

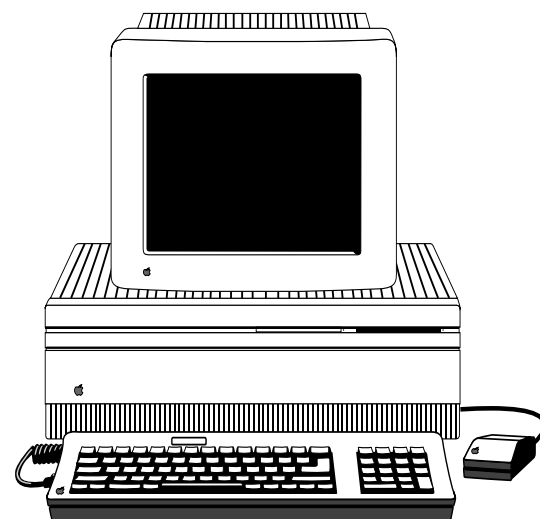
MATS Website—New Location & Content!

The MATS website has been relocated to join other WLA section websites on the WLA web server. You can find it at <http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/mats/index.asp>.

In addition to the new location, you will find some new content. One of the goals of the current MATS board is to make the website more timely and to include more in-depth content on media & technology-related topics.

You'll find information about MATS, current officers, meeting minutes, conference information, and some tips & web sites you might find helpful.

Take a look and see what you think! If you have any ideas for information we could include on the site, we'd love to hear from you. Send your suggestions to Stef Morrill (smorrill@scls.lib.wi.us) or Beth Carpenter (bcarpent@mail.owls.lib.wi.us). We look forward to receiving your input!



MATS

Media and Technology Section

Newsletter

Welcome to the last MATS newsletter! Well, not the LAST MATS newsletter, but the last one you'll receive like this. We're moving the newsletter online to our new-and-improved MATS website (see "MATS Website—New Location & Content!" for more information about the website). This new format will give MATS the opportunity to share news and information more frequently, to include more timely information, and to save the section the costs of printing and mailing.

When a new newsletter is available on the website, you'll be notified through the MATS e-mail list. If you haven't joined the MATS e-mail list, now is the time!! The list is also used for other updates and for requests for help with projects. It's the best way to keep up with MATS, and we have plans to make this section much more active, so there will be things to keep up with! To join the email list, just send an email to Brigitte Vacha at the WLA Office (vacha@scls.lib.wi.us) or phone her with your e-mail address (608-245-3640), and she'll take care of the rest. Let her know if you want your email address listed in the membership directory, and if you would also like to be subscribed to the WLA email lists.

If you don't have an email address, don't despair! We'll send you a copy of the online newsletter in print.

This new online newsletter is for all of you, so please send us any suggestions you have (see "Meet the MATS Board" for contact information). We'll be asking for your input on each newsletter, too.

So, for our last print newsletter, we thought it would be fun to introduce you our new board members and highlight some plans for the future. Enjoy!

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Plans for 2003

All of us on the MATS Board are really excited for 2003! We have lots of plans for this year, including:

Programs at the WAPL Conference: See the "WAPL Conference Coming Soon" article for more information.

Programs at the WLA Conference: As I write this, the programs for WLA have not been finalized, but I think we have some great ideas!! We'll let you know more soon, but plan to come to Milwaukee, October 28-31!

Selling stuff at the WLA Conference: This may not seem significant, but selling stuff at the WLA Store is one way MATS can make money to do other things. If you have ANY suggestions of items to sell, please let us know!

Improved website: Beth Carpenter, our awesome chair-elect, has already taken care of this one. See the "MATS Website—New Location & Content!" article for more info.

More communication: The email list, this newsletter, and the new online newsletter will help us all share information and make MATS more valuable to you.

A special project: We want MATS to produce something that is helpful for the membership and for all libraries around the state. We've come up with an idea: to collect help sheets and training materials for technology-related things (the Internet, computer basics, online databases, etc.) and post these to the MATS website. This project would create a starting place for libraries to look for these types of materials, and keep us all from having to re-invent the wheel. More about this project will be coming in the 2nd half of this year (including a request for your help!).

If you have suggestions for other projects or improvements for MATS, please let us know!

WAPL Conference Coming Soon

The 2003 Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries will be hosting its annual conference on May 7-9 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point.

MATS will be sponsoring several sessions at the conference. Here are some highlights:

Virtual Reference Comes To Wisconsin

Panelists will discuss virtual reference projects being planned and taking place in Wisconsin. Representatives from WiLS, South Central Library System and Madison Public Library will share their experiences.

Gates Library Grantee Support Group

Join this roundtable discussion moderated by Bob Bocher. This will be your chance to share your joys & frustrations, get some questions answered, and help others solve their Gates-related problems.

It Can Be Good and Cheap: How To Have a Useful, Usable Website Inexpensively

Beth Carpenter (OWLS) and Stef Morrill (SCLS) will share a virtual smorgasbord of web goodies that will help you design a more attractive, more usable website at little or no cost!

More information about each of these sessions, including dates and times, is available on the MATS website at <http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/mats/WAPL2003.asp>



Meet the MATS Board

Here is a little information about this year's MATS Board members. Please feel free to contact any of them with suggestions or questions about MATS!

Stef Morrill

Chair
South Central Library System (SCLS)
smorrill@scls.lib.wi.us

What do you do at your library system?

My title is "Library Development Coordinator" which translates to "does a bunch of stuff related to technology, including web development, training, new technology projects, and whatever else pops up".

What do you like most about your job?

The constant opportunity to learn new things and to play with new technology to help our libraries serve their patrons better. I also love overcoming those "this will never work" moments and finding ways to make things work.

What's the niftiest technology project you worked on last year?

SCLS is getting ready to launch a virtual reference project for all of our libraries in May with the 24/7 Consortium. Learning about virtual reference and working on setting up this service has been a lot of fun.

What's your favorite website?

Google Groups (<http://www.google.com/grphp>): I use it all the time to search for problems we are having and find out how other people have dealt with them.

How about your favorite cookie?

No-bakes*—I'm drooling just thinking about them!

Beth Carpenter

Chair Elect
Outagamie Waupaca Library System (OWLS)
bcarpenter@mail.owls.lib.wi.us

What do you do at your library system?

I am the "Web Services" Manager, which basically means that I am responsible for coordinating the information that OWLS provides on the web. I designed and maintain OWLSweb (<http://www.owls.lib.wi.us>) and co-administer Cooler by the Lake (<http://www.cbtlib.org>). I also teach OWLS member library staff how to create and maintain web sites and supervise interlibrary loan services. Other "duties as assigned" exist, but the web stuff is the bulk of what I do at OWLS.

What do you like most about your job?

Designing. Whether it's a new web site for a library or a new subject guidepost for Cooler by the Lake (CBTL), I love the creative process of making things look attractive, user-friendly, and organized.

What's the niftiest technology project you worked on last year?

I guess this isn't really a project, but the neatest technology thing I did last year was to take a fabulous class at UW-Madison called "Web-based Application Development." I learned how databases can be mounted on the web, and while I haven't had much time to practice what I learned, I have a much better understanding of how things work. Great fun!

What's your favorite website?

National Weather Service (<http://www.crh.noaa.gov>). I work in a basement, so it's nice to be able to find out what's happening outside <g>

Cooler by the Lake (<http://www.cbtlib.org>) is next in line!

How about your favorite cookie?

Chocolate Oatmeal*



Terrie Howe

Director-at-Large (one year term)
Nicolet Federated Library System
thowe@mail.nfls.lib.wi.us

What do you do at your library system?

I'm a consultant and trainer in the areas of information technology, especially in the use and installations of PCs. I help libraries maintain and upgrade computer software. I create and maintain web pages for the library system, for NEWIL, and for Cooler by the Lake. I also coordinate multitype library activities and serve as the coordinator of NEWIL, the Northeast Wisconsin Intertype Libraries.

What do you like most about your job?

Working with library staff through small group trainings at the member libraries

What's your favorite website?

Cooler by the Lake (<http://www.cbtlib.org>)
Marco Polo (<http://www.marcopolo-education.org/>)

How about your favorite cookie?

Chocolate chip*

Mellanie Mercier

Director-at-Large (two year term)
Waukesha County Federated Library System
mmercier@wcfls.lib.wi.us

What do you do at your library system?

I'm the Library Automation Coordinator. I work with our 16 member libraries on lots of fun projects.

What do you like most about your job?

The people and the libraries I get to work with, the fact that no two days are alike, and getting to try out new toys. Actually, I like everything but e-rate!!

What's the niftiest technology project you worked on last year?

Mobile wireless computer labs

What's your favorite website?

Quilters Cache (<http://www.quilterscache.com>)

How about your favorite cookie?

Peanut butter*



Jan Holmes

Secretary
Sun Prairie Public Library
jmholmes@usa.net

What do you do at your library?

My title is Library Assistant III-Computer Services. I'm responsible for installation, maintenance, and repair of the library's 50+ computers, with some help from the City of Sun Prairie technology support staff and South Central Library System (SCLS) technicians. I maintain maintenance records and problem logs and make recommendations for replacement and purchase of equipment. I assist library staff and patrons with computer use questions and problems. I also manage the library's telephone and security systems and train staff in their use, and work at the Reference Desk at least 3 hours a day.

What do you like most about your job?

I'm never confined to my desk. Some days, I never see it!

What's the niftiest technology project you worked on last year?

This was not nifty in the "new and cool" sense, but last year we unexpectedly lost the use of every computer in our building that had Internet access, including our circulation computers. I was able to work with SCLS technicians to restore circulation services and access to our automated system for our staff within 24 hours, which was very satisfying.

What's your favorite website?

Google: <http://www.google.com>
Like a patient grandparent, Google does its best to answer all my questions without pop-up windows or neon banners.

How about your favorite cookie?

Blonde Brownies*

*Visit the MATS website (<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/mats/index.asp>) for the recipes for all of these cookies!