



## **Wisconsin Library Association State Legislative Agenda 2016**

### **Legislative Policy Statements**

#### **The Wisconsin Library Association affirms that:**

- Wisconsin residents value and use libraries for education, business, cultural, and recreational purposes.
- Libraries contribute to the quality of life for Wisconsin residents by providing lifelong learning opportunities.
- Libraries support children and families with early literacy and reading readiness programs.
- Libraries play a key role in independent learning, and both classroom and home based education.
- Library information resources and statewide knowledge network contribute to the state's economic growth, business planning, career development and job seekers.
- Libraries deliver high value at low cost through regional and statewide resource sharing.
- Librarians provide Wisconsin residents with the essential information services they need to succeed at school, at work and in their personal lives.

#### **The Wisconsin Library Association supports state legislative policy that:**

- Ensures all Wisconsin residents have the broadest possible access to information resources and materials.
- Preserves the fundamental principle of publicly-funded free and open access to library materials and services first established by Wisconsin law in 1872.
- Ensures privacy in the use of library materials and services.
- Supports the development of print collections, learning tools and digital resources for libraries of all types.
- Broadens the availability of communications technology for educational and information resources.
- Promotes regional and statewide sharing of library and information resources.
- Provides robust affordable broadband networks for all Wisconsin residents to access technology.
- Supports strong statewide leadership for library development and cooperation.
- Supports sustainable funding of public libraries and public library systems by local governments, counties and the state.
- Provides incentives for library system collaboration and supports policies that encourage reorganizing and consolidating to improve service and increase efficiency and effectiveness.

#### **The Wisconsin Library Association opposes state legislative policy that:**

- Restricts access by Wisconsin residents to information resources and materials.
- Affects local and state taxing options in ways that could have an adverse effect on libraries.
- Intrudes on the privacy of library users.
- Interferes with the right of local public library boards to independently determine local library policy, staffing and services based on community standards and needs.

## **The Wisconsin Library Association supports the following legislative priorities:**

### **Legislative positions that enhance all Wisconsin libraries:**

- Endorsement of publicly-funded free and open access to library materials for all Wisconsin citizens
- Use of the Universal Service Fund for expanded BadgerLink resources and other statewide library services.
- Sufficient, coordinated and affordable networking and Internet access
- Enhanced support for collaborative delivery of library materials, shared on-line catalogs and electronic databases and other services offered to all Wisconsin Residents through regional public library systems.
- Support of traditional service levels for statewide resource contracts: Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, Cooperative Children's Book Center, and inter-loan from the Milwaukee Public Library and the University of Wisconsin collections
- Sustained support for the Wisconsin State Law Library and the Milwaukee County and Dane County Legal Resource Libraries.
- Access to government publications and documents

### **Legislative positions that enhance Wisconsin public libraries:**

- Restoration of public library systems aids to 2010 level
- Funding that provides citizen access to electronically published materials on a wide range of subjects from home, work or school
- Increase allowable revenue limits and transportation aid for local governments to enable sustained and stable support for all Wisconsin public libraries regardless of size or location

### **Legislative positions that enhance Wisconsin publicly supported academic libraries:**

- Robust funding for the UW System libraries to enable them to support research, teaching and learning on their campuses
- Full funding for the Wisconsin Historical Society Library
- Additional funding for shared electronic library collections that support research and advanced study across the UW System

### **Legislative positions that enhance Wisconsin school and institutional libraries:**

- Appropriate use of the Common School Fund for strong school library programs under the guidance of certified school library media professionals
- Updated recommendations for school library media center resources and physical design
- Employment of school library media specialist and appropriate support staff in every school
- Employment of instructional technology professional and appropriate support staff in every school
- Extend the protective status provided to correctional institution officers and sergeants to civilian staff (librarians, teachers, social and health care workers)