

What's important about Wisconsin libraries

Wisconsin communities directly benefit from Wisconsin libraries.

Working together, libraries throughout Wisconsin:

- ◆ Contribute to Wisconsin's economic development by providing access to diverse and essential information sources through a statewide knowledge network. Small and emerging businesses fuel our economy, and libraries serve their information needs.
- ◆ Provide a model of regional and statewide cost-efficiency by using multiple cooperative arrangements. In comparison with other states, Wisconsin public libraries rank 8th in circulation, but 22nd for total operating revenue, 21st for total operating expenditures, and 20th for paid library staff per capita.
- ◆ Provide equal access to technology and opportunities for learning how to use it – a critical skill for success in school, at work and in personal life.
- ◆ Bring lifelong learning opportunities to all Wisconsin residents – and make significant contributions to their quality of life.

Wisconsin libraries work directly with issues of concern to your constituents, including:

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Job training & economic development
- ◆ Information access and technology

Today, more than ever, library services are essential contributors to the education and information Wisconsin citizens need to compete and prosper in the 21st century.

Wisconsin libraries merit strong legislative support.

We support legislation that enables libraries to effectively share resources and provide the broadest possible access to information. We support funding libraries in order to continue to grow Wisconsin's economy and educate its citizenry.

Who we are

About 3,000 librarians, trustees, friends and community members comprise the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) and the Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association (WEMTA). WLA advocates for all Wisconsin libraries – rural, urban, public, school, academic and corporate – and the vital information and literacy services they provide in their communities. WEMTA works to strengthen Wisconsin's educational quality through supporting school library media and instructional technology professionals.

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