

# **WALWORTH COUNTY**



# **COUNTY LIBRARY PLAN**

**June, 2000**

**I. Mission statement:**

To make quality library service available to all Walworth County residents of all ages and to provide for equitable funding of that service.

**II. Background**

- A. Statutory requirements for county library planning: 1997 Wisconsin Act 150 (Attachment A)
- B. The Lakeshores Library System is a federated public library system established in January 1983 by Racine and Walworth Counties according to Chapter 43.15 of Wisconsin Statutes. Its purpose is to assist autonomous member libraries in making locally determined materials and services available to all residents of the system area. The accomplishment of the system's mission requires the provision of methods of materials sharing, technologies for library services, and delivery services for materials for library users in the system. The purpose further requires system consultation and continuing education programs for the staffs of the member libraries. The system seeks at all times to collect and distribute the financial resources at its disposal as fairly and effectively as possible for libraries, taxpayers, and library users in the entire system area. The Walworth County Board of Supervisors appointed a Walworth County Library Planning Committee in August of 1999 to develop, oversee, and recommend a plan for library service in Walworth County. This nine-member committee is a Walworth County Library Planning Committee appointed by the Walworth County Board of Supervisors (Attachment B). Walworth County is a member of Lakeshores Library System Board. A 15-member board governs the Lakeshores Library System. Racine County appoints nine trustees and Walworth County appoints six trustees to the board.

**III. Current library services to county residents**

- A. Libraries within the LLS currently offer a variety of services to residents throughout the system. Services to children and adults range from the traditional fiction, nonfiction, and reference to a wide variety within the broad categories (including, but not limited to: videos, music and spoken word cd's, large print, Internet services, and software.) See Attachment C for a complete listing of services.

- B. Appointments to the library boards are made by the mayor or village president of the individual communities and confirmed by the council and/or village boards. If a board member on a municipal board represents the county (s 43.60 (3)) that individual will be appointed by the chair of the county board and confirmed by the county board. Lakeshores Library System has fifteen member libraries within the two counties. Fourteen of the libraries are municipal libraries. The Rochester Public Library is a joint district library formed by the Village of Rochester and the Town of Rochester.
  
- C. Each year public libraries in the state of Wisconsin are required to file a Public Library Annual Report with their system and the Division for Libraries Technology and Community Learning. (A blank copy of the report is an attachment to this plan [Attachment D]. However, that report will now be reported online rather than in printed format.) In addition to the budget and circulation information that the DLTCCL requires, LLS requests each library to provide us with their circulation to each municipality within Lakeshores Library System. This is done for each community within Lakeshores and circulation to adjacent systems (Waukesha County Federated Library System, Arrowhead Library System, and Kenosha County Library System)(See Attachments E, F, and G). A copy of each Walworth County library's annual report filed with the LLS Office is sent to members of the Walworth County Library Planning Committee.
  
- D. Currently residents within Lakeshores Library System use libraries in four other systems in the area. Lakeshores Library System has agreements with three of the library systems (Waukesha, Arrowhead, and Kenosha). The payment to the fourth system is actually made directly to the library that provides the service to Walworth County residents. That library is the Whitewater Public Library. A large portion of Whitewater is located in Walworth County, the remainder in Jefferson County. For 1998, the following circulation by residents of Walworth County, by adjacent system, was reported to us by:

Kenosha County Library System	4,564
Arrowhead Library System	22,788
Waukesha County Library System	21,688
Whitewater Public Library	45,578*

\*Member of Mid-Wisconsin Library System.

**IV. Current funding of library services to county residents**

- A. For calendar year 2000, the Lakeshores Library System receives funding from the following sources and in the amounts given:

State Aids	584,054
Walworth County	795,241
Kenosha County	48,273
Racine County	1,140,505
Other	<u>156,995</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,725,068</b>

Reimbursement to the libraries in Walworth County is based on a three-year average of the circulation from each library to county residents. The money allocated from Walworth County is divided by the number of positive circulations to residents of the county by each library in the county to determine the reimbursement rate. That rate is then multiplied by the number of county circulations provided by each library in the county. The reimbursement rate will change from year to year depending on the level of funding and the number of circulations generated by county residents.

**V. Goals and Actions**

- A. Goal: To provide for open access and equitable funding for library services provided to all county residents. County library plans must now provide for this funding, per Wisconsin Statutes s.43.11 (3)(c). Beginning in 2001, Walworth County will pay each public library in the county 100 percent of the cost of library service provided to county residents that do not maintain a public library. (Attachment H)
- B. The standards used will be the latest edition of the *Wisconsin Public Library Standards*, as provided by the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning.
- C. If a library does not meet three required standards (FTE staff per 1000 service population, hours open to the public, and collection size for service population) by December 31, 2005, they will receive reimbursement at the 2000 level unless extenuating circumstances are presented to the Walworth County Library Planning Committee in writing. (Attachment I, Appendix B of *Wisconsin Public Library Standards*)

- D. Of the remaining measurable standards, local libraries would be required to meet three (3) additional standards, as chosen by the individual libraries, by December 31, 2010.

**VI. Issues related to direct library services provided to county residents by the system or a county library service**

Lakeshores Library System does not provide direct services to county residents. Direct service to county residents could take the form of circulating large print, genre fiction, videos, or CDs.

**VII. Implementation**

- A. Libraries within Walworth County will be provided with a checklist of Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL) basic recommended standards. When filing their DPI Annual Report, this checklist will be a part of that annual report. Copies of the checklist will be provided to the members of the Walworth County Library Planning Committee.
- B. The Walworth County Library Planning Committee will meet in May of each year to review the checklist provided. This committee will report to the county board the extent to which libraries are meeting the standards set forth in this County Library Plan.

**VIII. Future plans**

- A. Evaluate individual member library long-range plans on an annual basis. The plans will be reviewed in May of each year.
- B. Investigate Internet usage (individual or classes) as another way of reimbursing member libraries for non-resident use.
- C. Encourage and support libraries in knowing and understanding the basic standards of service and to use them in developing their long-range plans.
- D. Provide each member library with copies of the *Wisconsin Public Library Standards*, latest edition available.

**IX. Attachments:**

- A. 1997 Wisconsin Act 150
- B. Listing of Walworth County Library Planning Committee members
- C. Listing of Services provided by Lakeshores Library System
- D. Public Library Annual Report form
- E. Agreement with Waukesha County Library System
- F. Agreement with Arrowhead Library System
- G. Agreement with Kenosha County Library System
- H. Walworth County Estimated 2001 Reimbursements
- I. *Wisconsin Public Library Standards, Appendix B*
- J. A copy of the minutes of the Walworth County Board meeting from March 16, 1982 containing a resolution (142) that created the Lakeshores Library System and Walworth County libraries participation in that system.
- K. A copy of the Lakeshores Library System Program Plan Budget as submitted to the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL).