

## Assistant Director Report

Sarah French

May 2026



- Month of April Online Statistics:
  - Website visits: 7.09K
  - Facebook: 56.2K views; 628 content interactions; 59 new follows
  - Instagram: 4.8K views; 247 content interactions; 7 new follows
  - Top content for April: 5.2K views for “When a teen comes into the library” video: <https://facebook.com/reel/1295824969313126/>
- National Library Week: guessing jar contest, library swag and coloring sheets for patrons. We had 55 participants for the contest and the winner received a gift card to Earth + Iron.
- Organized 12 student volunteers for Make a Difference Day on 4/24. Half of them distributed flyers and postcards around town and the other half helped clean and organize the basement.
- I’ve implemented a weekly email update for staff similar to the one that Kelly Davis sends out to staff at Waukesha. It includes library updates and info into one comprehensive (and fun) email.
- The Wisconsin Library Association is now an official partner of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI)—a national organization dedicated to helping libraries lead in sustainability, resilience, and community impact. One of the partnership benefits is a one-year free SLI membership, which we have signed up for. This will connect our library with a national community of practice and provide us with practical tools for sustainable action in our library and community.

- Summer Reading Program season is upon us! I created the website page and poster for the SRP. I am running the adult reading challenge and was able to secure sponsorships from Toppers and First English Lutheran Church to cover the prizes! Weekly pizza gift certificates will be given away and the grand prize drawing will be a Kindle Fire. The SRP will run June 8 – July 31.
- Displays for May:
  - Gardening
  - Mental Health Awareness Month with [New Beginnings APFV](#)
  - *World War I: Beyond the Trenches* traveling exhibit from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will be on display in the atrium May 11-June 8.

### **Collection Development:**

- Nonfiction: weeded and analyzed 400-499.
- Focused on the Graphic Novel collection this month – weeding and purchasing.
- Library of Things in processing:
  - Ukulele (donation)
  - Blood pressure monitor
  - Stud finder
  - Soil tester
  - Bocce yard game
- Cleaned up Library of Things records – there were a lot of Makerspace items cataloged as LoT that should not be visible in the catalog as they are only used in-house. This will make our LoT collection easier to find and promote.

### **Programs and Outreach:**

4/16: Somatic Opening to Spring w/Katy Wimer (15)

4/17: Fiber Friday (0 due to weather)

4/21: Tech Tuesdays (2)

4/21: Garden Club (2)

5/2: Family Jams w/Noelle Larson (35)

5/4: Insect take & make for kids (60)

5/4: Garden Club (3)

5/5 & 5/12: Tech Tuesdays (0)

5/8: Fiber Friday (2)

Book a Librarian (3)

### **Upcoming Programs and Outreach:**

- Red Cross Blood Drive (5/15, 7/17, 9/18)
- Whitewater Storytelling Festival (Saturday, 5/30)
- Books & Blooms: A Garden Storytime for all ages (select Fridays at 3:30 p.m.)
- Library Garden Club (select Mondays and Tuesdays)
- Nurture Your Energy with Katy Wimer (Thursday, 6/11 at 6:00-7:00 p.m.)
- TED Democracy: Founding Futures Livestream (Saturday, 6/13 at 12:00-1:30 p.m.)
- Fiber Friday (6/12 at 5:00-6:30 p.m.)
- Born Learning Trail Meetup (6/16 at 9:30-10:30 a.m.)

### **Meetings:**

- Weekly management meetings
- Monthly check-ins with direct reports
- 4/16: Jaelyn White, UW-W Student Involvement
- 4/16, Lynette from Studio84
- 4/16: Studio GC and Diane
- 4/16, Emily Whitmore, WLA Mentorship program
- 4/17: FOTL Annual Meeting and Election
- 4/20: Storytelling Festival meeting
- 4/22: WLA Leadership Committee meeting
- 4/30: Building project update with Miron and StudioGC
- 5/5: Maris Associates – WI Historical Society Press
- 5/6: Studio84 and Whitewater Arts Alliance
- 5/6: Orin Smith, Library orientation and tour

### **Professional Development:**

- I have completed the Emerging Leader Certification Program through CVMIC.
- I attended the Wisconsin Association for Public Libraries (WAPL) Conference on 4/28-29.  
Sessions attended:
  - *Keynote Speaker Debby Waldman*
  - *Inside the Public Library Standards Makeover*
  - *Keynote Speaker Lindsay Starck*
  - *Moving Beyond the Manual: Keep Staff Engaged During and After Orientation*
  - *How Do You Know What The Future Holds For Your Library? Plan!*
  - *Keynote Speaker Kris Turner: Teaching Information Literacy in the Age of GenAI*
  - *What Do YOU Think? Empowering Your Team To Think and To Act*
  - *Open Books Open Worlds: Building Bridges Through a Sister Library Partnership*
  - *Prioritizing Culture for a Healthier Team*
  - *Keynote Bobbi Newman: Finding Focus and Joy in a Demanding Library Landscape*
  - *Tour of the Elkhart Lake Public Library*