Useful Definitions for New Library Directors and Trustees at Southwest Wisconsin Library System Libraries

SWLS or Wisconsin Specific:

PLAC = Public Librarian Advisory Committee. This committee exists to assist SWLS in planning state-mandated services, including technology.

SWLS Technology Committee: committee composed of 9 member library representatives, the SWLS Director and the SWLS Desktop Support and Graphic Design consultant. This group focuses on issues concerning the technology services provided to member libraries and looking ahead to new technologies.

NetSouthwest: name of the consortium of 27 member public libraries that share an integrated library system (ILS).

NetSouthwest Director's Council: committee composed of one representative, usually the director, from each participating member library. This committee addresses issues concerning the integrated library system (ILS) and resource sharing.

ABC = Audio Book Circuit: a rotating collection of audiobooks to 16 participating libraries who pay a yearly fee to support the purchase of new materials for the collection.

SWAL = Southwest Wisconsin Association of Libraries: This association is separate from SWLS. It has members from public, school, academic and special libraries in the 5-county area of SWLS. A business meeting and program is held every fall.

WISCAT: the statewide online union catalog used by many libraries around the state of Wisconsin for interlibrary loan (ILL) outside of public library system borders.

WiscNet: a membership organization whose members include schools, universities, public library systems. It provides a variety of services. This is the internet service provider for SWLS and 23 of its member libraries through the SWLS network.

Badgerlink: BadgerLink is a project of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning (DLTCL). Its goal is to provide access to quality online information resources for Wisconsin residents in cooperation with the state's public, school, academic, and special libraries and Internet Service Providers.

Division for Libraries and Technology (DLT): The Division at the Dept. of Public Instruction (DPI) that serves libraries.

It includes:

Public Library Development Team **(PLD)** which provides leadership, advocacy, assistance, planning, coordination, and funding for the improvement of public libraries and public library systems so that all Wisconsin residents have equitable access to information.

Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning (RLL) which provides reference and interlibrary loan referral services, loans materials from the collection, promotes and provides staffing for AskAway virtual reference services, develops online resource sharing tools such as WISCAT, BadgerLInk, the Wisconsin Digital Archives, and other online resources, and manages statewide contracts.

Wisconsin does not have a state "library".

WISPUBLIB: a listserv that acts as a venue for discussion on public library issues of interest to Wisconsin's library community. One can subscribe to the list by visiting: http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/pld/wispublib.html.

Badgernet Converged Network (BCN) & TEACH:
The **BCN** is Wisconsin's statewide network serving all 72 counties by providing wide area network (WAN), Internet transport and video applications to state government and educational entities in Wisconsin. The BCN also provides network services to municipalities and other governmental entities such as Tribal nations, technical colleges and public and private K-12 schools in various locations in the state.

Technology for **E**ducational **Ach**ievement (**TEACH**) is a program administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Enterprise Technology. TEACH subsidizes much of the cost to provide telecommunications access (*e.g.* data lines and video links) to eligible schools, libraries, and educational institutions.

TEACH customers are part of the BadgerNet Converged Network (BCN) which is a statewide telecommunications network.

If you have a T-1 line, then you are part of the BCN and TEACH.

General Library Terms:

Bibliographic record : a description of an individual item in a collection. Lists the author, title, publishing information, and other data that identifies the item.

Call Number - A number, such as a Dewey Decimal Number that appears on the spine label of a nonfiction book and is used to identify its location and retrieve the item.

Dewey Decimal System: A hierarchical system for classifying books and other library materials by subject

Genre - Forms or types of materials, such as science fiction, romance, biography, bibliography, or large type books.

Hold or Reserve: a process by which a patron can be placed in "line" to get an item that is currently checked out. Also refers to the item itself when it is being held for a patron.

Holdings: items owned by each individual library.

ILS = integrated library system: software that computerizes check in and check out functions of circulation as well as patron registration and the online catalog.

ILL = interlibrary loan: a service whereby a user of one library can borrow books or receive photocopies of documents that are owned by another library.

ISBN - International Standard Book Number. Most published books have a unique ISBN.

ISSN - International Standard Serial Number. Most magazines and journals have a unique ISSN.

LSTA = Library Services and Technology Act Federal funding for libraries in several areas -- technology, interlibrary cooperation, literacy, etc., and for state library agencies.

MARC - An acronym for "Machine Readable Cataloging Record." The MARC standard comprises "tags," "indicators," and "delimiters" to identify and separate information in the "bibliographic" or "authority" records stored in the library's computer database. "Bibliographic" records contain information about a work (such as a book or DVD) including the call number, date of publication, publisher, etc. "Authority" records contain the "authoritative" or "official" form of an author's name, the title of a work or a subject heading as determined by an agency such as the Library of Congress.

OPAC - Online Public Access Catalog. Our web based Online Catalog is an OPAC.

Periodical: a term used to describe magazines, newspapers and journals

Reference Book - A reference book is one that is meant to be used inside the library. Unlike a circulating book, it cannot normally be checked out.

 YA =Young Adult - Common term for library users between the ages of 12 and 18. Is also used to designate collections for that age group.

Technology Terms:

WAN = Wide Area Network: is a telecommunication network that covers a broad area, like the SWLS network that connects member libraries to the BCN and each other.

LAN = Local Area Network: is a computer network that interconnects computers in a limited area such as home, school, computer laboratory or office building. Your computers, printers, router, switch, etc. form a LAN in your library.