

Sawyer County Library Service Plan: 2025 – 2030

Recommended for Adoption to the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
By Sawyer County Library Planning Committee
March 10, 2025

Mission Statement

To deliver quality, inclusive library services to all residents and visitors of Sawyer County and beyond while preserving the unique nature and independent operation of each library.

I. Background

A. Statutory requirements for county library planning

The three public libraries in Sawyer County will adopt and maintain a plan according to Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 43.15 (4) (B) (1) in accordance with Wisconsin Act 150.

B. Brief history of library development and planning in county

Sawyer County contains three public libraries: the *Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library (Hayward)*, the *Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library* on the Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation near Hayward and the *Winter Public Library (Winter)*.

Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library (Hayward)

The Hayward Free Library was established in 1887 and the Carnegie Library in 1904. In the early 1900s, Sawyer County's southern towns set themselves off as separate municipalities. The library was deprived of the income from their tax levies, and the responsibility of library funding was placed on Town of Hayward. In 1915 the Town of Hayward and City of Hayward became separate entities, with the City assuming full responsibility for library funding.

Although the City carried most of the financial burden for years, the highest percentage of library users were from surrounding towns. Most of these townships did not support the library financially. Eventually the City of Hayward announced it would end financial support of the library in January 1996. The Library Board of Trustees decided to seek funding from all the towns through Sawyer County. The county began funding the library in 1996.

In 2007, the new Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library was built to accommodate increased usage and provide accessibility.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library (Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation near Hayward)

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library was officially established as a public library in early 1992. The library serves a dual role of supporting the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University curriculum and serving community members of all ages. In 2007, the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library moved to its current facility.

Winter Public Library (Winter)

The Winter Public Library was established in the 1950s. In 2005, they purchased a remodeled building on Main Street and moved the library from the Village Hall to the larger facility on Main Street for greater accessibility. As of 2018, the library is currently jointly owned by the Town and Village of Winter, Town of Ojibwa, Town of Draper, Town of Meadowbrook, Town of Radisson, Town of Couderay, and administered by the Winter Library Board with the Town of Couderay being the fiscal agent.

C. County membership in Northern Waters Library Service system

The three libraries in Sawyer County are members of the Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS). NWLS is an organization established to provide, coordinate and improve library services for the libraries and residents of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer, Vilas and Washburn Counties. NWLS receives its funding from the state and member counties as well as federal grants.

As NWLS member libraries, all three libraries in Sawyer County receive interlibrary loan service, access to two computer technicians and five library consultants, continuing education programs to enable library directors to meet state certification requirements, digital and physical collection development grants, and other services. NWLS also provides the Mail-a-Book service in Sawyer County to serve area residents who are physically unable to access a public library. This service is especially valuable to the homebound. Materials can be returned to the closest public library, by drop boxes NWLS has installed or by mail. Mail-a-Book is cooperatively sponsored by all NWLS counties.

Allocation of county board appointments to library system board

The Sawyer County Board may appoint two county representatives to serve on the NWLS Board of Trustees. The County Board also appoints one county board member each for the Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library, the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library, and Winter Public Library.

D. Governance structure of library organizations in Sawyer County

Sawyer County delegates the governance of the libraries to the individual library boards.

E. Appointments to the Library Board of Trustees

Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library

The City of Hayward's mayor appoints eight seats, one of which has to be appointed by the school district, and the Sawyer County Board appoints one seat to the nine-member library board.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library

The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Board of Regents appoints six seats and the Sawyer County Board appoints one seat to the seven-member library board.

Winter Public Library

The library is established as a joint library with an eleven-member board. Appointments of one seat are made by the Village of Winter, four by the Town of Winter, one by the Town of Ojibwa, one seat by the Town of Draper, one seat by the Town of Meadowbrook, one seat by the Town of Radisson, one seat by the Town of Couderay, one seat by the school district, and one seat by Sawyer County.

F. Current library usage statistics for county residents

Methodology for determining usage of libraries in the county.

All three libraries take statistics from their automated circulation system and are included in each library's annual report.

II. Current library services to county residents

A. Inventory of current library services to county

For current library services, please see the attached brochure.

III. Current funding of library services to county residents

A. Municipal, county and state funding

Municipal amount

Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library

The library does not receive monetary funding from its municipality, the City of Hayward. The City provides assistance to the library in the form of payroll, accounting and the opportunity to participate in health and property insurance.

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library

A written agreement between the LCOO Tribal Governing Board, the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Board of Regents and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library Board establishes library services at the LCOO University. The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University is considered to be the library's municipality.

Winter Public Library

The library is currently jointly owned by the Town and Village of Winter, Town of Ojibwa, Town of Draper, Town of Meadowbrook, Town of Radisson, Town of Couderay, with the Town of Couderay being the fiscal agent. Municipalities provide limited financial support.

County amount

Sawyer County funds a portion of the operating expenses of the Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library and Winter Public Library. Please see Attachment D.

State and Federal amounts

All three libraries receive system services funded by the state and are continually seeking additional sources of funding, including grants and donations.

IV. Goals and Actions

Goal 1: To establish a consistent and equitable funding arrangement for Sawyer County libraries.

Action 1.1: Sawyer County will continue to provide funding for the libraries in Hayward, Winter, and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library. Minimum library funding is to be in accordance with Wisconsin Act 150.

Action 1.2 The libraries in Hayward, Winter, and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University Community Library may annually submit the library budget request to Sawyer County in accordance with county and statutory deadlines.

Goal 2: Through the cooperative efforts of the libraries in Sawyer County, to continue to provide an inclusive scope of library services and current technologies based on the needs of the individual communities.

Action 2.1: Improve and expand services at libraries in the county and at Northern Waters Library Service (NWLS) to meet the needs of the communities shown by user statistics, local surveys and the growing county population.

Action 2.2: The library directors of the three public libraries in Sawyer County will meet semi-annually to promote cooperation in services and promotion.

Action 2.3: Work with the appropriate agencies, including NWLS, to establish access to information through emerging technologies at all Sawyer County libraries.

Action 2.4: Provide materials that include special collections for people of all ages.

Action 2.5 Provide interlibrary loan service, which entails sharing resources among all libraries, including access to materials statewide.

Action 2.6: Offer outreach services to the community which would include but not limited to senior citizens, the homebound, schools, and daycare centers.

Action 2.7: Provide computers and Internet access for public use.

Action 2.8: Provide community activities for all ages including summer reading programs, story hour, lectures and other programs of community interest.

Action 2.9: Partner with local organizations and individuals on developing collaborative programming that best meets the interests of the community.

Action 2.10: Provide materials and referral services to local, county and state agencies and programs.

Goal 3: To improve public awareness of services offered by libraries in Sawyer County.

Action 3.1: Continue to distribute press releases and public service announcements concerning services and activities to local media.

Action 3.2: Provide the public with an informational brochure on libraries in Sawyer County as well as libraries within NWLS.

V. Implementation

Each library in Sawyer County will carry out these goals and objectives to the best of its ability.

VI. Future plans for evaluating and updating county plan

The library directors in Sawyer County will continue to meet semi-annually to review the plan and make revisions as needed. The Sawyer County Library Planning Committee will meet on an annual basis. The entire plan will be reviewed and updated every five years.

VII. Attachments

- A. Resolution from Sawyer County.
- B. Brochure On Public Libraries in Sawyer County.
- C. County Agreement between NWLS and Sawyer County.
- D. Statistics for Sawyer County Libraries.

A. Resolution to Adopt the Sawyer County Library Plan.

Northern Waters Library Service 2025 Sawyer County Library Service Agreement

This Agreement is made by and between the Northern Waters Library Service, hereinafter called NWLS, headquartered in Ashland, Wisconsin, and the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors, hereinafter called the County Board, located in Hayward, Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, NWLS has complied with the requirements of Chapter 43 of the WISCONSIN STATUTES to establish and maintain a federated public library system and to provide and coordinate library services for the libraries and residents of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer, Vilas, and Washburn counties in Wisconsin;

NOW THEREFORE, the County Board agrees to comply with the requirements of Chapter 43 of the WISCONSIN STATUTES for participation in a federated public library system, which include;

1. To adopt and maintain a county plan for library service, [Wisconsin Statutes s.43.15(4)(b)(1)]
2. To provide for funding of the county plan for library service, [Wisconsin Statute 43.15(4)(b)(2)]
3. To enter into a written agreement with the public library system board to participate in the system and its activities and to furnish library services to residents of those municipalities in the county not maintaining a public library. [Wisconsin Statute 43.15(4)(b)(3)]

NOW FURTHERMORE, NWLS agrees to provide library system services in Sawyer County as follows.

1. To provide mail-a-book service on behalf of the County Board from NWLS Headquarters to all residents of Sawyer County living 15 miles or more from a public library and to those who are homebound. This service includes access to NWLS staff via a toll-free phone line as well as book return boxes in remote locations.
2. To provide a program of delivery to complement resource sharing among all NWLS counties.
3. To provide access to the NWLS area-wide database via the web to all residents of Sawyer County
4. To provide collection development grants for Libraries as reimbursement for circulation to residents living within the NWLS area but outside of the Library's county according to Wisconsin Act 150, and for meeting appropriate state library standards.
5. To plan for the future of library services within the county with the public libraries, county board, special groups and library patrons. To promote library services area-wide and to seek alternative funding for improved library services.

NOW FURTHERMORE, the County Board agrees to participate in the Northern Waters Library Service and pay NWLS a county library service fee of \$25,321 on or before February 28, 2025.


The term of this agreement is one year, beginning January 1, 2025. Not later than 90 days before the expiration of this agreement both parties shall enter into good faith negotiations for its renewal.



President, NWLS Board of Trustees

10/22/24

Date



Chairman, Sawyer County Board of Supervisors

11-20-2024

Date

B. Brochure On Public Libraries in Sawyer County.

Sawyer County Libraries

Sherman & Ruth Weiss
Community Library
PO Box 917
10788 State Highway 27/77
Hayward, WI 54843
(715) 634-2161 (715) 634-5257 Fax
Email: hlibrary@hayward.wislib.org
Website: weisscommunitylibrary.com

HOURS:
Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 10 am - 5 pm
Tues. 10 am - 7 pm
Sat. 10 am - 1 pm

**Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe
Univeristy Community Library**
13466 W. Trepania Road
Hayward, WI 54843
(715) 634-4790 Ext. 108 or 122
(715) 634-5049 Fax
Email: library@lco.edu
Website: lco.edu/

HOURS:
Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 4:30 pm

WINTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
5139N Main Street; P.O. Box 340
Winter, WI 54896
(715)266-2144 (715) 266-2144 Fax
Email: winter.wislib@gmail.com
Website: winter.wislib.org

HOURS:
Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 10 am - 5 pm
Wed. 10 am - 7 pm
Sat. 10 am - 2 pm

SUMMER HOURS:
Open at 9 am between Memorial Day - Labor Day
Find us all on Facebook!

Serving Our Communities

SHARED MISSION STATEMENT
To deliver quality library services to all residents and visitors of Sawyer County and beyond while preserving the unique nature and independent operation of each library.

WORKING TOGETHER
We meet regularly to share information and coordinate services. We work together to sponsor programs, publicize special events, and make referrals to each library when appropriate.

LIBRARY SYSTEM MEMBERS
As members of the Northern Waters Library System (NWLS), Sawyer County libraries have access to a variety of library services and support, including Sierra, the library catalog shared by libraries is eight counties. Sierra provides the public with an online database of more than one million items, including CD's, DVD's, audios, and e-books. Sierra can be searched by title, keyword, author, subject or call number.

The catalog offers additional links such as:

- FEATURED LISTS-New/Popular titles.
- OVERDRIVE-Online access to 190,000 e-books, e-movies, and e-audios.
- BADGERLINK-Thousands of journal, magazine, and newspaper titles; image files, and other reference materials including international publications, health pamphlets; Litfinder, Searchasaurus, TeachingBooks and e-books.
- DATABASES-Featuring job searching and resume help, genealogy, health and many more.
- WISCAT-Statewide library catalog used to obtain interlibrary loans.

NWLS Website: nwls.wislib.org

Working Together In Sawyer County

**SHERMAN & RUTH WEISS
COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

**LAC COURTE OREILLES
OJIBWE UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

WINTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Ojibwe University Community Library

Established 1990

Services

- Native collections of books, audio and video recordings, microfilms, maps, periodicals, and photographs
- Microfilm collection of historical documents, census records, and newspapers
- Community photographs available on *Past-Perfect Database*
- Community publications
- Conference rooms for small groups
- Comfortable seating area with fireplace

Specializations

- Native & popular materials collections
- Community history materials

Achievements

- Web access to LCO historical newspaper collection which was digitized through the IMLS Enhancement Grant
- Culturally appropriate with stylized wigwam, floral design, traditional colors, and community paintings



Services @ All 3 Libraries



- Adult and children's collections & services
- Magazines and newspapers, print and online
- Eight county (30 libraries) shared library catalog available online for requesting materials
- Fax, scanning and printing services
- High speed public internet access, Wi-Fi, desktop publishing software and multiple databases
- Reference and interlibrary loan services (WISCAT)
- Large print collection
- Adult and children's programs

Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library

Established 1904

Services

- Adult, teen, and children's services and programming, including weekly preschool story hour
- Young adult material collection
- Large print adult and children books and audio-visual assistive technology
- Community meeting room with laptop, projector, screen, and kitchenette
- Study rooms with computers
- Comfortable seating areas with fireplaces in adult and children's rooms
- Friends of the Library used book room
- Regional art displays: quilting, CHARAC artists and sculpture; and educational displays
- Puzzles, adult and children's games, cake pans, and craft stamps available for checkout.
- Indoor activities including community adult puzzle, I-Spy, scavenger hunt, Take-N-Make Kits, puppets, children puzzles

Specializations

- Popular materials collection
- Wisconsin, local history, and Ojibway collections
- Digitized historical local newspaper collection

Achievements

- Built library with funding from private citizens, businesses and grants
- Nature trail with pond, observation pier, outdoor classroom, butterfly garden, StoryWalk® and guided 4-season nature tour audio
- Library Prairie Project next to walking trail on Highway 77, in progress



Winter Public Library

Established 1958

Services

- Friends of the Library used book sale
- Print books, audio books, DVD's, and puzzles for children and adults
- Numerous adults and children programs offered all year long

Specializations

- Popular material collection
- Wisconsin and local history collections

Achievements

- Strategic plan through 2025
- Creation of the Friends of the Library
- Constructed a covered outdoor programming space
- IEEE STEM Kit Grant Recipient



Online Resources @ All 3 Libraries



E-books and e-audiobooks on the Libby app or at wplc.overdrive.com



Licensed trustworthy content at badgerlink.dpi.wi.gov



Novelist is a recommendation resource with read-alikes, discussion guides, reading lists, and more.



Access genealogical research

Stream thousands of films!



100+ languages at your fingertips



Enjoy thousands of award-winning art and craft video classes.

C. County Agreement between NWLS and Sawyer County.

Resolution #2025 - _____

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SAWYER COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE PLAN 2025-2030

WHEREAS, Sawyer County (the "County") is a member of the Northern Waters Library Service and must comply with the requirements of Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin State Statutes in providing library services;

WHEREAS, the County provides library services to County residents who reside outside of communities that maintain their own libraries;

WHEREAS, Sherman and Ruth Weiss Community Library, LCO Ojibwa College Community Library and Tice Public Library (Winter Public Library) are all located in the County and are members of Northern Waters Library Service;

WHEREAS, the County may appoint a Library Planning Committee and may engage in preparing a plan for the County system to ensure County residents have access to adequate library services; and

WHEREAS, the Library Planning Committee, consisting of County Board members, library directors and library board trustees, reviewed the needs for library services and developed the Sawyer County Library Service Plan 2025-2030 for future services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the Sawyer County Library Service Plan 2025-2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Library Planning Committee meet on an annual basis, for the next four years, to review the Sawyer County Library Service Plan 2025-2030 until such time the Library Planning Committee will develop the next five-year plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

(Signatures appear on next page)

40 This Resolution is recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its
41 meeting on January 16, 2025 by this Sawyer County Economic Development & UW-Extnesion
Committee this 6th day of January, 2025.

43

44

45

46 _____
John Righeimer, Chair

Stacey Hessel, Vice Chair

47

48

49

50 _____
Tom Duffy

Steve Kariainen

51

52

53

54 _____
Randy Neumann

55

56

57 This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 16th day of
58 January, 2025.

59

60

61

62 _____
Ron Kinsley, County Board Chair

Liz Klein, County Clerk

63

D. Statistics for Sawyer County Libraries

Funding

	Municipal \$			County \$*			State \$		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Hayward	0	0	0	233,237	244,434	236,853	2,041	2,090	1,953
Winter	6,650	6,800	6,750	73,267	78,253	78,253	1,207	1,700	997
LCOO	55,832	44,131	56,249	27,911	29,739	20,945	1,190	980	800

	Federal \$			Other*\$*			Total \$		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Hayward	1,378	0	0	31,034	183,044	61,782	267,690	429,568	300,588
Winter	0	0	0	0	0	0	81,124	86,753	86,000
LCOO	68,441	61,257	48,685	120	182	206	153,494	136,289	126,885

*County includes funds from Sawyer County plus surrounding counties.

**Other includes fines, fees, donations, and other non-public dollars.

Circulation

	Collection Size			Circulation*			Library Visits		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Hayward	39,653	39,707	38,648	47,616	62,567	65,874	31,419	38,364	52,885
Winter	9,455	9,650	10,228	8,398	8,956	9,928	7,992	7,862	8,351
LCOO	36,604	36,680	36,381	1,919	2,806	3,507	Not reported	Not reported	11,596

*Circulation numbers do not include any checkouts for electronic materials (e-books/movies/audio).

Electronic Circulation*

	E-Books			E- Audio			E-Video		
	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023	2021	2022	2023
Hayward	13,159	12,324	12,395	10,116	10,783	10,116	3	10	274
Winter	2,204	1,846	1,729	783	1,092	1,175	2	1	21
LCOO	270	237	266	11	17	187	0	0	45

*The State of Wisconsin Statutes does not include reimbursement formula for electronic items.