

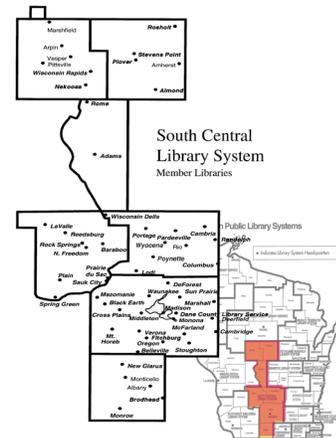


# Libraries and Systems

## South Central Library System

The South Central Library System (SCLS) is one of 16 systems in Wisconsin, and serves 54 public libraries and 868,604 residents in Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk and Wood Counties. SCLS provides services like:

- Delivery (the red trucks that bring you materials from other libraries),
- LINKcat (the online tool through which you reserve library materials from your own library, or other libraries within SCLS),
- technology support for about 1,450 library computers,
- youth services and outreach support,
- graphics/marketing/printing,
- continuing education for library staff,
- building design services,
- library administration/management/law support,
- web design services and support,
- cooperative purchasing.



A primary benefit of system membership is participation in the shared library catalog LINKcat. This online catalog makes the collection of each library available to the residents of all other LINKcat libraries. In 2020 almost 4.9 million physical items and about 1.62 million digital items were checked out by people who are registered patrons of our 47 LINKcat libraries. Other SCLS member libraries circulated 172,179 physical items and about 56,000 digital items, bringing the 2020 total of physical items checked out to more than 5.064 million. At a conservative estimate of \$20 average price per item, this represents more than \$101 million in value to patrons for this service alone because they could borrow books instead of purchasing them. Circulation in 2020 was down due to COVID.

Also valuable to libraries is the SCLS Delivery Service, which moves library materials from library to library within SCLS. In 2020, our red truck delivery service carried about 6.96 million items among SCLS member libraries making 14,500 stops over a distance of 2455,000 miles. These 2020 numbers are down due to the COVID pandemic.

SCLS member libraries also have access to a robust continuing education program. In 2020, more than 4,645 staff members (almost double 2019) from all types of libraries attended the 52 continuing education programs SCLS offered. Many of these programs were webinars that were recorded for later viewing, and the 330 recordings in our archive have been viewed 18,681 times since May 2013. In 2020, SCLS also provided four sections of OverDrive Support Courses (online), 2 in-person workshops (pre-pandemic) for 18 SCLS library staff members, and 2 inservice workshops (online) for 49 library staff members. In addition, during the library closures, SCLS hosted 37 Zoom check-in meetings with Directors, Adult Services, Youth Services, and State Agency Librarians and met with 819 library staff members.

Working together through system membership, the impact of library resources and services are enhanced and magnified to help serve all residents of the seven-county area. Systems and their member libraries have always been on the cutting edge with cooperative agreements and resource sharing which greatly reduce duplication of services.

The relationship between public libraries and the South Central Library System helps ensure that libraries are able to provide quality programs and services to their residents, which is the mission of our system. It is a dynamic relationship that has grown over the past 40 years, and one that will serve libraries well as we continue to work together to meet the needs of library customers.

Contact: Mark E. Ibach, Consulting Services Coordinator, (608) 246-5612 or [mibach@scls.info](mailto:mibach@scls.info)

*Serving libraries in Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk & Wood Counties*