



July 8, 2025

Marni Kuyl, Washington County Assistant County Administrator
Lisa Tattersall, WCCLS Manager

Dear Marni and Lisa,

Throughout the history of our shared library cooperative, the partnership among Washington County and member libraries has been notable for our collective commitment to practicing collaboration and consensus-building in our joint effort to serve local communities and meet broader countywide goals. It has been a robust and rich partnership that has served our county's residents well.

As a member library of Washington County Cooperative Library Services engaged in and committed to the multi-year process to evaluate public library services, funding, and governance in Washington County, we want to convey some concerns about the approach taken thus far to explore centralizing collection management throughout the Cooperative. In recent Tualatin City Council meetings, local elected officials have also expressed concerns about this issue. While this effort is expected to gain efficiencies and reduce costs, we all want to ensure it is done in such a way that minimizes negative impacts and maintains a local connection. We, and our Council, want to ensure the Tualatin Public Library is able to continue achieving our library's mission through how our collection is built and managed.

In the 2024 survey conducted by WCCLS, respondents indicated that selection of materials was the second highest factor (behind location convenience) in choosing which library to visit, and that the local collection is what users value most about libraries. Among the strengths listed in the Current State Assessment Report (issued October 2024): our governance enables partner libraries to make operational and policy decisions that reflect individual community values, and our service model maintains unique library identities. We believe these strengths could be at risk in the current approach to centralization.

To address these concerns, Tualatin is asking for the following commitments:

1. We ask that Washington County commit to maintaining community-focused local library collections.





2. We ask that Washington County commit to involving member library leaders in annually determining the amount to be spent on collections at the member library and input into how that money is broadly allocated among collection areas.

In a memo sent to member library staff on March 21, 2025, Lisa, you wrote: "WCCLS commits to library directors having at least the level of *Involve* on the IAP2 spectrum as we build our new systems. WCCLS will work directly with library directors throughout the process to ensure libraries' concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered. WCCLS will work with library directors to ensure that libraries' concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how libraries' input influenced this decision."

We greatly appreciate and support that sentiment and we are anticipating that level of involvement to materialize. As WCCLS staff continue researching and making preliminary decisions about collection centralization, prior to issuing a Request for Proposals for a consultant to support planning this transition, Policy Group members have not yet been engaged in substantive discussion to inform this research, nor the decisions announced to date.

This is the biggest operational change that WCCLS has undertaken in its nearly 50 year history. As a member library, a partner in this important work, Tualatin requests a deeper level of partnership, collaboration, and transparency in this process.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherilyn Lombos".

Sherilyn Lombos, Tualatin City Manager
Jerianne Thompson, Tualatin Public Library Director

C: Tualatin City Council
WCCLS Executive Committee
WCCLS Policy Group