

Selected trends: national, state, local

National:

- See <https://www.ala.org/future/trends>
- Book/program/material challenges - intellectual freedom
 - <https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom>
 - https://www.tnla.org/page/72_1_Chin#:~:text=As%20defined%20by%20the%20American,certain%20books%20are%20in%20library
- Aging population
- Influence and use of AI

State:

- Financial challenges - staffing and wages, buildings, resources
 - <https://www.wpr.org/news/wisconsin-libraries-struggling-inflation-budget-shortfalls#:~:text=Wisconsin%20libraries%20are%20also%20funded,state's%20Department%20of%20Public%20Instruction.>
 - <https://dpi.wi.gov/wilibrariesforeveryone/reflections-defining-year-libraries>
- Digital material access - Overdrive/Libby, Hoopla, etc. - local demand consistent to increasing
 - <https://www.wpr.org/books/check-out-wisconsinites-borrowed-7-2m-e-books-and-audiobooks-last-year>
 - <https://wplc.info/blog/the-price-and-politics-of-ebooks-and-audiobooks-did-you-know/>
- Successful libraries are maintaining or increasing library visits - can be seen in DPI annual reports
 - <https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries/public-libraries/data-reporting/service-data>

Local (LGPL):

- Consistent demand for new print materials - circulation is increasing.
 - The lobby experiment of featuring older titles has been discontinued due to high demand for new materials.
 - Consistently long hold lists for print new releases
 - Consistent demand for interlibrary loans from outside the system
- Increase in prices of materials across the board, supply chain challenges
 - Baker and Taylor, a major supplier for libraries nationally, folded at the end of 2025. Other vendors have been strained covering the gap for thousands of libraries and booksellers. Inflation has hit publishing like every other industry.
- High demand for programming, especially youth and older adults (tai chi and chair yoga extremely popular), especially appreciated at the municipal level
 - Consistent notice of library programming by City Council over the last several budget cycles
 - Attendance at programs remains stable; new programs can be a challenge (marketing), but once established, they gain audiences.
 - Program funding - limited in our operating budget but essential. Supplemented by grants, Friends of the Library, and endowments. The more sources, the better, but it also increases the administrative time required for financial management. Federal grants are by far the most resource-intensive.



Library Tour Guidance Document and Questionnaire March 2026

- Name and location of Library tour:
- Date of tour:
- Time of tour:
- Participants:

Your role:

- Walk in, look around, take in the view of the library.
- See what it looks like, sounds like, “feels” like.
- Use the library, experience it.
- Do you see or hear anything at this library tour that you think would be beneficial for LG to consider in terms of community value and benefit?

To Align with our LG Strategic Plan Framework, gather information in the established groupings:

Community: Does the Library have a “Sense of Community”;

- Who is in the library; does it appear to reflect a broad representation of its community?
- Is it busy, if so, in what areas?
- How does the time of day, or week, or weather, etc. effect your experience?



Library Tour Guidance Document and Questionnaire March 2026

Space: Space allocation, functionality, utilization;

- Where is the Service Desk? Easy to find, access, interact with?
- Locate the restrooms; ease of finding and appearance?
- Locate the various sections, Children, Fiction, etc. Do you see anything that stands out as different or worth bringing back to LG?

Life-long Learning: Ease of access to information for all ages;

- Locate a book such as:
 - Devil in the White City by Erik Larson;
 - Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
 - The God of the Woods by Liz Moore
- What was the process like? Anything to bring back to LG library process?

Communication: Methods of communication with the community;

- Locate information about upcoming community events sponsored by this library. Easy to find and access?



Library Tour Guidance Document and Questionnaire March 2026

Internal Capacity: Library staff's availability, approachability, knowledge;

- Did the staff greet you, welcome you, acknowledge you?

- When time is right, introduce yourself and ask if they have time for a few additional questions as you are helping the Lake Geneva Library with their strategic planning process.
 - Ask what programs or education services they offer?
 - How do they let the community know about events; what methods are used to communicate?
 - What kinds of connections, if any, do they have to other community services and organizations?
 - *Such as Health and Human Services, a Social Worker, Blood Bank, Public Health, etc.*
 - As we do our planning for Lake Geneva, it helps to know how others manage their "challenges" in meeting the needs of their community.
 - Do you have any specific challenges?
 - Do you have customers that might be considered homeless: What, if anything, does your library do uniquely for them?



Library Tour Guidance Document and Questionnaire March 2026

- Comments about LG if needed:
 - Challenged by limited quiet space, lack of free parking, popular programs may not be able to accommodate the number of interested persons

- Ask if they might share what the common comments are that are made about their library.
 - Comments about their Library:
 -
 - Comments about LG if needed:
 - People love the setting on the lake, the recent renovation (2022), enjoy seeing the laughter and engagement by staff and guests.

MISC NOTES:



Libraries to Visit: Contact Information

Matheson Memorial Library (Elkhorn)

101 N Wisconsin St
Elkhorn, WI 53121
elkhorn.lib.wi.us
262-723-2678

Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sunday: CLOSED

Burlington Public Library

166 E Jefferson St
Burlington, WI 53105
burlingtonlibrary.org
262-342-1130

Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9 am – 8 pm
Friday: 9 am – 6 pm
Saturday: 9 am – 4 pm
Sunday: 12 pm – 4 pm (closed on Sundays during the Summer)

Delavan Public Library

830 E. Geneva Street, Suite B (temporary location)
Delavan, WI 53115
262-728-3111
delavanlibrary.org

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

Dwight Foster Public Library

209 Merchants Ave
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
920-563-7790
fortlibrary.org

Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Libraries to Visit: Contact Information

Beloit Public Library

605 Eclipse Blvd

Beloit, WI 53511

608-364-2905

beloitlibrary.org

Hours: Mon–Thu: 9:30 am–9:00 pm
Fri–Sat: 9:30 am–5:30 pm
Sun: Closed

Whitewater Public Library

431 W. Center Street

Whitewater, WI 53190

262-473-0530

whitewaterlibrary.org

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:30p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mukwonago Community Library

511 Division Street

Mukwonago, WI 53149

(262) 363-6411

Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9am–8pm
Friday: 9am–6pm
Saturday: 9am–4pm
(Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend 9am–2pm)
Sunday: Closed

Milton Public Library

430 E. HIGH ST. MILTON, WI 53563

608-868-7462

www.als.lib.wi.us/MPL/#/events/

Hours: Monday-Tuesday: 9:00 am to 8:00 pm
Wednesday-Thursday: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sunday: 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Libraries to Visit: Contact Information

Skokie Public Library
5215 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077
847-673-7774
skokielibrary.info

Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am to 9 pm
Saturday, 9 am to 6 pm
Sunday, noon to 6 pm

Lake Villa District Library
40 N Munn Rd
Lindenhurst, IL 60046
847-356-7711
www.lvdl.org

Hours: M – Th 9am – 9pm
F 9am – 6pm
Sa 9am – 5pm
Su noon – 5pm

Arlington Heights Memorial Library
500 N Dunton Ave
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
(847) 392-0100

Hours: Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.–9 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday: noon–6 p.m.