

Joint County Library Service Plan Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties 2026-2030

Proposed by the Joint County Library Planning Committee
Collaborated by Riti Grover, Director Monarch Library System
Approved by Committee, November 2025

Sheboygan County Libraries

Cedar Grove Public Library
Elkhart Lake Public Library
Kohler Public Library
Lakeview Community Library in Random Lake
Mead Public Library in Sheboygan
Oostburg Public Library
Plymouth Public Library
Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library
Monarch Library System Bookmobile

Ozaukee County Libraries

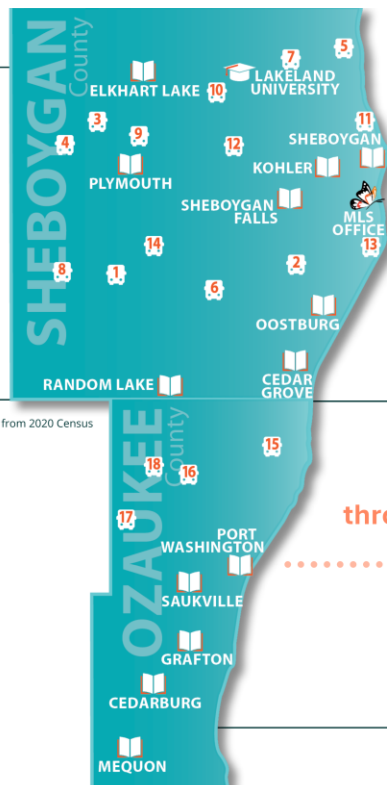
Cedarburg Public Library
Frank L. Weyenberg Library of Mequon-Thiensville
Oscar Grady Public Library in Saukville
U.S.S Liberty Memorial Public Library in Grafton
W.J. Niederkorn Library in Port Washington
Monarch Library System Bookmobile

Sheboygan County

117,029 Total
Population Served
throughout the County

8 Public Libraries
14 Areas visited by
the Bookmobile

Population data from 2020 Census



Ozaukee County

90,497 Total
Population Served
throughout the County

5 Public Libraries
4 Areas visited by
the Bookmobile

Wisconsin Statutes on Libraries: Chapter 43

- (1) The legislature recognizes:
 - (a) The importance of free access to knowledge, information and diversity of ideas by all residents of this state;
 - (b) The critical role played by public, school, special and academic libraries in providing that access;
 - (c) The major educational, cultural and economic asset that is represented in the collective knowledge and information resources of the state's libraries;
 - (d) The importance of public libraries to the democratic process; and
 - (e) That the most effective use of library resources in this state can occur only through interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries and the effective use of technology.
- (2) The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to provide laws for the development and improvement of public libraries, school libraries and interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries.

Statutory Requirements

Chapter 43.11 specifically addresses the requirements for County Library Planning Committees - their creation and duties. The statutes require the County Library Plan to address the following issues:

- How public library service will be provided to residents of those municipalities in the county not maintaining a public library (hereafter referred to as non-librariated).
- The method and level of funding that will be provided by the county in order to implement services described in the plan, including the reimbursement to municipal libraries for providing library service to in-county and adjacent county residents. (Note: For purposes of this plan, Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties consider residents of either county as "in-county" residents and reimburse accordingly)
- A method for allocating county-membership on the regional Library System Board. (Note: The library system referred in this report is the Monarch Library System)

Chapter 43 of Wisconsin Statutes establishes the state's policy regarding libraries and the responsibilities for counties especially related to county residents living in municipalities without a home library. Wisconsin counties are responsible for providing library services to the county residents who reside within and outside of communities that maintain their own libraries. Each of Wisconsin's 72 counties is a member of one of the 15 Public Library Systems; and works with their Systems to develop library service plans that ensure all county residents have access to adequate library services.

In Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties, a joint county library planning committee is created every five years to develop a joint county plan for library service. The committee works under the guiding principle that all Ozaukee and Sheboygan County residents should have convenient access to high quality library services and should be free to use any public library in the member counties of

the library system (Dodge, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and Washington) and public libraries in most neighboring counties.

The committee considers the needs, resources and services provided to all county residents with special emphasis on those areas without local municipal libraries. The committee provides recommendations to both County Boards on making library services and resources available to all county residents by libraries, on improving the resources and services in the county and the method and level of county library tax to implement the plan.

2026-2030 Joint County Library Planning Committee members

Ozaukee County Members

Tom Bichler	County Board Member – Non-librariated
Justin Strom	County Board Member – Librariated
Donald Zank	Member at Large - Librariated
Melissa Alexander	Member at Large – Non-librariated
Wendy Sprenger (<i>Chairperson</i>)	Monarch Library System Board Member
Amanda Kloppmann	Public Librarian

Sheboygan County Members

Keith Abler	County Board Member – Non-librariated
William Goehring (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Monarch Library System Board Member
Leah Hibl	Member at Large - Librariated
Rachel Montes	Public Librarian
Becky Kuszunski	Member at Large – Non-librariated
Thomas Wegner	County Board Member – Librariated

Advisory Participants

Riti Grover	Director, Monarch Library System
Jason Dzwinel	County Administrator, Ozaukee County
Emily Stewert	Deputy County Administrator, Sheboygan County

Overview of committee timeline:

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

- Organizational meeting of Joint County Library Planning Committee, Lakeview Community Library, Random Lake.

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

- Meeting at Frank L. Weyenberg Library of Mequon-Thiensville.

Monday, September 15, 2025

- Meeting at Oostburg Public Library

October 2025:

- Prepared draft of 2026-2030 County Library Plan
- Distributed draft of 2026-2030 County Library Plan to media, libraries, municipalities, county boards, and other interested parties

November 2025:

- Held public hearing in each county
- Review results of public hearings and revise report if necessary

December 2025

- Presentation to Ozaukee County Board & Sheboygan County Board

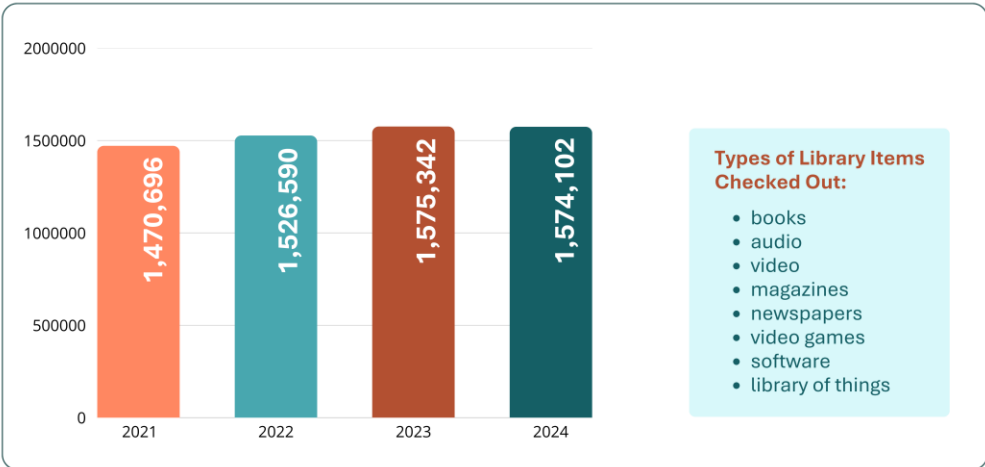
Reviewing Library Services under 2021-2025 Joint Sheboygan-Ozaukee County Library Plan

An approximate population of 117,029 residing in Sheboygan County within the libraried and non-libraried communities continue to be served by 8 public libraries and 14 bookmobile service locations. Whereas the libraried and non-libraried communities in Ozaukee County with 90,497 residents are being served by 5 public libraries and 4 bookmobile service locations.

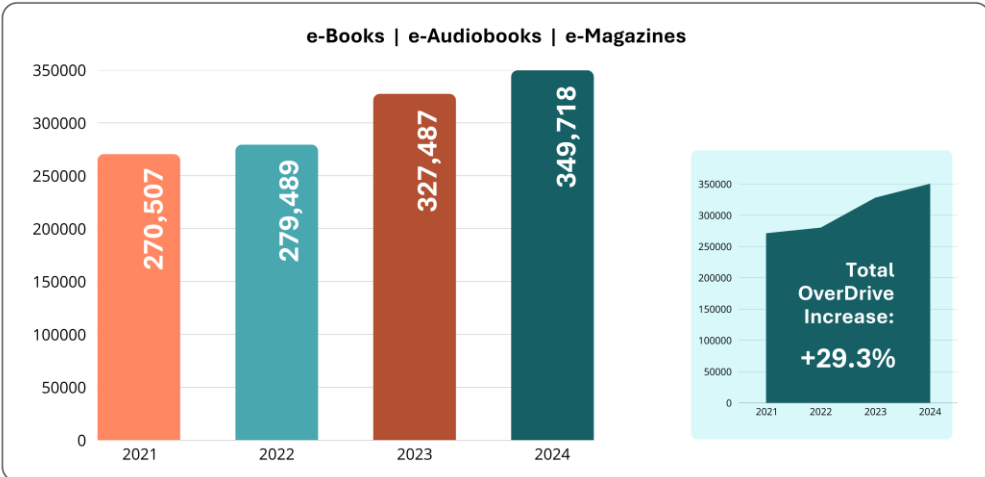
Both the Sheboygan and Ozaukee County libraries have witnessed a substantial increase in circulation of their collections, program attendance, and library visits in the past four years under the current 5-year plan 2021-2025.

Between 2021-2024, the circulation of physical items increased by 7.03% while that of digital content jumped by a substantial 29.3%. This trend indicates that libraries need to continue loaning out physical items but at the same time enhance their digital content to meet the increasing demand for e-Books, e-Audiobooks, and e-Magazines, etc.

Physical Circulation

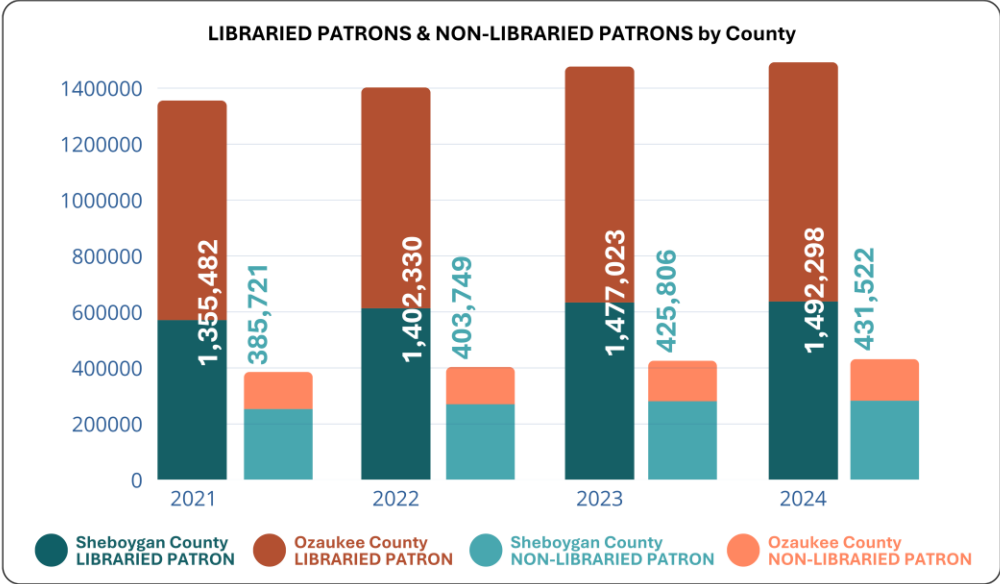


OverDrive Circulation



When considering all circulation of items in Sheboygan and Ozaukee County libraries, libraries witnessed an increase in usage by residents of the libraried (10.09%) as well as the non-libraried (11.87%) communities. The bar graphs below showcase the same. Usage by residents of non-libraried communities accounted for about 22.4% of the total circulation in 2024.

Physical & OverDrive Circulation

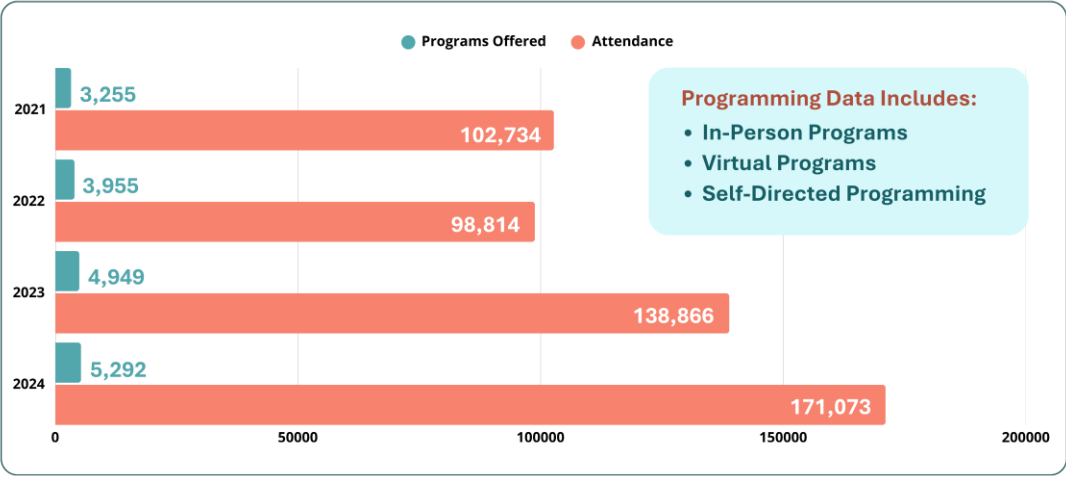


County Reimbursements for usage follow a formula designed to identify a unit cost for circulation of physical materials at each individual library in the two counties. The unit cost is multiplied by the total loans to non-libraried residents in the same year to determine total cost of service to non-libraried residents (county pays percentage of this total cost – Ozaukee: 100% and Sheboygan: 100%).

The Joint County Committee reviewed the substantial increase (29.3%) in the digital content circulation on the OverDrive Platform and proposed adding an additional non-libraried ‘Pass through’ fund to support the digital content usage. The non-libraried pass-through fund will be calculated by subtracting the above-mentioned county reimbursement for physical material from the total cost of service to non-libraried residents in both counties. The Monarch Library System (acting as fiscal agent) shall receive and use this amount to subscribe or purchase additional digital content on OverDrive (and/or any other platform) for its member libraries. By doing so, the Joint Committee hopes to decrease the amount of waiting time to get digital content by the residents in both counties. The committee will review the impact of this additional funding in 2030 before proposing the next plan.

The Joint Library Planning committee also reviewed the overall usage of library services. The libraries in both counties showed a noteworthy 66.52% increase in the programs/events offered to their communities between 2021 through 2024. Non-librariated residents are welcome, just like local residents, to participate in free programs offered by the libraries.

Programming Statistics



As the libraries in Sheboygan and Ozaukee counties expand the horizon of their services continuously, they are successfully becoming ‘Community Hubs’ for all residents. The library visits in the past 4 years 2021-2024 demonstrate the same, with a huge 56.4% increase.

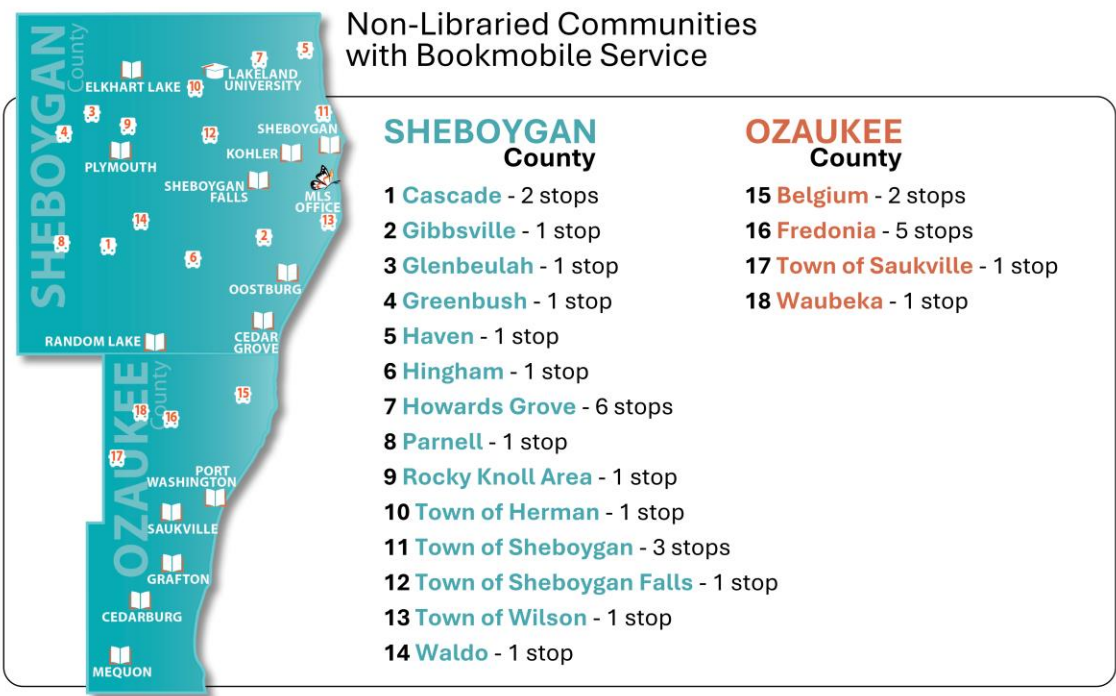
Library Visits



Review of the Bookmobile Services under the current 2021-2025 Library Plan

The Bookmobile service is funded by Sheboygan and Ozaukee Counties and operated by the Monarch Library System, serving the non-librariated residents of Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties. The bookmobile operations are overseen by a subcommittee of the Monarch Library System Board and managed by Monarch Library System administration and bookmobile staff. As of 2025, 2.35 staff FTE provide a variety of services including: access to local and system-wide collections, customized reserves and interlibrary loans, browsing collections for schools and residential communities (senior living, rehabilitation facilities), classroom curricular support, summer reading program for kids and teens, community event programming, and digital access etc.

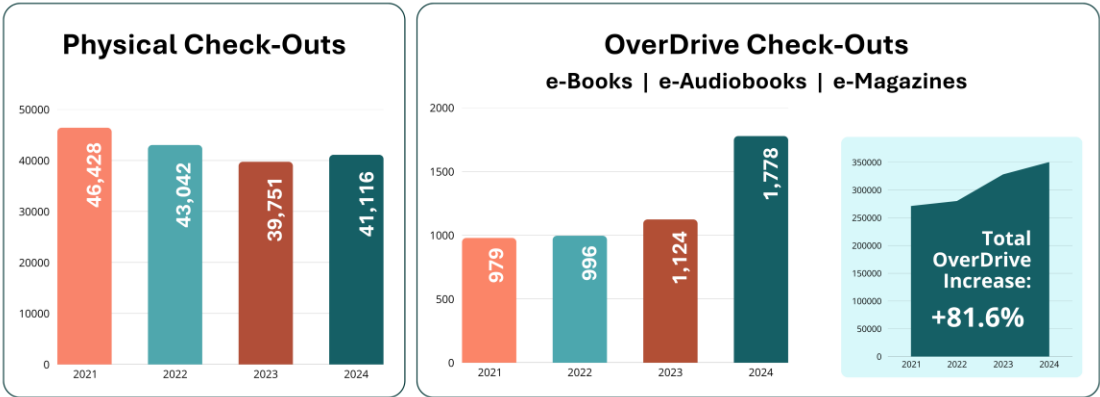
Monarch Bookmobile makes 775+ stops per year – 14 designated locations in Sheboygan and 4 locations in Ozaukee County respectively are visited each month. It serves as the major source of library services for the non-librariated communities in these counties. However, residents of librariated communities also frequently visit the bookmobile for its charm and convenience.



The bookmobile is equipped with storage for holds delivery, so patrons may request items from any library in the Monarch system or throughout the state to be delivered at their next local stop. Teachers at several elementary schools and daycares are able to request customized classroom collections to support their curricular needs. The bookmobile has Wi-Fi access so patrons can search digital content, download titles on their smartphone or tablets, or check out a mobile hotspot to use throughout the week in-between bookmobile visits.

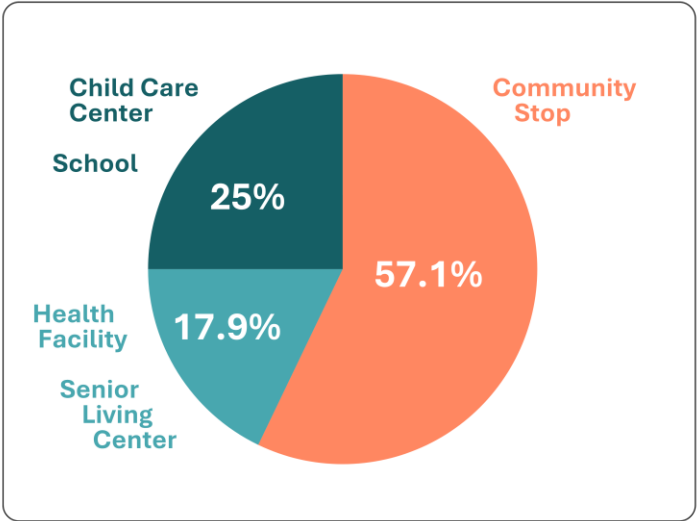
With 28,680 items in its physical circulating collection, bookmobile recorded a circulation count of 41,116 in 2024. You'll find our bookmobile driving through your neighborhood with approximately 3,000 items on board at any given time. Roughly 1/3 of the items circulated by the bookmobile are attributed to Ozaukee non-librariated residents, and 2/3 to those in Sheboygan County. The circulation for the physical material loaned by our bookmobile has fluctuated a bit during the past 4 years 2021-2024 but the digital circulation has witnessed a steady increase of about 81.6% in the same span of time.

Bookmobile Circulation



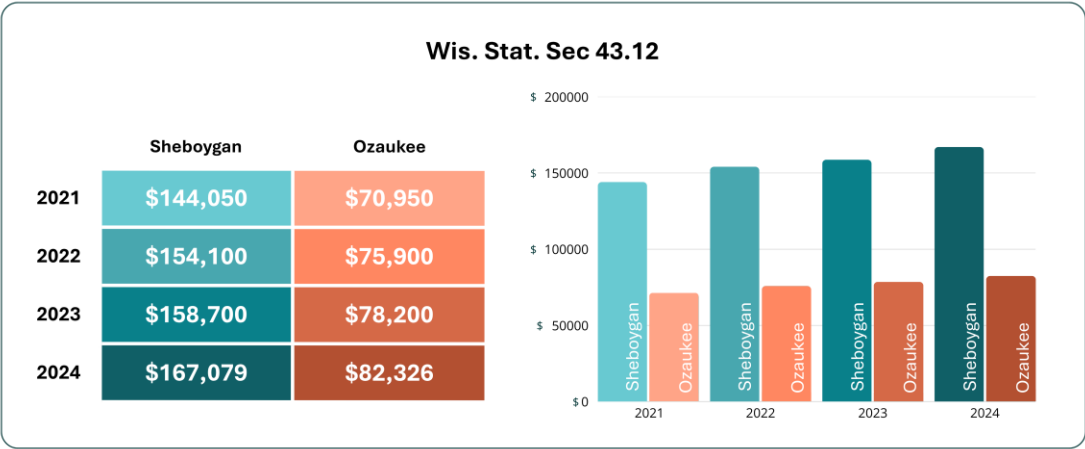
The bookmobile stops are split between local community stops that visit residential areas or community hubs, and institutional stops that visit schools, daycares, retirement facilities, and health rehabilitation facilities. Approximately 18,786 patrons per year visit bookmobile for various programs and events hosted for kids, teens and seniors throughout the year.

Types of Designated Stops



The bookmobile is financially supported by both counties through an additional allocation of county library tax levy dollars. Sheboygan County has traditionally funded more than the Ozaukee County based on the number of designated stops in non-librariated communities. A quick reference to the funds appropriated to run a bookmobile service in the past 4 years (2021-2024) is as follows:

Bookmobile Service Funds Appropriation



The planning committee discussed the future of bookmobile services in both counties. Members unanimously appreciated the current approach of constantly enriching its collection and services for continued services to the non-librariated communities in both counties.

Committee Recommendations for 2026-2030 Sheboygan-Ozaukee Joint County Library Service Plan

1. Reimbursements for ‘In-county’ and the Adjacent County Non-librariated Usage

The committee recommends that each county continue to maintain a 100% reimbursement of actual operational costs for non-librariated use of materials at libraries located in Sheboygan and Ozaukee counties. In Sheboygan County, the reimbursement level increased from 98% in 2020 to 100% in 2022, raising the level 1% each year and then holding at 100% through the duration of the previous five-year plan (2021-2025). In Ozaukee County, the reimbursement level of 100% was maintained for the full duration of the last five-year plan. Both counties should continue to reimburse libraries in the reciprocal county at ‘in-county’ funding levels of 100%. Adjacent counties to Ozaukee and Sheboygan will be reimbursed at the state mandated 70% reimbursement for service provided to Ozaukee or Sheboygan County residents.

Monarch Library System will continue to act as the fiscal agent, auditing non-librariated usage and coordinating the reimbursement requests and library payments on behalf of both counties.

2. Provide a Pass-through Payment for the Non-librariied Digital Usage

The committee recommends that libraries in both counties be reimbursed for the non-librariied usage of digital content at 100%. This payment will help meet a significant increase in the demand and consumption of digital content.

Monarch Library System will act as the fiscal agent for auditing the usage and coordinating the reimbursement requests and payments on behalf of both counties. The pass-through payment received by Monarch will be allocated to the System Advantage Account to purchase digital content on behalf of its members.

3. Bookmobile Services in Non-librariied Areas of both Counties

The committee recommends the continuation of the Bookmobile service to non-librariied areas of Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties and specifies payment for this service on the basis of each county's share of the use of this service (currently 2/3 Sheboygan, 1/3 Ozaukee). The committee recognizes that there might be a future need to provide funding for replacement of the vehicle, which should be evaluated in the next planning year (2029).

4. System Library Board membership

The committee recommends that both counties continue to provide representative membership on the Monarch Library System Board. Consideration should include a mix of librariied and non-librariied members, as well as members serving on local public library boards and the county boards.

5. Library Operational Standards

The committee suggests Monarch Library System work in partnership with all libraries in Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties to utilize the 2018 Public Library Standards as developed by Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction as a toolkit to identify areas of excellence as well as areas for growth.

6. Plan Administration

The committee recommends that each county shall enter into an agreement with Monarch Library System to administer this Joint Ozaukee-Sheboygan County Library Service Plan or any county library service plan approved by either county for the 2026-2030 Plan and those that follow.

7. Communication

The committee recommends that each county shall encourage all municipal libraries in Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties to regularly share information with their municipalities and county officials about library use by their constituents. Each county may consider inviting library representatives to present to the county board on an annual basis.

Next Plan Cycle

Before the end of 2029, a joint county library planning committee shall be established by each county board according to Wisconsin Stat. 43.11 to review and revise the county plan in 2025.

Committee Makeup

This Joint County Planning Committee should include sufficient members to represent the following demographic factors: library residents, non-library residents, urban, and rural residents. The committee should be representative of different geographic areas of the counties. The committee should also contain one or more librarians from both counties to provide valuable input on services and collections.

Committee Funding

Each county will appropriate sufficient funds in the 2029 budget to cover the expenses of the committee's work and to conduct surveys of libraries and system residents to gather input on library services.

Plan 2031-2035

A report to each county board shall be made of the next committee's findings and recommendations by December 2030.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,

Riti Grover
Director, Monarch Library System

Appendix A

History of County Library Service and Planning

Sheboygan County

The Sheboygan County Plan for Library Service was adopted in 1978 by the Sheboygan County Board. The plan is the work of a 1978 Sheboygan County Library Planning Committee, whose purpose was to establish county library service and to create a library system in Sheboygan County. The Committee reviewed the results of a federally funded countywide library service demonstration project in 1977 and 1978. The County's plan extended library services and bookmobile service for the first time to all residents of the County. Prior to this, libraries extended service through contracts to neighboring townships or through individual fees. In 1986, Sheboygan County amended its ordinance to establish Eastern Shores Library System as a joint agency of Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties and entered into a new agreement with Eastern Shores Library System.

The 1979 Plan governed countywide library service through 2000. The 1979 Plan did not specify a method or level of funding beyond the first year for countywide library service. Beginning in 1981, the Library System used a method that reflected the use of the libraries by the 31,000+ residents and the operating expenses of the libraries. This method was funded at various percentages of full funding until 1992.

In 1993, a County Library Planning Committee looked at how the libraries were reimbursed for library services, how the county provided funds for county library service and how the library system functioned as the administrator of county library service funding. The Library System and Sheboygan County came to an agreement on funding for the countywide library service and the role the Library System plays in the disbursing county funds for countywide library service. This agreement replaced the countywide library service funding formula that includes library use and expenses as factors. In 1993, the county's funding was \$504,150. For each of the years 1994 to 1996, the County's funding would increase by the Consumer's Price Index (CPI) plus 1 percent. The agreement also affirmed that the Library System is a conduit of county funds to the libraries and only retains county funds for bookmobile service and liability insurance for board members.

In 1996, a County Library Planning Committee looked at how county library service should be funded, what library services should be provided to non-librarians, what should be the allocation of System Board membership and the role of the Library System in county library service. The Committee recommended county funding for library automation, discontinuing bookmobile service, revising the funding formula to reflect library use and library expenses and standards for receiving county library service funds and library system services. However, the County made few changes in county library services. The County increased its funding by 6% to \$600,000 for 1997 and then continued the indexing of the CPI plus 1% for the years 1998 to 2000. It did not support county funding for library automation. It made bookmobile service a responsibility of the library system and it also

attempted to establish standards for receiving county library service funds and library system services. The Library System could not carry out the last recommendation because it was contrary to Wisconsin Statutes.

In 2000, a County Library Planning Committee took a comprehensive approach to the county library service plan. Using guidelines from the recently enacted Act 150 of the Wisconsin Legislature, the Committee addressed all the statutory requirements for a county library service plan: membership on the Library System Board, reimbursement of public libraries serving non-librarians, library service to non-librarians, improvement of library service county-wide, and contracts for administering the library service plan. The 2001 - 2005 County Library Services Plan established a method to apportion the Library System board members between Ozaukee and Sheboygan Counties, increased the reimbursement of public libraries from 70% to 85%, provided the capital funding for the shared library automation network, increased awareness of library services to the homebound and among home-schooling parents, and contracted with Eastern Shores Library System to administer the County Library Service Plan. This Committee also recommended that in five years a new County Library Planning Committee review and revise the County Library Service Plan.

Meeting in 2004, the County Library Planning Committee made recommendations for a 2006-2010 plan on membership on the Library System, moving the reimbursement level from 85% to 90%, continuing bookmobile service to non-librarian municipalities, approved the role of the library system in the Sheboygan County Detention Center Inmate Libraries, continuing the administration of the plan by the Library System and that a joint county library planning committee be formed with Ozaukee County.

Sheboygan County levies a special county library tax on residents of seventeen towns and villages that do not operate public libraries. The money gathered from this tax is distributed to member libraries and the bookmobile for the library service they give to the 36,000+ non-librarian residents.

Ozaukee County

The Ozaukee County Plan for Library Service was adopted in 1986 by the Ozaukee County Board. The plan is the work of a 1984 - 1986 Ozaukee County Library Planning Committee that reviewed the results of a county library service demonstration project and demonstration of library system services. The plan extended library services and bookmobile service to residents of Ozaukee County municipalities that did not operate a library. The plan extended library system services to all libraries in Ozaukee County. Upon approval of the plan by the County Board and the Department of Public Instruction, Ozaukee County joined Sheboygan County in the establishment of the Eastern Shores Library System, and entered into an agreement with the Library System. This made it possible for municipalities that operated public libraries to authorize their libraries to join

the library system. The five public libraries in Ozaukee County became members of the Eastern Shores Library System.

The 1987 County Library Service Plan provided funding for reimbursing libraries that provided library service to residents of the county without a library. It recognized the autonomy of the public libraries in their operations. It stated that municipalities with libraries would be exempt from the county library tax if they met the exemption criteria. The plan allocated system board membership based upon population. The bookmobile service to non-librared areas was part of the original plan.

The 2000 - 2005 County Library Services Plan recognized the potential for the efficient and effective use of technology to improve library services countywide. In addition to reimbursing libraries for serving non-librared residents and bookmobile service, the 2000 Plan provided funding for the capital investment in a shared library automation project among the public libraries in Eastern Shores Library System. This project was implemented in 2001 and is now known as EasiCat. This investment spurred increased use of library services. It also created an increased level of cooperation and collaboration among the public libraries. EasiCat also attracted the interest of Lakeland College, who joined EasiCat in 2002.

In 2004, a County Library Services Planning Committee took a cautious approach in their recommendations for a 2006 - 2010 plan. They recommended maintaining the reimbursement at the 85% level, continuing the bookmobile service for the five year plan, establishing minimum requirements to establish a new public library in a non-librared municipality, future studies on different county library service organizations, continuing the contract with the Library System to administer the Plan, support legislative efforts to modify the county library tax exemption method, and to create a county library planning committee in 2009. Subsequently, this plan was modified by the County Board which changed the method of reimbursement and created a commission that studied different county library service organizations and the exemption method.

Ozaukee County library service is funded by a county library tax levied on the residents of municipalities that do not operate a public library. Thus, those who receive the county library service pay for the county library service they use. Municipalities that operate public libraries may qualify for an exemption from that county library tax.

Joint Ozaukee & Sheboygan County Library Service Planning

A historic meeting took place on April 23, 2009. Appointees from Ozaukee and Sheboygan County met as a Joint County Library Service Planning Committee. As noted above, each county undertook county library service planning independently even though residents of both counties frequently used libraries in the other county. The purpose of the joint committee was to recognize this interaction and to coordinate the county library services

available to both counties' residents. It was especially important to coordinate the bookmobile service available to both counties' residents.

The result of the Joint County Library Service Planning Committee was a report to each County Board for a 2011-2015 County Library Service Plan that provided a coordinated approach to funding and providing county library services. The report requested that each county provide the same level of reimbursement to all libraries serving non-librarians residents. The Committee's recommendation was to set a goal of reimbursing the libraries for 100% of their costs, but to achieve that goal over a number of years. This report advocated for a 90% level of reimbursement over the first two years and then increase the level by 1% each year resulting in a 93% level by 2015. The report also included a proportional method for funding bookmobile service and for the replacement of the vehicle. It also recommended continuing the joint county library planning process in any subsequent county library service planning efforts.

Notwithstanding the Committee's recommendation that both counties adopt the report without substantial changes, Ozaukee County initially adopted a plan that did not provide the same level of reimbursement to libraries serving its non-librarian residents. However, at the end of 2011, the County Board approved a change in the plan to reimburse all libraries at the 85% level. Sheboygan County did adopt the recommendation for reimbursing Sheboygan County libraries at the higher levels of reimbursement, but reimbursed Ozaukee County libraries at the 85% level.

Both Counties adopted the bookmobile service recommendation for proportional funding of the service and replacement. They also adopted the recommendation to continue a joint county library planning process. This historic endeavor demonstrated the collaboration by both counties on services that are desired and needed by their residents.

In 2015, the second joint county library service plan 2016-2020 was developed. This plan continued to increase each county's commitment to reimbursing libraries within their two counties. By 2020, Sheboygan is reimbursing at 98% and Ozaukee has reached 100% reimbursement. Additionally, this plan recommended a reallocation of system board membership to replace two member-at-large positions with library board member positions. The committee considered but did not recommend operational standards for libraries as criteria for county tax exemption, and they did not recommend any crossover borrowing compensation. Bookmobile service continues to be a valuable service to non-librarian residents and the committee recommended that each county fund the program on a basis of each county's share of the use of the vehicle (number of stops in each county), averaging the use over the prior three years, and included funding for replacement of the vehicle.

In January 2017, Eastern Shores Library System merged with Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System to create the state's first merged system: Monarch Library System.

Additionally, in spring of 2017, a new bookmobile was purchased. Patrons throughout all four counties have expanded access to collections through this merger.

Due to an unexpected vacancy within the Monarch Library System administration, the planning process for the 2021-2025 plan was delayed until the very end of 2019. The joint county library planning committee for the 2021-2025 plan built upon the success of the existing library services plan and was able to prepare the new plan in a compressed period of time. The 2021-2025 plan recommends the continuation of the existing funding model for bookmobile services and increasing Sheboygan County library reimbursements by 1% each year (99% in 2021, 100% in 2022) until 100% rate is reached, with both Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties holding at a 100% reimbursement rate for the duration of the plan. The committee discussed at length how the current reimbursement model tied to physical item circulation may become less representative of actual library use, as electronic content usage and program attendance continue to grow at rates faster than physical item circulation. However, since current e-content use by non-librarians is proportional to physical item usage, the current funding model is fair to county libraries. The committee recommended the next planning cycle look more deeply at e-content use. Additionally, the committee discussed the merits of operational standards, ultimately deciding to not recommend additional county library standards. Lastly, the committee recommended county boards consider inviting libraries to present updates on library services and trends throughout the planning cycle.

The discussions and presentations during 2025 for the next 5-year plan 2026-30 showcased primarily on the increased circulation of library materials by 7.03%; digital content by 29.3%; program attendance by 66.52% and overall library visits by 56.4%. All the statistics indicate a continued demand for library services in both counties. The libraries have continued to evolve their collections and programming throughout the duration of 2021-2025; and the committee appreciated their commitment to all residents. The committee assessed the financial need to support the libraries to subscribe or purchase digital content and recommended a pass-through payment for non-librarian usage of e-content. The committee also suggested that the next planning process should evaluate the impact of this additional funding and continue to support the libraries for additional needs that may arise during the next 5 years.

Appendix B

Wisconsin Library Law: Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes

43.001 Legislative findings and declaration of policy.

- (1)** The legislature recognizes:
 - (a)** The importance of free access to knowledge, information and diversity of ideas by all residents of this state;
 - (b)** The critical role played by public, school, special and academic libraries in providing that access;
 - (c)** The major educational, cultural and economic asset that is represented in the collective knowledge and information resources of the state's libraries;
 - (d)** The importance of public libraries to the democratic process; and
 - (e)** That the most effective use of library resources in this state can occur only through interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries and the effective use of technology.
- (2)** The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to provide laws for the development and improvement of public libraries, school libraries and interlibrary cooperation among all types of libraries.

History: [1985 a. 177](#); [1997 a. 150](#).

Municipal libraries are a matter of statewide concern. Accordingly, home rule provisions will not justify local departures from the provisions of ch. 43. [76 Atty. Gen. 203](#).

43.11 County library planning committees.

- (1)** CREATION. Any county board may appoint a county library planning committee under this section. If a county board, in a county where all public library service is administered or coordinated by an existing county library board or where there is a single-county public library system board, determines to appoint a committee under this section, the existing library board may serve as the county library planning committee. The county board shall notify the division immediately upon appointment of the committee.
- (3)** DUTIES AND POWERS.
 - (a)** The committee may prepare a new plan for the organization of a county or multicounty system, revise an existing plan or change the boundaries of a public library system. It shall conduct public hearings concerning these plans, revisions and changes to which representatives of all libraries in the county shall be invited.
 - (b)** The committee's final report, including a new plan, revisions to an existing plan or changes to the boundaries of a public library system and copies of any written agreements necessary to implement the proposal, shall be filed with the county board and submitted to the division. Plans for multicounty systems shall include a method for allocating system board membership among the member counties.
 - (c)** The plan of library service for a county, whether for a single county or a multicounty system, shall provide for library services to residents of those municipalities in the

county not maintaining a public library under this chapter. The services shall include full access to public libraries participating in the public library system and the plan shall provide for reimbursement for that access. Services may include books-by-mail service, bookmobile service, the establishment of additional libraries or other services deemed appropriate by the committee. Services may be provided by contracting with existing public libraries in the county or in adjacent counties or with the public library system or by creating a county library organization under this chapter. The plan of library service for a county may provide for improving public library service countywide and in municipalities that have libraries. The plan shall specify the method and level of funding to be provided by the county to implement the services described in the plan, including the reimbursement of public libraries for access by residents of those municipalities in the county not maintaining a public library.

- (d) The plan of library services for a county may include minimum standards of operation for public libraries in the county. The county shall hold a public hearing on any standards proposed under this paragraph. The standards shall take effect if they are approved by the county and the public library boards of at least 50 percent of the participating municipalities in the county that contain, according to the most recent estimate prepared under s. [16.96](#), at least 80 percent of the population of participating municipalities in the county.
- (e) The plan of library services for a county may require that a municipality located in whole or in part within the county that operates a public library compensate another municipality located in whole or in part within the county that operates a public library whenever the latter public library provides library services to residents of the municipality that operates the former public library. The plan's compensation for each loan may not exceed the actual cost of the loan, as defined by the department by rule.

History: [1971 c. 152](#); [1981 c. 20](#); [1985 a. 29, 177](#); [1993 a. 184](#); [1997 a. 150](#); [2005 a. 420](#).

43.12 County payment for library services.

(1)

- (a) By March 1 of each year, each of the following payments of not less than the minimum amount calculated under par. [\(b\)](#) shall be made:
 - 1. Except as provided in subd. [2.](#), by a county that does not maintain a consolidated public library for the county under s. [43.57](#) and that contains residents who are not residents of a municipality that maintains a public library under s. [43.52](#) or [43.53](#), to each public library in the county and to each public library in an adjacent county, other than a county with a population of at least 750,000 or a county that maintains a consolidated public library for the county.
 - 2. If the adjacent county maintains a consolidated public library and provides the notice under sub. [\(1m\)](#), by a county that does not maintain a consolidated public library for the county under s. [43.57](#) and that contains residents who are not residents of a municipality that maintains a public library under s. [43.52](#) or [43.53](#), to the consolidated public library for the adjacent county providing the notice under sub. [\(1m\)](#).

- 3.** If a county maintains a consolidated public library and provides a notice under sub. [\(1m\)](#), by that county to each public library in an adjacent county, other than a county with a population of at least 750,000, that provides a statement to the county under sub. [\(2\)](#).
- (b)** The minimum amount under par. [\(a\)](#) shall be calculated to equal 70 percent of the amount computed by multiplying the number of loans of material made by the library during the prior calendar year, for par. [\(a\) 1.](#) or [3.](#), to residents of the county who are not residents of a municipality that maintains a public library under s. [43.52](#) or [43.53](#), or, for par. [\(a\) 2.](#), to residents of the county who are not residents of a municipality that contains a branch of the consolidated library, as reported under sub. [\(2\)](#), by the amount that results from dividing the total operational expenditures of the library during the calendar year for which the number of loans are reported, not including capital expenditures or expenditures of federal funds, by the total number of loans of material made by the public library during the calendar year for which the loans are reported.
- (c)** The library board of the public library entitled to a payment under this subsection may direct the county to credit all or a portion of the payment to a county library service or library system for shared services.
- (1m)** If a county maintains a consolidated public library, the library shall provide a notice not later than April 1 to any public library from which it requests payment under sub. [\(1\)](#).
- (2)** By July 1 of each year, each public library lying in whole or in part in a county shall provide a statement to the county clerk of that county and to the county clerk of each adjacent county, other than a county with a population of at least 750,000, that reports all of the following:
- (a)** The number of loans of material made by that library during the prior calendar year to residents of the county, or adjacent county, who are not residents of a municipality that maintains a public library under s. [43.52](#) or [43.53](#).
- (b)** If the library is in a county that is adjacent to a county with a consolidated library system, the number of loans of material made by that library during the prior calendar year to residents of the adjacent county who are not residents of a municipality that contains a branch of the consolidated library.
- (c)** The total number of loans of material made by that library during the previous calendar year.
- (3)** A county may enter into an agreement with its participating municipalities or with a public library system to pay no less than the amounts determined under sub. [\(1\)](#) to the public library system for distribution to the public libraries that participate in that system.
- (4)** Upon request of a county clerk, a public library shall provide access to all books and records used to determine the amount computed under sub. [\(2\)](#).
- (5m)** Nothing in this section prohibits a county from providing funding for capital expenditures.
- (6)** The county library board or, if no county library board exists, the county itself, shall either distribute the aid provided by the county to the public libraries, as provided in the plan

prepared under s. [43.11](#), or shall transfer the aid for distribution to the public library system in which it participates.

(7) This section does not apply to a county having a population of 750,000 or more.

~~43.12(8)~~(8) For the purposes of this section, a county that provides library service solely under s. [43.57 \(2m\)](#) is a county that maintains a consolidated public library, and a tribal college-county joint library under s. [43.57 \(2m\)](#) is a branch of the consolidated library.

History: [1997 a. 150](#); [2005 a. 226, 420](#); [2007 a. 97](#); [2013 a. 157](#); [2015 a. 306](#); [2017 a. 207](#) s.