

Where the Waves Will Take Us in 2013

Polaris

There's no better place to start than with Polaris. The new Polaris library catalog launched in May 2012 and is now allowing materials to quickly satisfy holds both to and from Garrett and Washington Counties. This winter we will begin an authority control project which will improve searching functionality by resolving subject headings, see-also references, and other metadata. Julie and Carrie will continue to provide refresher trainings for staff as needed.

New Interest Groups

Are you looking for an opportunity to do something enjoyable that benefits the entire region and allows you to develop your leadership skills? Inspired by Western Maryland's Teen Interest Group, we will be forming three new region-wide Interest Groups: Children's Services, Marketing, and Technology. Each group needs a Chair to schedule and coordinate meetings. WMRL will provide support. We expect that these new interest groups will kick-off by July 2013 and a term as chair will run for one year from July 1st to June 30th. Each group will be able to decide how they'd like to meet: in-person or online. Want to know more? Just [ask me!](#)

Computer Reservation Software

For several years WMRL has funded the PC reservation system, SAM, for Allegany and Washington counties. Soon a committee will begin to review of the available PC reservation systems on the market and consider how they compare to SAM. The committee will make a recommendation on how to proceed before our current contract renews in June 2013.

Evaluation of Region-Wide Services

The WMRL Advisory Board has identified two areas where we will use consulting assistance to study and evaluate services region-wide. The first is delivery, where across the three library systems and WMRL we currently have five delivery networks in operation. This study will consider where improved coordination and enhanced delivery services might be possible and make recommendations. The second study will review how materials-processing across the four organizations is accomplished at present and offer recommendations on how these procedures might be integrated and streamlined to find cost savings. The WMRL Advisory Board will consider the recommendations of each study.

Did You Know?

In addition to these new initiatives, WMRL continues to provide:

- Funding for public relations staff
- Marketing services
- Deposit collections
- Web development
- Printing and photocopying
- Delivery between Oakland and Frederick.
- [WHILBR](#) – Western Maryland's Historical Library
- [Freegal Music](#)
- And an [assortment of online subscription databases](#)

On behalf of the Regional Library, I want to thank each of you who continue to educate and promote these resources to your library customers.

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As always, please feel free to contact any WMRL team member or to stop by our temporary office at 101 Tandy Drive on the west side of Hagerstown. Though our current building isn't open to the public, visits by library staff are always welcome. Soon we'll start scheduling tours of our fully expanded and renovated building in downtown Hagerstown which should open next spring. You'll be able to get reacquainted with the WMRL staff and see where it all happens!

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[WMRL's current strategic plan](#)