

**Recollection Wisconsin DPLA Service Hub  
Governing Board Quarterly Meeting  
May 10, 2019**

**Board members present:** Ann Hanlon (UW-Milwaukee), Paul Hedges (proxy for Matt Blessing, Wisconsin Historical Society), Lee Konrad (UW-Madison), Scott Mandernack (UW-Milwaukee), Stef Morrill (WiLS), Gail Murray (proxy for John DeBacher, Department of Public Instruction), Judith Pinger (Milwaukee Public Library)

**Project manager:** Emily Pfothenhauer, WiLS

**Guests:** Erin Hughes, WiLS

### **Mukurtu Midwest project update**

Mukurtu is a digital collections platform designed for indigenous and tribal institutions. Washington State University has had a series of NEH and IMLS grants to develop this platform and extend the use of it. WiLS and UW-iSchool are a partner on the current grant. The intent is to extend the use of the platform by partnering with regional institutions. The unique thing about this platform is that you can control access at the item level so that objects are exposed to those who should have access and when they should have access to it. Each item can have a different sharing protocol.

E. Hughes provided an update. One thing that is different about this project is the focus on the indigenous communities. It is a grassroots project working with all communities and the goals of the local project, which shape what the Mukurtu site looks like. Mukurtu is structured as a safe-keeping place for these items they are preserving. In March 2017, E. Pfothenhauer and E. Hughes visited the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation at Washington State University where the project began. There were 4 other hubs: Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, and Yale. Since then, they added an Australia hub.

In the first year, the focus was community outreach. They talked to various tribes around the Midwest and institutions working with indigenous materials, like state historical societies and anthropology museums. They were also present at Culture Keepers meetings, which bring people together in a networking environment to build relationships and develop projects. This initiative is led by the iSchool and Omar Poler.

In the second year, the focus was on training. There was interest in the platform, but people needed to better understand the platform. There were three larger training sessions at UW-Madison, the Minnesota Historical Society, and Evanston History Museum. These sessions furthered the relationships and got people using the content management system. Washington State University was looking for user stories of how people are using the software, and these training sessions led to the stories that helped improve the system. People began asking for their own instances of Mukurtu, and E. Hughes started to work with specific communities on their projects.

Each year, Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museum (TLAM) classes from the iSchool had Mukurtu projects. Students were trained and then went to communities to help them work on a specific project. The 2018/19 class worked at the Ho Chunk Language Division, digitizing materials and creating a

metadata guide. One student, Andrea Cudworth, continued to work with them and she began working through WiLS to lead this project during 18/19. She is currently working with the 2019 TLAM class, who continued this work. A few things are public, but it is intended primarily for the tribe members.

While this work was happening, E. Hughes was still out talking about the project. Over the years, many people have learned what this platform is and awareness has grown significantly.

Most of the communities that have been reached are underserved communities and it's had a good impact. Giving the community so much control of their materials have made them feel empowered. There are four projects currently underway: Ho Chunk Language Division, Teejop Community History Project, Traditional Ecological Knowledge work led by Patty Loew at Northwestern, and Indigenous Seed Keepers Network.

Beyond those four projects, there are a lot of institutions that are interested in continuing the work and in various stages of moving forward.

The grant will be ending in September. E. Pfothenauer and O. Poler are going to Washington State University in September to talk about the grant, the successes and failures, and sustainability. There are a few different routes for this to continue: there is strong intent from Washington State University to continue to support the hub work and they are proposing other funding from grants; there may be opportunities for local or regional funding from university departments in Wisconsin. As always, this is the big question. The project needs staffing. Continuing the TLAM class is key to continuing to work with students. The support that E. Hughes has been able to do to train and then help people with the platform is needed.

The Ho Chunk Language Division has committed a staff person to continue the work started by the grant. HLD staff has repeatedly talked about how grateful they are for the project and the TLAM students.

There are challenges for these communities due to infrastructure. For example, because of minimal local IT support, hosting is a challenge. Right now, the hosting is happening through Washington State. Some already have cloud-hosted instances of their own. Cloud hosting is not a comfortable thing because they want to maintain control, but they don't have the internal support or capacity to host it themselves. The tribal communities do seem to be comfortable with a trusted partner hosting if there were appropriate MOUs. There have been conversations about the sensitivity of video and hosting videos commercially. There are not a lot of low-cost alternatives.

The system is based on Drupal. Washington State University manages the Plateau Peoples' Web portal ([plateauportal.libraries.wsu.edu](http://plateauportal.libraries.wsu.edu)) for multiple nations in southeast Washington. The parallel would be how Milwaukee Public Library hosts ContentDM for multiple institutions. It is possible to have multiple tribal communities have their own community within a single portal. It has a lot of granularity.

### **Governance structure**

The concept of the scope of Recollection Wisconsin has come up in many different ways. Mukurtu is a great example. Recollection Wisconsin can lend a lot of expertise and support to the project even though it's outside of the aggregation/DPLA piece. We can partner/lead in other projects that are not the service hub roles. We're already doing this in a lot of ways. Is it productive for Recollection

Wisconsin as a consortium to broaden the net? There are other things that are in support of the DPLA aggregation but that are doing a lot of other things. The CCDC project is another example where Recollection Wisconsin is helping with digital preservation and stewardship, even though the end goal in not all cases is getting content into DPLA. Is there the potential of broadening the scope?

It's building the infrastructure for future contributions along the line. Expanding will have different levels of impact, but we can help advance in different areas, which is important and useful. The broader scope of bringing in other institutions is seeding the ground. It also aligns with the notion that there is great deal of interest for underrepresented communities and some of the work speaks to that. In some cases, it may not be the end goal to get things into the DPLA collection, but it's supporting good practices and stewardship and access where appropriate for cultural heritage institutions. There is a two-way education process as part of this. Projects need initial support to build confidence and get going and that can be a role for Recollection Wisconsin, too.

If that is the case that we are defining the consortium more broadly, there are additional questions about funding and governance.

If the consortium is managing a broader range of initiatives, we need other voices at the table, for example other library stakeholders/leaders (SRLAAW, WPLC), tribal communities, local historical societies. Adding additional representation on the board may mean needing to stop tying representation on the board to in-kind contributions. S. Morrill indicated that WiLS will step off of the Board, although continue to act as project manager. WiLS has influence on the consortium as the project manager and will still provide leadership and guidance. Acting as both the project manager and a board member introduces the potential for conflicts of interest, and WiLS is not a consumer/creator of digital libraries in the same way the other governing partners are.

In conjunction with the Board, we will need to think about the Steering Committee and what role it should play going forward. If there is additional representation on the governing board, does that change the nature of the Steering Committee? The Steering Committee has some working groups in development and additional ones could form. This is the fourth year of the governing board so it's a good time to reflect. We will return to these issues in more depth in August to make more decisions and recommendations.

It's a good thing for us to think more expansively and to think about bringing more parties of interest to the table. As we get bigger, figuring out expectations and what it will really be and what roles they are in, will take a lot of thinking about what the partners will be. What do we want it to be 3-4 years from now and how do we create the Board to get us there. What is the desired state? It would be good to have the flexibility to start evolving toward that end without having to wait 3-4 years to get to that state.

A strategic planning session with the Board and Steering Committee might be very helpful. We could start planning for that now and hopefully be able to do that in the Fall. We will know more about the long-term funding scenario by Fall. WiLS would have people outside of the Recollection Wisconsin team that could help with strategic planning, and it may make sense to have that outside perspective.

### **Shared storage planning**

*Storage Working Group -- [draft summary of functional requirements](#)*

The Storage Working Group has been formed. P. Hedges, J. Pinger, and A. Hanlon are all a part of it,

along with Scott Prater (UW-Madison) and Vicki Teal Lovely (South Central Library System). There has been one phone meeting and the first project has been prioritizing what a preservation storage platform should do. The next step is to apply these priorities to evaluating some platforms. There are two streams of how to think about this: one is straight-up storage without any preservation actions (Amazon Glacier or a public library system project) and one is preservation service packages (MetaArchive or ContentDM preservation package). It's been a productive conversation so far, and there will be a couple of models to propose to the Board for the August meeting.

### **Budget and funding updates**

There is a significant bump in harvesting and hosting fees because the WISE funding for the public library system digitization kits. Part of the DPI funding is earmarked for the harvesting and hosting fees that has been pre-paid for 30+ collections that are expected to be developed in the next two years.

### **State budget request**

The request from the Wisconsin Library Association to add Recollection Wisconsin as a fifth statewide service contract within the Dep't of Public Instruction budget was not included in the executive budget. Instead, the governor's budget recommends the transition of program costs for Recollection Wisconsin from grants to inclusion under the state funded WISELearn resource portal to ensure that the state's history moves sustainably into the future. Budget language: "The Governor recommends supporting public library digital archiving efforts by expanding WISELearn authority."

WLA's Library development and Legislative Committee added the funding request back in to their proposal to the Joint Finance Committee, to build on the momentum and positive response the program received from JFC members.

Post-meeting update (following JFC meeting May 23): Recollection Wisconsin was not added into the JFC budget as a fifth statewide resource contract as WLA proposed and capacity will need to be found within the current WISELearn resource portal appropriation.

### **[NHPRC Archives Collaboratives grant](#)**

We had another successful grant proposal. Matt Blessing brought this opportunity to our attention. NHPRC has a new funding category, planning to support archives collaboratives. We will receive \$22,000 for planning, specifically to work with local historical societies. It will run from July – December this year. V. Tobias will do the work and will work with the Field Services Division to do a survey of local historical societies to understand their capacity, focus group sessions, and larger strategic planning sessions to understand ways to better support local historical societies in building and maintaining digital collections. This is a planning grant, and it sets us up to submit for an implementation grant.

### **Report from DPLAFest**

DPLAFest was held in mid-April. The day prior was the member network day. There was a nice Wisconsin contingent present. A. Hanlon is the vice-chair of the Network Council, and worked to lead the member network day. Nice job, Ann!

For the member network meeting day, there were updates from the DPLA staff talking about some of their initiatives including a new tech initiative called DPLA Custom, which looks a bit like DPLA Local. They also talked about the e-book project and at the regular meeting, they did a big announcement of a partnership with Lyris and the New York Public Library. They also gave some updates on the strategic planning process. On the member day, they had some breakout sessions to provide feedback on the

strategic plan. It's very high-level at this point. There were also un-conference breakout sessions to talk about what would be helpful for the members to talk about.

The three topics that got the most discussion were:

- a. How the e-book platform track will impact the network in general in terms of both staffing, governance, and attention
- b. New tech initiatives: the strategic planning document emphasized this and the membership felt it should be articulated more narrowly.
- c. How to bring underrepresented groups onboard and identify gaps on collection generally.

[Network day notes](#) are available.

Some of the concerns and questions we've talked about, like audience building, are the concerns echoed by other hubs. These topics are being thought about at the bigger level. The groups talking about outreach to K12s still have concern because of the staff cuts by DPLA.

The ebook conversations were interesting. There were still a lot of questions about what it has to do with the cultural heritage component. The hope is that it will become clearer as the audience builds for that service. It will be interesting how they message out beyond the current group. These are two groups that don't overlap in audience.

One thing that has come up from the member network is a question of whether the membership fees are going to support the ebook initiative. The answer is no: it is a separately funded and staffed initiative. The intended outcome is that it may be able to support some of the cultural heritage work.

The new tech initiative is very vague so they can have the ability to take on projects as they arise. DPLA Custom would be a way for topic or thematic based interface. Updating the ingest is something also on the roadmap.

The [Strategic roadmap](#) was shared at the meeting. It's been evolving and will continue to evolve. There are three areas of focus: cultural heritage, ebooks, and new tech initiatives. The Advisory Council meets next week with the charge of taking the input from the member meeting and the strategic roadmap and identify some actions. [Strategy FAQs](#) are also available.

E. Pfothauer and A. Hanlon will both be at the Advisory Council meeting next week and can bring back feedback related to the strategic roadmap.

It was nice to show off the Recollection Wisconsin DPLA Local site. E. Pfothauer participated in a breakout about it. Tennessee, Florida, and Missouri are the next ones in line and others are strongly interested. We have officially moved over to the DPLA Local site and the UW-Madison site is being decommissioned. It went seamlessly.

Vicki Tobias did a session about the CCDC program that was well-attended and well-received and many felt it was a model that could be replicated in their state for digital preservation and in other areas.

There were interesting presentations about things that were only tangentially related to DPLA like a session from MIT Press that has a platform called PubPub to gather feedback about a manuscript and then MIT Press has first right of refusal for publishing the content. Another session that was interesting

was Seattle and Minneapolis local music curation projects. The Wisconsin Music Archive would be an interesting partner.

Danah Boyd of Data and Society's plenary ([transcript](#)) was very interesting. Rahm Emanuel came and talked about his work with Chicago schools and libraries.

The next DPLAFest will be in 2021. There will be a network member meeting in 2020.

### **Review of [WiLS consortium management contract for 2019-2020](#)**

WiLS presented their annual consortium management contract. It's basically the same with some cleaning up of language around grants and broadening some scope of services beyond DPLA. The amount is missing, so S. Morrill will fix that and send to S. Mandernack for signature.

### **Updates**

#### *Steering Committee*

The Steering Committee is really interested in educational outreach and has talked about the need to form a workgroup or committee that would involve educators. There is no proposal to form it yet, but it is being discussed. The Steering Committee has been talking about yearbooks, the privacy concerns and images that would be viewed as inappropriate. The group would like to come up with recommendations/policy to address these questions.

#### *AMIA (Association of Moving Images Archivists) Community Archiving Workshops*

We are working with AMIA on an IMLS grant for train-the-trainer workshops. The train-the-trainer session will be on in Madison on July 24-25-26. Participants will work with an audiovisual collection from UW Archives. Three regional partners will be attending and then offering training sessions in their areas (Milwaukee Public Museum, UW-Eau Claire, and Outagamie County Museum). There is space to send someone to participate in the train-the-trainer or regional workshops if anyone is interested.

#### *CCDC*

The second cohort is this summer. There will be 10 sites, students, and mentors. They will all be coming to Madison May 21/22/23 and then they will do their work locally over the summer. Many people from Board institutions are acting as mentors.

Our next meeting is August 9<sup>th</sup> in Milwaukee. The date seems to be a problem, so it may make sense to move the meeting later and make it the Strategic Planning day with a 1-hour phone call between. WHS is happy to host a future meeting.