



WISCONSIN  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Wisconsin Library Association Thanks Governor Walker and Legislature for Supporting Public Libraries!**

The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) applauds Governor Walker and members of the Legislature for their support of an additional \$1.5 million investment in state aids to Wisconsin's 382 public library locations.

The budget signed by Governor Walker today reflects bipartisan approval of an important investment in public library services by confirming increased funding for a budget line item that supports new technology resources and enhanced services in the areas of broadband access, workforce development, and lifelong learning.

Funding was also maintained at levels included in the Governor's original executive budget for core library services – including Wisconsin's online BadgerLink library, Newsline for the Blind, Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library, the Cooperative Children's Book Center, and statewide inter-library loan access to Milwaukee Public Library and UW-Madison collections.

"Local public library service makes a tremendous difference to citizens seeking reliable Internet access, online assistance for job creators and jobseekers, and lifelong learning programs from early childhood literacy to senior memory cafes," said WLA Executive Director Plumer Lovelace. "We thank Governor Walker and members of the Senate and Assembly for their recognition of and commitment to quality public library services."

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**About WLA**

The Wisconsin Library Association is a professional organization whose membership includes nearly 2,000 librarians, library workers, public library trustees, friends of libraries and business vendors supporting academic, public, school and special libraries. Since the beginning, WLA's mission has been to engage, inspire and advocate for library workers and supporters to improve and promote library services for the people of Wisconsin. Through ongoing, collaborative efforts, members continue to meet the changing needs of their communities, provide resources for all, facilitate lifelong learning and assist entrepreneurs in job creation.