full-text information as the state's number one library technology priority. This conference was co-sponsored by the Department of Administration and the DPI. I was one of the health science librarians attending that conference, and concur in the recommendation. I was also the

only health science librarian on the full-text advisory committee, which helped the Department of Public Instruction develop the RFP for this project, and evaluate the vendor responses. This group represented all types of libraries – public, school, academic, business, and hospital – which is why Wisconsin ended up with one of the best collections of publicly available full-text resources in the U.S. Our library community is demonstrating the value of working together. The funds we are requesting, \$836,000 for fiscal year 1999-2000 and \$1.7 million for fiscal year 2000-2001, or \$2.5 million for the biennium, amount to less than 50 cents for each Wisconsin citizen. The resources can be accessed by all, wherever they have Internet access. For 35%, this is their home – a real boon for students, especially children who depend on their parents to drive them to the library, and for adults enrolled in programs to advance their careers. For distance education students, this resource is not a luxury – it is essential. The same can be said for high school students in advanced placement courses – their school libraries cannot support their advanced information needs. Can libraries pay for this? If all Wisconsin libraries could afford these resources, the cost would be almost \$50 million. The sad truth is that our rural schools and public libraries, and our small public and private colleges, are least able to afford these resources. What is the point of BadgerNet and the TEACH program if our students and citizens cannot access quality information? BadgerNet provides the information highway – BadgerLink represents some of the best content we can offer via the Internet. TEACH funds offer a means of providing this content, as well as the technology.

I'm now a member of the LSTA Advisory committee, which advises the State Superintendent on how best to use federal funds. I can assure you that we will not receive enough federal funds from this program to continue supporting BadgerLink full-text databases when the current funding ends in December. As it is, we have to use these funds to support programs that should have moved to state funding long ago, including WISCAT, the statewide database of library holdings that enables 1137 Wisconsin libraries to share their resources via interlibrary loan. Federal library technology funding is intended as a supplement to state and local resources, and as support for innovative demonstration projects.

University of Wisconsin Library Resources

Libraries cannot share what they do not own. The Governor's budget request for University of Wisconsin libraries was well below the actual request. We all depend on University of Wisconsin collections to share their resources via our interlibrary loan system, so funding for their collections benefits all Wisconsin library patrons. As the cost of books and periodicals is increasing faster than the rate of inflation, our UW libraries are less able to purchase the needed resources. For example, the medical school library has had to cut professional journal subscriptions, decreasing the availability of journal articles and scientific evidence that our physicians and other health professionals need to support patient care decisions. Wisconsin hospital libraries and individual health professionals pay only \$5.50 for articles they order from UW Madison, while they pay \$10 to \$12 or more for articles ordered out-of-state. Please consider increasing this funding from the \$7,344,000 recommended in the Governor's budget to the Regents'

request for \$12 million in new funding this biennium for UW library print and electronic collections and resource sharing.

Wisconsin Area Health Education Center program (UW Medical School)

Finally, I would like to speak in support of increased funding for the Wisconsin Area Health Education System. Research has shown that AHEC programs help recruit and retain health professionals in underserved communities. Many of our northern Wisconsin communities are designated as health professional shortage areas. Northern Wisconsin AHEC (NAHEC) worked with representatives of rural health care and education organizations to identify unmet education needs. One major need was access to health information resources via libraries and the Internet. The needs assessment funded by the Northern AHEC was the key to obtaining a \$363,000 National Library of Medicine grant to support health sciences library outreach in northern Wisconsin. With this grant, we funded computer workstations and the first year of Internet access at 36 sites, and offered 75 educational workshops at all 58 of our partner sites. We have developed a website as a guide to quality health information on the World Wide Web, and use an Internet mailing list to share Internet tips and education opportunities with our members. We have also applied for a new two-year grant to add new library outreach services, including consumer health information education. NAHEC activities help recruit and retain health professionals and support students in community based learning experiences. Please support the UW Medical School's request for additional funding for this program.

I would like to thank the committee members for your attention to the library, information, and educational needs of Wisconsin's citizens. I urge your support for the funding of BadgerLink full-text databases, University of Wisconsin library collections, and the Wisconsin Area Health Education Center system.

Margaret (Peg) Allen, MLS-AHIP <mailto:pegallen@tznet.com>
Library/Information Consultant
Project Director, Northwoods HealthNet, Northern Wisconsin AHEC, Inc.
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Testimony on Behalf of the South Central Library System
Presented to the Joint Finance Committee
April 13, 1999

My name is Bill Zimdars. I am a Portage County Supervisor, Portage County Library Trustee and South Central Library System Trustee. I am here to urge you to restore dollars for an increase in public library system aids to the biennial budget bill.

Learning is a lifelong need and a complex commodity in our technological age. Access to information to fulfill this need is provided by our schools and libraries. As such, public libraries give this access to all people of all ages and economic levels. They create a level playing field to help ensure that all citizens can become responsible citizens.

One critical issue is bringing funding to the level of 13% of the previous year's public library expenditures.

Additional dollars are needed to fund the LINK system and connect all other systems to LINK to provide equal access to all residents.

The present delivery system is growing rapidly and provides essential services by providing access to materials that might not be available in a local library. The cost is extremely low compared to each library purchasing all material or using the Postal System to deliver material. The delivery system is a bargain for all citizens and the particularly to taxpayers.

Internet service needs to be expanded to provide access to computers for our citizens. To do this we need TEACH subsidized lines, multiple workstations, local equipment, maintenance personnel, hand-on training, etc.

The needs are great and funds are limited. This we can all agree on. You are urged to consider not only items listed above, but many other needs the library community in Wisconsin has to properly serve its citizens. This also must be weighed against the needs of all other departments in state government. It is not an easy task but we ask for your consideration as you deliberate the budget.

Good morning Co-Chairman Gard, Co-Chairman Burke, and members of the Committee. Welcome to Stevens Point and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Peg Allen, a self-employed library consultant based in Stratford, working with Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center (NAHEC) and other organizations. I am a member of the Wisconsin Library Association and the Wisconsin Health Sciences Library Association, as well as several national library and health-related organizations. I am here to speak in favor of three initiatives:

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I would like to thank the committee members for your attention to the library, information, and educational needs of Wisconsin's citizens. I urge your support for the funding of BadgerLink full-text databases, University of Wisconsin library collections, and the Wisconsin Area Health Education Center system.

Margaret (Peg) Allen, MLS-AHIP <mailto:pegallen@tznet.com>
Library/Information Consultant
Project Director, Northwoods HealthNet, Northern Wisconsin AHEC, Inc.
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(715) 687-4976 Fax:(715) 687-4976



University of Wisconsin-Stout

Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751-0790

Library Learning Center
Fax: 715-232-1783

Testimony before the Joint Finance Committee Hearing Osceola High School 4-14-99

By Sue Strehl
Information Resource Development Librarian
UW-Stout
Menomonie

I'm here to speak in support of Governor Thompson's recommendations for UW funding in the next biennium, specifically in support of the \$7.3 million library initiative.

We at the Library Learning Center are very pleased with Governor Thompson's UW budget recommendations in general and wholeheartedly favor funding the library initiative. This \$7.3 million will be the first budget increase in this area in ten years.

We are in dire need of help. Ten years ago we purchased 1,500 magazine and journal subscriptions. In 1988 over 45,000 new titles were published. We bought 8,200 books at an average price of \$35. We had a few CD-ROM databases for use in the Reference area. Today, we have 1,200 magazine and journal subscriptions, a 20% decline. When a department requests a new title, we have to ask what other title they are willing to cancel.

Over 68,000 new books were published last year, a 50% increase over the number published 10 years ago. We were able to purchase 6,100 titles – a 25% decrease over 10 years ago. The average price of new books is now \$50, a 41% increase over the \$35 they cost just 10 years ago.

The Internet is a wonderful new tool, but nobody I know has ever sat down and read an entire book on their computer screen.

Where ten years ago we had a few CD-ROM reference tools, we now have about 30. We have over 25 PC's in the reference area providing access to a host of electronic indexes, databases and Web sites. \$80,000 of my same budget dollars from 10 years ago now go to purchase these resources. Some do help cushion the loss of 300 journal titles, but the electronic resources always cost more than what they replace.

This is ugly. There is no other way to describe it. Information is exploding, yet students at UW-Stout have 20% fewer magazines and journals and 25% fewer books. Inflation in the publishing business has been way over the cost of living increases for this entire period.

We used to buy about 18% of new books published, now we buy less than 9%.

I sincerely hope the entire \$7.3 million library initiative is funded. If it is, UW-Stout will receive \$81,000 for our magazines and books, an 18% increase over what we have had for the last ten years. All of our price increases over the last ten years have been more than this. We don't catch up, but we will be far better off than we are now. Our students deserve this.

Thanks you for your consideration of this important issue.



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April 14, 1999

I appreciate Alice Clausing and Mark Pettis coming to the village of Osceola to let us testify on behalf of the libraries.. I also appreciate the fact that BadgerLink has been approved for the next year.

My concern as a library director is that the shared automation systems which will soon be a necessity in libraries are expensive and the smaller libraries as well as some of the large ones will have trouble financing the shared systems. The state of Wisconsin could help by offering financial support to help us get started and maintain the benefit of shared automation systems which help equalize services between the more affluent people and some in rural areas who will not have access to this service any other way.

Thank you,


Margaret (Peggy) Tomfohrde
Library Director, Osceola Public Library