

# Technology Report

October, 2022

## Grants

We are still waiting for approval of the second round of ECF mobile hotspot and Chromebook grants.

We have expended the funds from the 2021 LSTA Sparsity Grant. These funds (\$10,143) were used to support cabling for libraries receiving lockers or external wireless access points and also to fund wireless printing projects at libraries.

Most of the 2022 one-to-one grants to member libraries (using LSTA, ARPA and SCLS state aid) are complete. We are still waiting for some charging stations and external wireless access points. We also need to work with libraries that requested mobile hotspots.

## SCLS O365 email update

Microsoft retired Basic Authentication for SCLS on October 10, 2022. No issues were reported by libraries.

## Drupal 9 migration

We are past the halfway mark! As of October 31, we have 26 sites live on Drupal 9, and 6 sites in progress.

Live Drupal sites (October): [ARP](#), [CSP](#), [ORE](#), [PIT](#)

We've scheduled the rest of the migration slots through the end of December, and in mid-November Kerri will begin contacting staff at remaining sites to schedule them for migrations in Jan/Feb/Mar of 2023: ACL, AMH, BRD, LAV, MAZ, MTH, NEK, SGR, VER, VES, WYO

## Server updates

Some servers hosting public-facing services (proxy services, authentication, iboss scripting, Don't Miss Lists, MyPC) received additional updates on Wednesday, October 12. No issues were reported.

## Content Filtering Solution

SCLS has begun piloting the new filtering system at three libraries: Black Earth, Monona, and Madison Central. We are now collecting information from the remaining libraries, preparing for full migration target in mid to late November.

## Data Services

**Library service & salary data comparisons:** I compiled a report spreadsheet for Darla Allen at the Charles & JoAnn Lester Library in Nekoosa, comparing wage rate data between Nekoosa staff and staff at peer libraries. The report included additional customization to focus on salaries for Grade 1 Library Directors throughout Wisconsin.

**Dane County patron mapping:** As part of ongoing development for a data visualization project requested by the Madison Public Library Data Team, I wrote a short R script to retrieve population and demographic data from the US Census API. I used the script to collect the most recent data for all Dane County census tracts, gathered from the 2020 Decennial Census and the 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Using Tableau, I've incorporated this data into an interactive dashboard designed to facilitate easy comparisons between each tract, the MPL service area to which it belongs, the City of Madison overall, and the rest of the Dane County population. Still to be determined is the most efficient way to present this information to meet the MPL Data Team's needs.

**SCLS Database Team meeting:** On October 13<sup>th</sup>, I led the SCLS Database Team during their semi-annual meeting. Most of the discussion consisted of updates on various database-related projects from the staff working on them. Topics covered included:

- resumption of bi-weekly check-in meetings with WiLS to monitor the end-of-year database subscription and renewal process;
- progress on resolving technical details of the McMillan Memorial Library subscription to LinkedIn Learning;
- and a report on the process for integrating the Overdrive API with LINKcat.

- Tim Drexler

## Scripting and Reports Team

**Python training:** In early October, Brian Hahn and I attended a week-long online training course for the Python programming language. The course was originally intended for beginning programmers; however, the instructor allowed us to quickly review some of the more basic topics and then skip to the intermediate and advanced content. By week's end, we had completed most of the learning modules from two classes rather than the one class we had planned on, at no extra cost. The combination of brushing up on existing knowledge and exposure to unfamiliar content will give both of us a solid base from which we can expand the use of automation in routine processes.

- Tim Drexler