



## **Columbia County Library System Board**

### **Department Overview:**

Columbia County maintains a library service under the authority of Wisconsin Statute 43.57(3), to serve the residents of the County who do not live in municipalities that have established libraries or to improve the library services of the municipal libraries. The County Library Board is composed of one school district administrator (or designee), two County Board supervisors, and four at-large members from throughout the County.

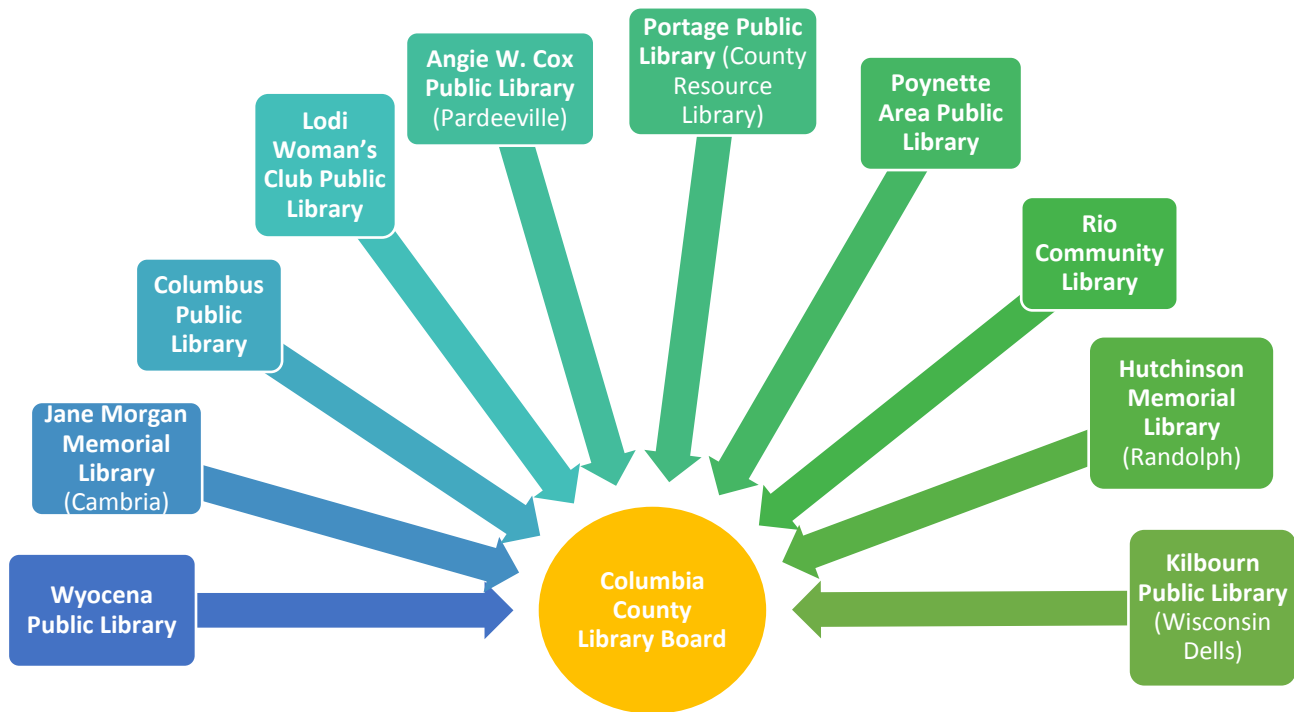
The County Library Board meets bimonthly at each of the ten County public libraries on a rotating basis. Library service to County residents, both rural and municipal, is provided by the libraries in Columbia County with assistance from County funds.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Columbia County Library Board is to advocate for public libraries and to ensure quality library service for all residents of Columbia County.

### **2019 Goals:**

- With adequate funding support, the ten Columbia County libraries will focus on being centers of information, education, technology, and community engagement.
- With adequate funding, the Columbia County Library System Board will strive to ensure that libraries can provide essential and consistent service and meet state and South Central Library System requirements for public libraries.
- With adequate funding, 80% of libraries will update Wi-Fi, access points and improve technological opportunities for all county libraries.
- With adequate funding, we will support the County Resource Library (Portage) and the County Resource Librarian.
- With adequate funding, the Columbia County Library System Board will continue to identify and acknowledge individuals and organizations that partner with their libraries to create quality educational experiences for their communities.

## Organizational Chart:



## Statistical Performance: (10 libraries combined)

Library Card Holders:	29,916 registered borrowers
Total Circulation:	502,322 items (books, audio, video, other) checked out
Circulation to Rural Columbia Co. Residents:	166,501 items checked out
Electronic Circulation:	53,894 (e-books, e-audio, e-video) checked out
Resource Sharing:	175,925 items loaned to other libraries
	211,389 items received from other libraries
Library-Sponsored Events:	3,263 total programs held
	61,388 program attendees
Children's (ages 0-11):	1,699 programs, 39,194 attendance
Teen (ages 12-17):	281 programs, 2,659 attendance
Other (all ages):	1,283 programs, 19,535 attendance

## County Funding of the Library Services Program:

Columbia County contributes funds to its ten libraries for services that these libraries provide to its "rural residents" (County residents who live in communities that do not have a local library). The amount paid to each library is based on usage:

<b>Columbia County Payments to its Own Libraries</b>			<b>Total=\$564,370</b>
Cambria	\$23,058	Poynette	\$69,907
Columbus	\$82,627	Randolph	\$24,521
Lodi	\$82,583	Rio	\$49,492
Pardeeville	\$34,989	Wisconsin Dells	\$20,933
Portage	\$171,551	Wyocena	\$4,710

Columbia County must also pay the libraries in adjacent counties for their use by Columbia County rural residents:

### **Payments to Libraries in Adjacent Counties** **Total=\$172,330**

Columbia County provides base level funding to the County Resource Library for consultation services to other County libraries, administrative planning and meeting attendance, research and reporting, printing and support for the County Library Board for all County residents:

### **Resource Library (Portage)** **Total=\$9,000**

### **Advocate of the Year:**

The Angie W. Cox Library and the Columbia County Library Board hosted the 2019 Columbia County Library Advocates of the Year Open House for Laureen and Gerald Lueck and Maureen and Lester Bortz for their years of dedicated service. The Library Advocate of the Year award has evolved into a traveling plaque, which is presented to the recipients at their home library by the Columbia County Library System Board and the local director. The plaque is displayed at the home library until the award is passed on to the next year's recipient.

### **Operating Expenses** **Total=\$100**

Library Advocate of the Year Award	\$100
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### **Summary:**

Columbia County libraries continue to evolve, working to address the most pressing needs of the communities they serve. Sometimes users are asking for materials. Sometimes the request is for programs or services. And sometimes recreational interests are a primary request, enriching and transporting people's lives and dreams. Libraries, and the staff that supports them, are working to satisfy the demands of a changing landscape.

Technology, for example, is becoming a more pressing and integral need. Rural residents are struggling to acquire the bandwidth necessary to complete routine and expected tasks, so they rely on their libraries to help them, to provide: access to Wi-Fi, public computers, Internet-service, fax machine and copier service, online sign-up for jobs, tax forms, consumer information and medical resources. Children's needs are met in a variety of ways, exploring family-fun activities, providing educational and homework support, tutoring and requests for reading aids, science, math and retention assistance.

Teens and youth of all ages look for ways to improve literacy, search for a sense of place, develop job skills—receive direction on resume and cover-letter writing, filling out applications and find a safe environment to relax.

Libraries are a heavily used public service. Its rural residents (county residents who do not live in a community with a library) make up 31% of the total circulation, attending library-sponsored events. The majority of County residents possess and use library cards. Library services are a prudent investment and an essential service for Columbia County.

Presented by: Debbie Bird, County Resource Librarian

Reviewed and approved by: Columbia County Library Board, March 6, 2020

