

GROWING WISCONSIN READERS NEW MEDIA TRAINING 2015



Training Description and Purpose

Offered in 2015, the Growing Wisconsin Readers New Media Training was designed to build capacity within Wisconsin's youth services librarian community to support new media offerings for young children and their families. By offering this statewide training, Wisconsin hoped to continue to be at the forefront of moving young learners forward in the digital age. "New media" can be described as the ever-evolving software (e.g. apps) and hardware (e.g. tablets) that are radically influencing the childhood experience. The New Media Training was designed to assist Wisconsin youth services librarians in the integration of new media into new and existing library collections, programs, and services. Professionals from the Little eLit network facilitated the online and in person training for 24 participants.

Upon completion of the training, youth services librarians were more informed and empowered regarding the intersection of young children, new media, and libraries. In addition to enhancing their own practice, participants also benefitted from direct and maintained communication with the participant cohort and Little eLit trainers. Following the training, participants and trainers reported on the experience at the 2015 Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference. Furthermore, participants were tasked with serving as "digital docents" in the Wisconsin youth services community by sharing professional tips, ideas, and recommendations through online and in person channels such as the Wisconsin Youth Services Showcase or regional workshops.

The following participants completed the training:

- Denise Chojnacki, Rhinelander District Library
- Ann Cooksey, Appleton Public Library
- Maria Dietrich, Hedberg Public Library
- Terry Ehle, Lester Public Library
- Elissa Ewert, Beaver Dam Community Library
- Jeffrey Gold, Milwaukee Public Library
- Katie Guzek, Brown County Library
- Beth Hays, Ruth Culver Community Library
- Ann Herrmann, Manitowoc Public Library
- Lyn Hokenstad, Sturm Memorial Library
- Georgia Jones, Carleton A. Friday Memorial Library
- Judy Jones, U.S.S. Liberty Memorial Public Library

- Lara Lakari, Marinette County Consolidated Public Library Service
- Beth Lokken, Door County Library
- Jessi Peterson, Chippewa Falls Public Library
- Rebecca Pfile, Endeavor Public Library
- Caitlin Schaffer, Oconomowoc Public Library
- Holly Storck-Post, Monroe Public Library
- Elizabeth Timmins, Muehl Public Library
- Elizabeth Tubman, Elisha D. Smith Public Library
- Michelle Veeneman, Belleville Public Library
- Jenny Wegener, Pewaukee Public Library
- Shawn Wolf, Kenosha Public Library

The following is a description provided as part of the training application process in 2015.

Training Instructors and Framework

Little eLit is a nationally recognized crowd-sourced, grass-roots professional learning network in the field of young children, new media, and libraries. For more information about Little eLit, visit LittleeLit.com or view their [one minute video trailer](#). Cen Campbell, founder of Little eLit, and Carisa Kluver, creator of Digital Storytime, will design the training content and materials in conjunction with the trainers. Regional Little eLit member, Carissa Christner, a youth services librarian at Madison Public Library, and Anne Hicks, a Little eLit member and youth services librarian at the Henrietta Public Library in Rochester, New York, will conduct the in person training (workshop) and virtual check-in meetings.

Unlike traditional training models where the trainer arrives, imparts information and leaves, the New Media Training will offer sustained instruction and continual reflection. The training will consist of an intense two day training workshop, two post-workshop virtual check-in meetings, and ongoing communication among trainers, regional point person, and participants. In addition, the Wisconsin training will serve as a national pilot in this new and evolving area of young children, new media and libraries; efforts in our state will provide leadership to other states and regions dealing with similar changes in the early childhood landscape.

As part of the workshop, participants will establish goals and projects to establish/enhance new media practices in their public libraries. Two virtual check-in meetings between the participant cohort and trainers will serve to communicate goal progress and to collaboratively trouble-shoot ideas and issues. Goals and projects will be further communicated to the Wisconsin public library at a statewide conference during an open session led by Little eLit trainers, training participants, and the state youth services consultant.

Workshop Topics Overview (subject to change as content, platforms and formats evolve)

Workshop Day 1

- Research, Policy, and Positions: The Digital Shift & Libraries
- New Media: What is it? Advantages & Disadvantages
- eBooks vs. Book Apps
- App Curation, Review resources & "free" apps
- Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR): Early Learning Practices as a model for new media inclusion
- Content creation

Workshop Day 2

- Apps Showcase
- Supporting Caregivers: Joint Media Engagement
- Exploration and Program Development
- The Technical Side (What you need to make it work)
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- New Media Storytime Participant Demonstrations

Training Participants

New Media Training participants will be selected through an online application process administered by the Public Library Development Team at the Department of Public Instruction. Wisconsin public library youth services staff members who regularly offer early literacy programs and services are eligible to apply (no MLS required). Wisconsin communities that are currently experiencing difficult, limited, or minimized early childhood connections are encouraged to identify applicants. The application period will take place in early December 2014. All applicants, regardless of acceptance or wait-list status, will be informed by January 5, 2015.

Participant Costs and Expectations

There is no fee to participate in the training. Participant training costs, single room lodging and meals during the workshop will be covered by the grant.

Each participant must have access to a tablet on the iOS or Android platform, e.g. iPad or Nexus, for the duration of the workshop, and ideally as part of their regular youth services duties. Participants must have an Apple ID or Google Play Account and the ability to download apps to their respective devices. Most of the apps will be free and largely iOS-based (Apple). Participants will need to pay for the purchase of some apps. A recommended app download list will be sent to participants before the workshop so that they can install apps in advance. Total app purchases will be less than \$50.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the workshop; carpooling is encouraged. Participants are expected to take part in the entire two day workshop, the virtual check-in meetings following the workshop, and on-going communication with Little eLit trainers and state youth services consultant. Participants will also be expected to serve as "digital docents" to their Wisconsin youth services peers. Participation in the state conference session about the New Media Training experience is optional, but highly encouraged.

Training Timeline

The workshop will be held at [Heidel House](#) in Green Lake, WI on March 18-20, 2015. Participants need to arrive via their own transportation between 4-7pm on Wednesday, March 18; a welcome reception will be held from 7-8pm. The training will take place from 8am to 8pm on Thursday, March 19 and from 8am to 4pm on Friday, March 20. The two virtual check-in meetings will take place in May and September 2015 (exact dates and times to be determined during the workshop). The cohort will continue to communicate with each other through the summer and early fall. Participants and trainers will report on the New Media Training experience at the Wisconsin Library Association annual conference, November 3-6 in Madison, WI.

Training Coordination

The New Media Training is a professional development component of the Growing Wisconsin Readers early literacy initiative coordinated by the [Youth and Special Services](#) consultant on the [Public Library and Development Team](#) at the [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#). The New Media Training is supported through the [WISELearn](#) project. For more information about Growing Wisconsin Readers, visit [GrowingWisconsinReaders.org](#) or contact Tessa Michaelson Schmidt at tessa.schmidt@dpi.wi.gov.

