

WISCONSIN VALLEY LIBRARY SERVICE 2011-2012 COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1. **Goal Statement:** To ensure the residents of WVLS counties access to materials that meet their informational and recreational needs by maintaining and strengthening library collections and facilitating access through resource-sharing and networking.

2. **Service requirement:** WI. Statute 43.24 (2)(d) Referral or routing of reference and interlibrary loan requests from libraries within the system to libraries within and outside the system. Also, WI. Statute 43.24 (2)(i) Any other service programs designed to meet the needs of participating public libraries and the residents of the system area, as determined by the public library system board after consultation with participating public libraries.

3. **Planning environment and process (as it relates to this specific goal):** Collection development has been an important activity for WVLS since the formation of the system. Members of the multitype Library Advisory Committee (LAC) participate annually in updating the WVLS System Plan which contains a specific section for collection development services.

In November 1995, the WVLS Board of Trustees appointed a multitype committee to review current WVLS collection development policies, practices, and protocols, and to make recommendations for future WVLS collection development activities. The WVLS Collection Development Committee reconvenes annually to recommend a revised plan.

4. **Needs and problems relating to this goal:** On-going surveys indicate that reference, interloan, and provision of deposit collections of specialized materials continue to be important services offered by WVLS. Survey results, WVLS's shared automation system (V-Cat), and participation in other collaborative efforts will impact future collection development planning and budgeting.

Rapidly-changing technologies have led library users to expect and demand rapid access to increasingly sophisticated information sources and new formats. However, cost increases for services in excess of the general rate of inflation, and the overall scarcity of dollars for library purposes, have severely affected the ability of many WVLS member libraries of all types to provide services at adequate levels.

The libraries that WVLS serves are spread over a mostly rural 7,595 square mile area. This presents problems of time and distance in expediting resource-sharing. These considerations and ever-shrinking budgets make it clear that V-Cat and access to electronic resources are system-wide priorities.

5. **Role of the System and Member Libraries in Collection Development:** WVLS seeks to facilitate planning processes and resource-sharing mechanisms as well as to fund the provision of certain needed services.

WVLS assumes the following roles to accomplish its collection development goals:

- Facilitator of planning processes and services that improve collection development skills and that promote the development of strong local collections (continuing education, consulting, grants, professional resources).
- Provider of services which enhance local collections (interlibrary loan, deposit collections, access to electronic resources and shared automation).
- Coordinator and collaborator for resource-sharing mechanisms.

In its roles, WVLS seeks to respect and support member libraries' responsibilities to provide collections that meet their particular community's needs.

The roles of the member libraries are to:

- Participate in the planning processes and continuing education opportunities.
- Develop a high quality basic collection in all formats required as local funding allows.
- Cooperate and collaborate in resource-sharing efforts for the benefit of all members.

- 6. Description of services for collection development:** These services include, but are not limited to:
- Strengthening resources within WVLS and area libraries' collections so that more requests are filled within the system area.
 - Enriching member library collections with programming materials and deposit collections of specialized materials.
 - Promoting WVLS' special services and collections.
 - Purchasing professional materials and selection tools and disseminating information about their availability.
 - Providing continuing education opportunities on collection development and reader's advisory issues.
 - Consulting and assisting member libraries with collection development issues.
 - Encouraging the development of written materials selection policies and ongoing weeding programs at all libraries.
 - Promoting cooperation among academic, school, special and public libraries in collection development.
 - Exploring new methods/materials/formats for enriching local library collections.

WVLS COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

A. Enhance and promote resources for member libraries.

1. Provide specialized deposit collections of materials that would otherwise be unavailable in sufficient quantity due to the format, cost and demand for the material.
2. Maintain collections by weeding and acquiring new materials in the necessary formats.
3. Evaluate the size of deposit collection packages, the effectiveness of rotation periods, and the general value of the collections as a system service.
4. Explore alternative mechanisms of providing WVLS services.
5. Encourage membership in V-Cat.
6. Explore and discuss new materials/methods/formats for enriching local library resources.
7. Provide electronic access to WVLS resources.
8. Encourage and assist member libraries to apply for LSTA and/or other collection development grants to improve their materials collections.
9. Encourage member libraries to broaden their collections by including materials that serve persons with special needs, and reflect ethnic, social, and cultural diversity.
10. Encourage collaborative collection development by member libraries in selected subject areas.
11. Promote and publicize WVLS resources to member libraries and their users through a variety of available media.
12. Support and promote WVLS membership in the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium (WPLC).

B. Assist member libraries in improving and expanding their collection development skills.

1. Incorporate collection development and reader's advisory issues into WVLS workshops whenever possible.
2. Provide consulting services to member libraries.
3. Purchase professional tools and bibliographies used for collection development and weeding, and make them available to member libraries.
4. Assist libraries in reviewing and revising materials selection policies, collection development plans, and materials reconsideration policies.
5. Make available sample policies and procedures.
6. Recommend that all WVLS libraries work to improve performance in collection development to strengthen and maintain their responsibilities for providing resources the entire system area, utilizing the net lending/net borrowing ratio based on the V-Cat circulation report to work toward equalizing the ratio.

C. Provide resources regarding collection development for library users with special needs.

1. Provide programming materials and deposit collections of specialized materials to area nursing homes and other agencies.
2. Collect and disseminate bibliographies of recommended materials and services for persons with special needs.
3. Encourage area libraries to facilitate access to library service for persons with special needs.

D. Engage in continuous planning in the area of collection development.

1. The Collection Development Committee will meet annually to review and revise the *WVLS Collection Development Plan*. Their recommendations will be presented to the WVLS staff, general membership, the Library Advisory Committee, and the WVLS Board of Trustees.
2. Monitor the impact of V-Cat on collection development in participating and non-participating member libraries.
3. Recommend links for the WVLS web site, using the "Five Criteria for Evaluating Web Sites for the V-Cat Catalog" document (adapted from Cornell University Library).
Support efforts to gain adequate funding to assure sufficient staff and materials to carry out the *WVLS Collection Development Plan*.

Revised June 24, 2011