

Director's Report June 25, 2025

Welcome! Thank you for joining us here at Thos. Fleschner Memorial Library in Birch Run, and thank you to Jeanette for hosting and giving us the chance to tour your library!

Plan of Service 2025-2026

It is that time of year again! In July, I will share a Google form and ask you to fill out the information concerning the services that White Pine provides. I would like you to rank them in order from most important to least important. I will compile the results, and this document will be the basis for our Plan of Service 2025-2026.

Rides Renewals through MCLS

Information about RIDES from MCLS.

The RIDES renewals will remain the same, and the FY26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) RIDES invoices will go out in June. A prorated refund would be issued in the event of a RIDES cancellation. If there is no MeLCat as of October, there will still be a need for RIDES to get materials back to their lending libraries. However, not all RIDES libraries are MeLCat libraries, and RIDES is also used for non-MeLCat materials.

As a reminder, each library needs to take care of its renewal with MCLS. White Pine reimburses for 3 days of delivery, but not until member invoices go out in October. In October, we bill members for services (your per capita x state aid rate) and then subtract the three days of delivery cost as a reimbursement. If you have questions, please let me know.

State Budget

I haven't heard much lately, just that nothing has been proposed to replace the IMLS funding.

IMLS

- The State House proposed budget does not include the IMLS grant of 5.6 million. The Senate version does. The final state budget must include the 5.6 million for the state to receive the money from the feds.
- LOM has received an "allotment notice" that the grants-to-states will be dispersed at nearly 100% in FY 25/26. An allotment notice is considered a "grant contract."
- IMLS is allotting money that has been approved by Congress in the 24/25 continuing resolutions. Those approved allotments are for 2 years. FY 25/26 being the second year.
- LOM is reasonably confident we will get the grant in 25/26. Things that could go wrong: the state doesn't include the grant in their final budget, or the Trump appointee who leads IMLS decides we are not going to be funded (lawsuit ensues)
- Money comes to the state as reimbursements, and 75% of the money is spent in October and will be ready for reimbursement at the very beginning of the FY if things go as they have in the past.
- The Mel database contracts end in September 2026. Usually, now would be the time to do RFP's for vendors, but that is on hold for now.
- There is not a lot of confidence we will see money past September 2026, but that gives library land time to construct plan B for Mel and MelCat.

Wage Comparison Using Mi Counting Opinions Data

A member library shared with me that they had done a Salary/Wage query with the MI Counting Opinions information from State Aid reports. Based on information reported, the state average for salary/wage is 63% of total expenses. For our Cooperative, it averages 58%. I then broke it down by libraries in our Cooperative based on Class size.

Class 1-62%

Class 2-55%

Class 3-63%

Class 4-71%

Class 5-36%

Only Class 4 libraries in our Cooperative are above the state average. This is good data to use when you approach your Boards about a pay increase or discuss a salary review for you and your staff. On the MI Counting Opinions portal, you can run all sorts of reports and glean information like this. Joe Hamlin has a tutorial right on the site to show you step by step how to run reports.

GIS Project

There are a few members who haven't contacted Amber at Lakeland regarding their service area. This project will be great when completed, so if you haven't reached out to her, please do so ASAP. The project deadline is the end of June.

OverDrive

The next major release of Libby will introduce a new feature called **Content Controls**. Content Controls allow users to configure what library content appears in Libby, for themselves or their family, based on the *intended audience* for each book, audiobook, and magazine in the library collection. **This feature is optional**. When content controls are in effect, they apply to every library in the user's Libby app.

Audience choices

There is a new action named **Content Controls** in the Settings section of the Menu. To access it, the user must first add a library card to Libby. Within Content Controls, users can make decisions about how Libby displays "mature content" available at their libraries: whether it appears in deep search results, whether it can be sampled or borrowed, and whether cover images are visible or redacted. Restrictions that a user selects for how Libby displays "mature content" can also be applied to "general content" and "young adult" titles (except for cover image redaction, which is limited to mature content).

Simplified presets

For common use cases, users can simply select a **preset**:



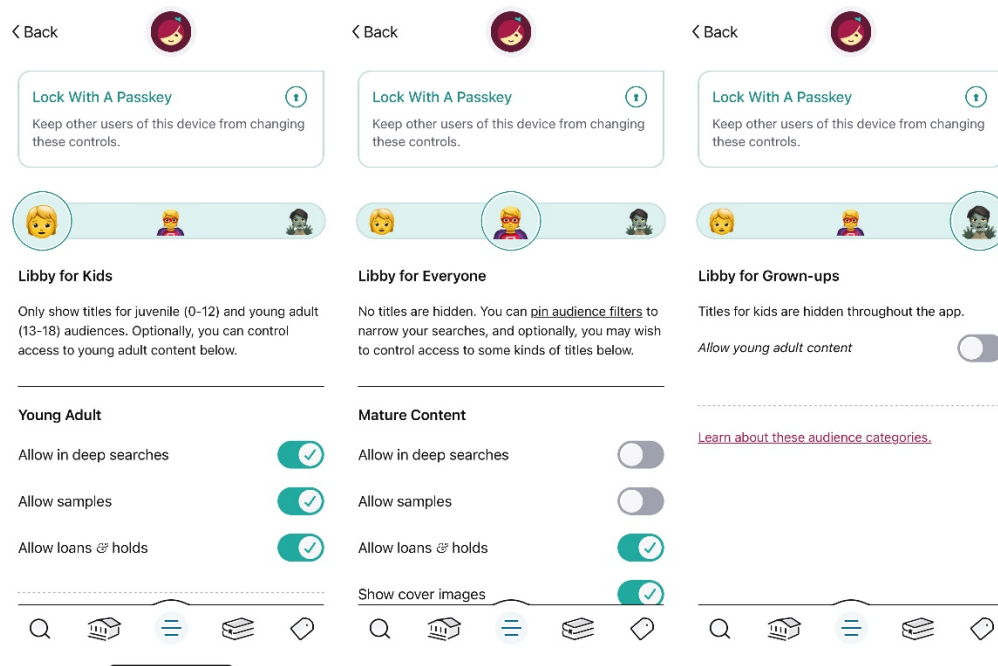
Libby for Everyone works just like Libby does today, with no restrictions by audience except those users manually choose to apply.



Libby for Kids shows only titles for “juvenile” and “young adult” audiences when searching and browsing in Libby. Users can apply deep search, sample, and circulation restrictions to young adult titles if they wish.



Libby for Grown-ups is for people who borrow “general content” and “mature content” titles only. It prevents kids' titles from appearing at their libraries in Libby. Users who enjoy young adult titles can re-enable that content using a toggle within the preset.



Note: Screens are subject to change before the release.

Content Controls and Passkeys

Users can choose to lock Content Controls with a passkey. We introduced recovery passkeys to Libby in 2024. Now, a user can use an existing passkey (or create a new one) to lock their Content Controls choices on a specific device.

Default behavior

We are changing the default behavior of the app for users who have not yet added a library card to Libby.

- "Mature content" titles do not appear in deep searches until they add a card.
- "Mature content" titles cannot be sampled until they add a card.

Timing

We expect this Libby release to go live the week of June 23. For the release, we will have helpful articles on Libby Help and a training video about Content Controls available.

RLA (Reciprocal Lending Agreement) with OverDrive

RLA members have begun meeting quarterly with OverDrive. This has been helpful, especially when dealing with holds. OverDrive also shared information about borrows and holds patrons from each Content Group allow. As you may already know, our Fuel Your Mind Collection allows for up to 5 borrows and 5 holds per patron. Some other Content Groups have different parameters. Though you might like to see them listed.

Content Group	Checkout Limit	Holds Limit
Download Destination	6	6
Genesee District Library	7	7
Great Lakes Digital	6	4
Lakeland Library Cooperative	10	15
Metro Net	10	15
Mideastern MI Library Cooperative	12	12
MCLS	10	15
St. Clair County Library System	5	5
Southwest MI Library Cooperative	7	7
Suburban Library Cooperative	10	7
Traverse Area District Library	15	10
Up North Digital	5	5
WPLC (Fuel Your Mind)	5	5
Woodland Library Cooperative	8	8

ASLDefined

The promotion for libraries goes through the end of June, if you are interested.

ASLdeafined

Just a reminder about ASLdeafined and your free access to check out the product through the end of the month. Special pricing for smaller libraries also expires at the end of June.

A few highlights:

- There are 5 levels of learning, starting with beginner
- There are 90-100 activities per level
- It is authentic language learning, which means all interpreters are deaf
- It is web-based, so access is 24/7/365 via phone or computer
- The dictionary has over 19,000 vocabulary words
- The content is being added to and updated all the time
- The subscription includes public performance rights (could host a “Learn ASL” group using your community room)

1-4,999 cardholders \$499

5,000-10,000 cardholders \$599

➤ 10,000 cardholders \$799

One-time setup fee \$39

** Pricing is good through June 30, 2025.

ALL STAFF, ALL ACCESS LEARNING LINK:

Get started right away using the link below. This provides full access to ASLdeafined's learning platform to share with all library staff.

<https://www.asldeafined.com/sign-up/student?code=J57AC6>

Reimbursable Services Support Program Grants

So far, 17 WPLC members have submitted receipts for the Reimbursable Services Support Program Grants. Ten have used all their allotment of \$900. Most requested funding for Programming/CE (\$7,408.93), next was IT/Tech Support (\$4,941.25), and legal services (\$2,363.50) [Submission Form](#). As a reminder, this is currently available for the WPLC FY, which ends September 2025. So, the deadline to submit receipts is September 19, 2025. Due to uncertainty in library funding, this program may not be available next FY.

Library Association Reimbursement - Annually, WPLC will reimburse member libraries for library association dues up to a certain amount.

<https://wplc.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/services-and-forms/Reimbursement-form-2025.pdf>

Advocacy Day

Alison and I attended Advocacy Day in April and shared how important MelCat and Mel are to residents of MI.

Member news:

- **New Directors:** Please welcome Seth Randall, Pigeon District Library Director; Heather Shepherd, Interim Director, Sebawaing Township Library; and Lisa Smith, Temporary Director, Elk Township Library.
- **Bad Axe Area District Library:** I attended the Bad Axe Area District Library Renovation Celebration and Summer Reading Kick-Off. The library looks amazing, and the community was out in full force! Also, Briynne and I recorded the latest MLA "Chapter & Verse" podcast yesterday. It should be out mid-July.

[Google Doc Programming Listing](#)

Please add performers and contact information.

Your Library Policies

Reviewing and updating policies is important. Check out these resources if you need guidance.

WPLC: [Resources tab](#)

LOM: [Niche Academy Library Policies](#). If this link does not work, go to the [Continuing Ed](#) page, click on Niche Staff Skills, and then search library policies. [Administrative Resources](#)

MLA: [Policies Webinar](#). This webinar is wonky at the beginning. It appears to start about the 1-minute mark.

ALA: [Library Policies Guidelines](#)

Kent District Library: [KDL Policies](#)

MI Right to Read: [MLA's Intellectual Freedom Tool Kit](#)

Housekeeping Reminders...

Member Directory: Just a quick reminder that if your information has changed, like email, hours, etc., please let Alison know. [Member Directory](#)