**OWLS Director report**

October 20, 2016 OWLS Board of Trustees Meeting

* At the September AAC meeting, libraries agreed to implement a collection agency in OWLSnet, with OWLS facilitating the process. OWLS recruited a few volunteers to go early and help us work out some of the details of the process. As of the meeting, 14 OWLSnet libraries had signed a contract with Unique Management, Inc.  
    
  Two libraries volunteered to go first to help us with the process. They’re still working on finalizing their letters with Unique Management.
* The new state BadgerNet contract has been signed. The administration of this contract has switched over to AT&T, so OWLS has been working on completing all of the required paperwork. There will be site visits by local technicians as the on-site equipment will be switched over as well. This is an unexpected large scale project that will require us to shift other projects a bit down the road. The transition is expected to start Jan 1 and be complete by December 31.
* On September 21, I attended an all day PLSR meeting in Waupaca Wisconsin along with the rest of the PLSR workgroup members. Each workgroup presented its model summary and answered questions and received comments from other workgroups. This is in preparation for the meetings and poster sessions scheduled for WLA in October.
* The Wisconsin Library Association Conference is October 25 through October 29. I will be attending, as will Evan Bend and Molly Lawlor. I will be presenting on bullet journaling toward the end of the conference.
* I’ve been asked to assist with the hiring process for the new Kimberly-Little Chute Library Director.
* While the Mattoon library has been closed for several weeks due to staffing issues, the library has reopened on a somewhat shortened schedule. There were some communication issues when the library closed. We’ll need to discuss the OWLS relationship with the Shawano branch libraries to see if there’s a way to make this process smoother.
* We’ve worked with WiscNet to establish unique external IP addresses for each of the OWLSnet buildings that utilize the OWLSnet networking service. That should allow better statistics from electronic vendors, since they’ll be able to tell where requests originate. Previously, almost all OWLSnet libraries shared a single external IP and it was impossible to tell where a request started.
* Tech Day, a program co-sponsored by OWLS and Winnefox was held in Fond du Lac on September 22. It was well attended, with over 80 attendees. Unfortunately, very few OWLS library staff attended. We’ll be looking closely at our joint Continuing Education experiment in 2017.
* The Appleton Public Library building project seems to be back on the drawing board. Mayor Hanna’s 2017 budget included $500,000 to assist in planning the future site of the Appleton Public Library. (You can read the whole article at <http://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/local/2016/10/06/appleton-taxes-increase-2017-budget-proposal/91560226/> )
* OWLS will be updating our Technology Plan very soon, and I plan to have a draft plan available by the November OWLS Board meeting.
* OWLS is examining our email service. We currently host our own email server which is now out of warranty (although still going strong.) We’ll be considering moving email to our webhost or using Microsoft’s email service, along with the option of purchasing a new email server.
* OWLS has purchased a new tape backup unit and new DNS server (which also controls the backup process. Dave is working on installing these new pieces of equipment.