

Western Plains Library System

**“Connecting people to information
and entertainment.”**

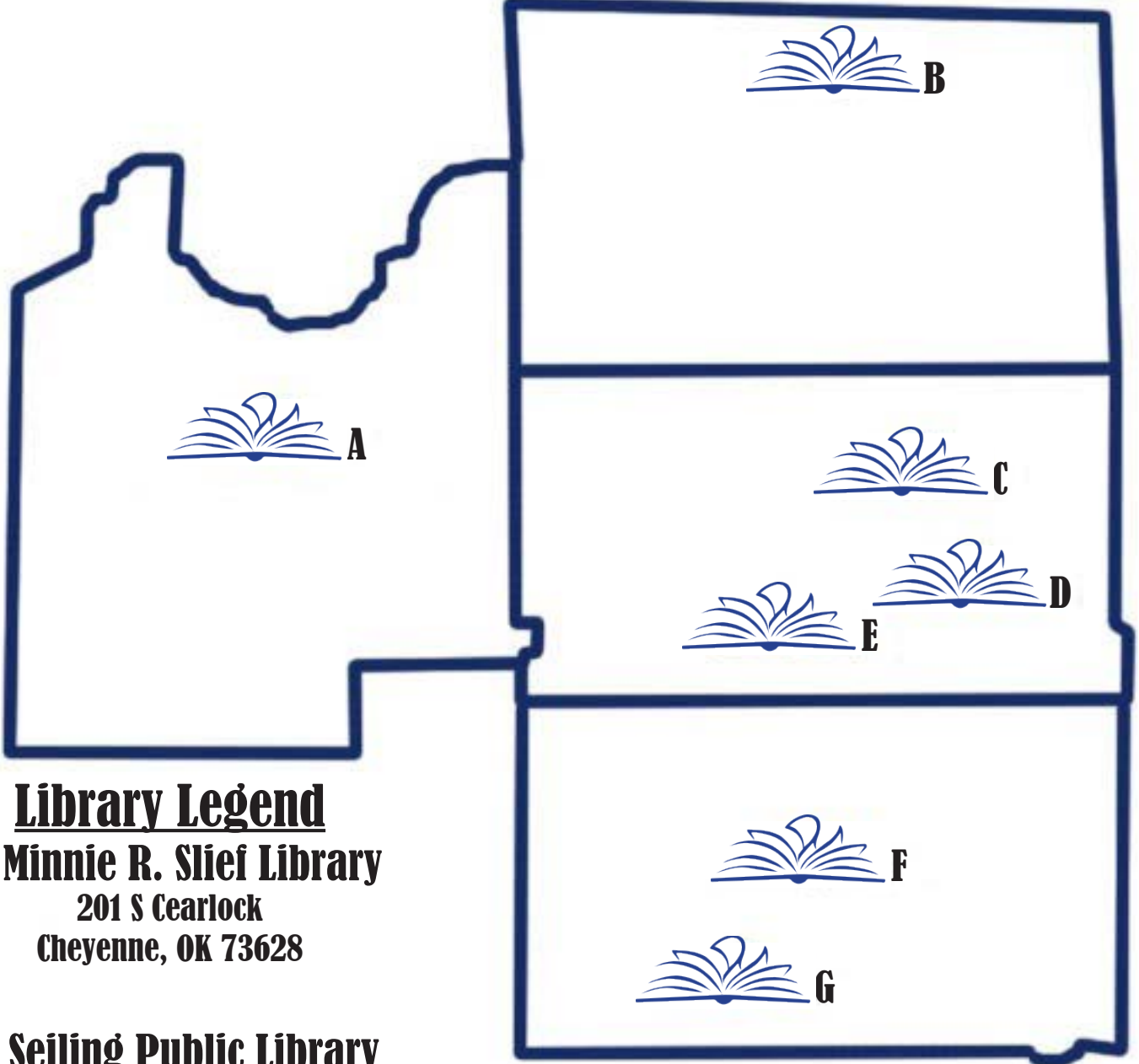
Strategic Plan 2024-2027

**Compiled by Executive Director Tim Miller
Approved by the Board of Trustees**

www.wplib.com

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Library Legend

A) Minnie R. Sief Library
201 S Cearlock
Cheyenne, OK 73628

B) Seiling Public Library
209 N Main Street
Seiling, OK 73663

C) Hazel Cross Library
111 W Broadway
Thomas, OK 73669

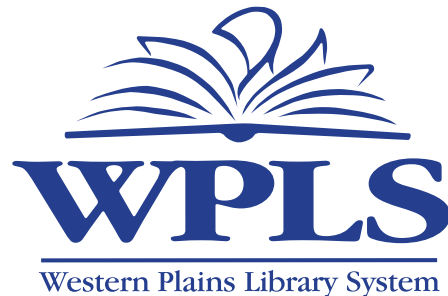
D) Weatherford Public Library
219 E Franklin
Weatherford, OK 73096

E) Clinton Public Library
721 Frisco Ave
Clinton, OK 73601

F) Cordell Public Library
208 S College
Cordell, OK 73632

G) Sentinel Public Library
210 E Main Street
Sentinel, OK 73664

The Bookmobile services all four counties



WPLS Staff Members

As of February 21st, 2025

Main Office

Tim Miller	Executive Director
Misty Crider	Executive Assistant/ Director of HR
Kathy Atchley	Director of Public Services
Jamie Hudson	Director of Acquisitions and Cataloging
Tara Jaronek	Director of Innovation and Technology
Conner Kirk	Director of Customer Experiences
Micaela Marquez	Director of Marketing and Outreach
Phillip Smith	Cataloger
Tonya Baldwin	Cataloging Assistant
Kathy Brunelle	Library Manager (Roving)
Raven Woodwall	Administrative Assistant
Ann Walker	Accounting Assistant
Nydia Campbell	Programs, Reference, Outreach & Marketing Assistant

Bookmobile

Cammy Hutcherson	Library Manager
Ernie Walker	Driver

Minnie R. Slief Library, Cheyenne

Laura Lopez	Library Manager
Darla Bailey	Library Assistant

Clinton Public Library

Sara WhiteShield	Branch Manager
Madison Wright	Assistant Library Manager
Diana Torres	Assistant Library Manager
Colby Dewees	Library Assistant
Myra Whitney	Library Assistant
Bayleigh Guthrie	Library Assistant
Bryonna Brewster	Library Assistant
Toby Kremeier	Library Assistant
Kyra Powell	Library Assistant

WPLS Staff Members

Cordell Public Library

Kaitlyn Georinger-Evans	Library Manager
Victoria Wise	Library Assistant

Seiling Public Library

Edward Tholen	Library Manager
Jonna Cook	Library Assistant

Sentinel Public Library

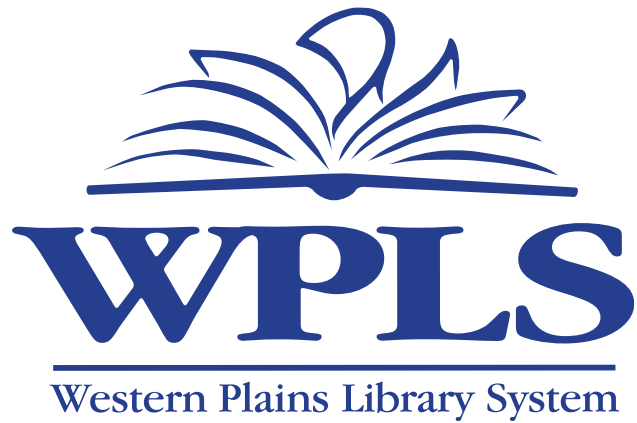
Nicole Huntzinger	Library Manager
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Hazel Cross Library, Thomas

Ronda Rutherford	Library Manager
Marilyn Crews	Assistant Library Manager

Weatherford Public Library

Jason Dibler	Branch Manager
Jeni Corbridge	Assistant Library Manager
Angela Pomani	Assistant Library Manager
Mona Jackson	Library Assistant
Colby Dewees	Library Assistant
Myra Whitney	Library Assistant
Bayleigh Guthrie	Library Assistant
Bryonna Brewster	Library Assistant
Toby Kremeier	Library Assistant
Kyra Powell	Library Assistant



WPLS Core Values

- **Providing Passionate Service**
- **Being Integrity Based**
- **Adventurous Thinking**

WPLS Mission

To connect people to information and entertainment through passionate service based on integrity and adventurous thinking.

WPLS Strategic Plan

2024-2027

**Western Plains' mission is to connect people to information and entertainment.
This document will guide WPLS' progress towards executing this mission.**

Goal 1: Leverage WPLS' Expertise

Western Plains will constantly search for additional venues to deliver library services.

- a) Oversee development of partnerships with local schools in the WPLS service area
- b) Oversee development of partnerships with long-term residential life facilities
- c) Continue outreach services at tax-funded Head Start facilities
- d) Be open and perceptive to other expansion opportunities
- e) Monitor local discussions and be open to new branch opportunities in Leedey and Arapaho
- f) Continue development of relationships with local schools in the WPLS service area

Goal 2: Strengthen and Improve Existing Library Services

Western Plains will continue its high standard of excellence in delivering library services to the public.

- a) Continue to budget funds to support bi-annual major author visits to western Oklahoma
- b) Develop train the trainer opportunities to increase technology and service expertise
- c) Ensure an intuitive and engaging virtual experience for all customers
- d) Deliver consistent, cohesive, and collaborative service throughout our libraries
- e) Continue to offer innovative library programming
- f) Continue to deploy select e-government services

Goal 3: Maximize and upgrade infrastructure

Western Plains will continue to find innovative ways to leverage its existing equipment and facilities while also continuing to seek areas of potential improvements to meet public needs.

- a) Maintain and modify library facilities and furnishings to meet community needs.
- b) Investigate shelving alternatives and reorganize current collections to gain efficiency, visibility, and accessibility.
- c) Upgrade library meeting rooms to a more aesthetically pleasing and user-friendly space
- d) Continue to deploy new hardware and software solutions to meet customer demand
- e) Deploy professionally curated book displays in branches to bolster circulation
- f) Deliver physical and virtual spaces that support our programs and services for people of all ages
- g) Create an inventory of programming assets that can be requested through existing library software program.
- h) Continue to search for and develop virtual spaces that are multi-device compatible
- i) Increase customer-led discoverability opportunities in the branches
- j) Utilize people counters to leverage decision making
- k) Evaluate options for customer-use signage in branches
- l) Consider digitization options for WPLS microfilm collection
- m) Develop an inventory system for WPLS owned capital assets

Goal 4: Implement Necessary Improvements

Western Plains will continue to improve its internal policies and procedures to remove barriers and impediments to deliver excellent service.

- a) Develop an operating procedures manual for WPLS staff
- b) Develop a disaster planning policy for WPLS

Goal 5: Be the Best Place to Work

Western Plains will continue to employ the best available staff and provide them with the necessary tools to successfully execute their position priorities.

- a) Develop a customer service philosophy to create a culture of engagement
- b) Continue to internally develop existing WPLS staff
- c) Continue to support staff in professional development
- d) Study circulation and usage patterns to determine branch staffing needs
- e) Consider hiring library consultant to conduct professional salary study
- f) Ensure all staff are aligned with respect to performance expectations system-wide
- f) Continue to assess and improve internal communication structures
- g) Consider the feasibility of adding new staff in the next three years

Goal 6: Engage the WPLS Community

Western Plains will seek input from its active and potential customers as to what services the library should deliver.

- a) Consider using consultant to conduct a survey of the WPLS survey area
- b) Utilize library collection development software to conduct an annual community audit to reinforce material purchasing trend
- c) Strive to standardize the customer experience at all locations across the system
- d) Consider including community leaders' participation in the Summer Reading Program to instill more community backing

Appendix A: ALA Library Bill of Rights

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Although the Articles of the Library Bill of Rights are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices. See the documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights.

Appendix B: ALA freedom to read statement

The freedom to read is essential to our democracy. It is continuously under attack. Private groups and public authorities in various parts of the country are working to remove or limit access to reading materials, to censor content in schools, to label “controversial” views, to distribute lists of “objectionable” books or authors, and to purge libraries. These actions apparently rise from a view that our national tradition of free expression is no longer valid; that censorship and suppression are needed to counter threats to safety or national security, as well as to avoid the subversion of politics and the corruption of morals. We, as individuals devoted to reading and as librarians and publishers responsible for disseminating ideas, wish to assert the public interest in the preservation of the freedom to read.

Most attempts at suppression rest on a denial of the fundamental premise of democracy: that the ordinary individual, by exercising critical judgment, will select the good and reject the bad. We trust Americans to recognize propaganda and misinformation, and to make their own decisions about what they read and believe. We do not believe they are prepared to sacrifice their heritage of a free press in order to be “protected” against what others think may be bad for them. We believe they still favor free enterprise in ideas and expression.

These efforts at suppression are related to a larger pattern of pressures being brought against education, the press, art and images, films, broadcast media, and the Internet. The problem is not only one of actual censorship. The shadow of fear cast by these pressures leads, we suspect, to an even larger voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy or unwelcome scrutiny by government officials.

Such pressure toward conformity is perhaps natural to a time of accelerated change. And yet suppression is never more dangerous than in such a time of social tension. Freedom has given the United States the elasticity to endure strain. Freedom keeps open the path of novel and creative solutions, and enables change to come by choice. Every silencing of a heresy, every enforcement of an orthodoxy, diminishes the toughness and resilience of our society and leaves it the less able to deal with controversy and difference.

Now as always in our history, reading is among our greatest freedoms. The freedom to read and write is almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. The written word is the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. It is essential to the extended discussion that serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures toward conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read. We believe that publishers and librarians have a profound responsibility to give validity to that freedom to read by making it possible for the readers to choose freely from a variety of offerings.

The freedom to read is guaranteed by the Constitution. Those with faith in free people will stand firm on these constitutional guarantees of essential rights and will exercise the responsibilities that accompany these rights.

We therefore affirm these propositions:

1. It is in the public interest for publishers and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or considered dangerous by the majority.

Creative thought is by definition new, and what is new is different. The bearer of every new thought is a rebel until that idea is refined and tested. Totalitarian systems attempt to maintain themselves in power by the ruthless suppression of any concept that challenges the established orthodoxy. The power of a democratic system to adapt to change is vastly strengthened by the freedom of its citizens to choose widely from among conflicting opinions offered freely to them. To stifle every nonconformist idea at birth would mark the end of the democratic process. Furthermore, only through the constant activity of weighing and selecting can the democratic mind attain the strength demanded by times like these. We need to know not only what we believe but why we believe it.

2. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not need to endorse every idea or presentation they make available. It would conflict with the public interest for them to establish their own political, moral, or aesthetic views as a standard for determining what should be published or circulated.

Publishers and librarians serve the educational process by helping to make available knowledge and ideas required for the growth of the mind and the increase of learning. They do not foster education by imposing as mentors the patterns of their own thought. The people should have the freedom to read and consider a broader range of ideas than those that may be held by any single librarian or publisher or government or church. It is wrong that what one can read should be confined to what another thinks proper.

3. It is contrary to the public interest for publishers or librarians to bar access to writings on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.

No art or literature can flourish if it is to be measured by the political views or private lives of its creators. No society of free people can flourish that draws up lists of writers to whom it will not listen, whatever they may have to say.

4. There is no place in our society for efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of writers to achieve artistic expression.

To some, much of modern expression is shocking. But is not much of life itself shocking? We cut off literature at the source if we prevent writers from dealing with the stuff of life. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to prepare the young to meet the diversity of experiences in life to which they will be exposed, as they have a responsibility to help them learn to think critically for themselves. These are affirmative responsibilities, not to be discharged simply by preventing them from reading works for which they are not yet prepared. In these matters values differ, and values cannot be legislated; nor can machinery be devised that will suit the demands of one group without limiting the freedom of others.

5. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept the prejudgment of a label characterizing any expression or its author as subversive or dangerous.

The ideal of labeling presupposes the existence of individuals or groups with wisdom to determine by authority what is good or bad for others. It presupposes that individuals must be directed in making up their minds about the ideas they examine. But Americans do not need others to do their thinking for them.

6. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians, as guardians of the people's freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large; and by the government whenever it seeks to reduce or deny public access to public information.

It is inevitable in the give and take of the democratic process that the political, the moral, or the aesthetic concepts of an individual or group will occasionally collide with those of another individual or group. In a free society individuals are free to determine for themselves what they wish to read, and each group is free to determine what it will recommend to its freely associated members. But no group has the right to take the law into its own hands, and to impose its own concept of politics or morality upon other members of a democratic society. Freedom is no freedom if it is accorded only to the accepted and the inoffensive. Further, democratic societies are more safe, free, and creative when the free flow of public information is not restricted by governmental prerogative or self-censorship.

7. It is the responsibility of publishers and librarians to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing books that enrich the quality and diversity of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, they can demonstrate that the answer to a “bad” book is a good one, the answer to a “bad” idea is a good one.

The freedom to read is of little consequence when the reader cannot obtain matter fit for that reader’s purpose. What is needed is not only the absence of restraint, but the positive provision of opportunity for the people to read the best that has been thought and said. Books are the major channel by which the intellectual inheritance is handed down, and the principal means of its testing and growth. The defense of the freedom to read requires of all publishers and librarians the utmost of their faculties, and deserves of all Americans the fullest of their support.

We state these propositions neither lightly nor as easy generalizations. We here stake out a lofty claim for the value of the written word. We do so because we believe that it is possessed of enormous variety and usefulness, worthy of cherishing and keeping free. We realize that the application of these propositions may mean the dissemination of ideas and manners of expression that are repugnant to many persons. We do not state these propositions in the comfortable belief that what people read is unimportant. We believe rather that what people read is deeply important; that ideas can be dangerous; but that the suppression of ideas is fatal to a democratic society. Freedom itself is a dangerous way of life, but it is ours.

This statement was originally issued in May of 1953 by the Westchester Conference of the American Library Association and the American Book Publishers Council, which in 1970 consolidated with the American Educational Publishers Institute to become the Association of American Publishers.

Adopted June 25, 1953, by the ALA Council and the AAP Freedom to Read Committee; amended January 28, 1972; January 16, 1991; July 12, 2000; June 30, 2004.