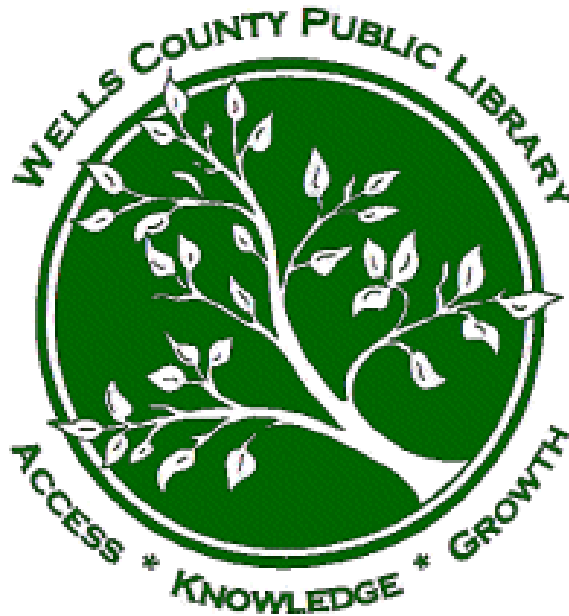


WELLS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

**200 W. Washington Street
Bluffton, Indiana 46714**



**Long Range Plan
2008-2012**

WCPL Long Range Plan
Approved January 8, 2008

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ATTACHMENTS

Action Plan Charts

Introduction

Why create a long range library plan?

Challenges. Technology. Internet. Digital divide. Cable TV. Barnes and Noble. Staying home. Changing family structures. Growing illiteracy. Lack of time. Increasing stress. Downtown revitalization. Taxpayer concerns. State budgetary problems. Inflation. Pride in community. Building maintenance. Growth. Consumer demands. Safety awareness. Community Partnerships. Doing more with less. Declining stock market. Survival. Reality. Accountability. Change. This list was taken from the 2003-2007 long range plan. As the planning committee met to discuss the 2008-2012 plan, the needs have not changed. There are still countless challenges that face the public library system today. Because of these challenges, it is essential that the Wells County Public Library plan. Plan for growth, safety, community needs, technology, and lifelong learning.

What was the planning process?

Upon completion of the main library building project, the planning process was looked at as a time to not only move forward, but also a time to take the new and flourish. There was a focus on not only generating new ideas, but also in determining if there are things we can eliminate. The process began with the creation of the planning committee. This committee is made up of department heads as well as the administrative assistant, the director, the library board's outreach committee, and the facilitator. Throughout the

fall of 2007, the committee met monthly to create goals, strategies, and objectives for the new plan. Each meeting had a target focus and the committee shared information with their perspective areas between meetings. Members of the committee brought new ideas and viewpoints to the table for discussion. The committee set a goal to complete the planning process and be ready to present the plan to the Board at the January 2008 Board Meeting. In order to meet this goal, committee members gave freely of their time and showed a sincere dedication to the process.

Who was involved?

All staff had a voice in the process, but the planning committee was comprised of the following people:

- Julie Meitzler, facilitator – Julie is a former board member and a teacher at BHMSD. She has been through the WCPL planning process as well as the school planning process.
- Stephanie Davis, Director
- Nancy Johnson, Board Member
- Graig Stettner, Board Member
- Jennifer Martin, Head of Young Adult Services
- Pam Powell, Southern Wells Branch
- Vi Tester, Head of Reference Services
- Susan Dailey, Head of Ossian Branch

- Amy Greiner, Head of Children’s Services
- Nancy Lowe, Head of Circulation
- Doris Jean Hoffer, Head of Audio Visual
- Judy Maxwell, Head of Technical Services
- Dawn Miller, Administrative Assistant
- Christine Will, System Administrator

The Library’s Values

The Wells County Public Library is committed to providing library service that is:

- All encompassing
- Oriented for lifelong learning
- Economically and equally accessible
- Inviting and offers a “small town” atmosphere
- Committed to innovative technology
- Professional and forward thinking
- Customer focused

(Reviewed and accepted 9/6/07)

The Library’s Mission

The WCPL provides the communities it serves with
access, knowledge, and growth
supporting research, popular interests and lifelong learning.

(Reviewed and accepted 9/6/07)

The Library's Vision

The WCPL will

- Be considered essential to the community
- Embrace technology
- Produce innovative programs for all ages
- Seek continual improvement in its facility, its people, and its processes
- Serve patron's individual informational, enrichment, and entertainment needs
- Seek cost-effective, convenient knowledge delivery
- Be the best source of information about Wells County

(Reviewed and accepted 9/6/07)

Goals

The goals from the previous planning cycle were reviewed, adapted, and accepted as viable and important to the current WCPL and its patrons.

- 1. WCPL provides an attractive, safe, and valued community destination where county residents gather to learn, exchange information, socialize, and enjoy themselves.**

The library facilities should be used to their fullest potential. WCPL wants people of every age and gender to feel comfortable at the library and look to the library as a wealth of information and social interaction.

- 2. WCPL provides Wells County residents of all ages with convenient, easy access to the technology, information, resources, and the expert assistance needed to become information literate, explore possibilities, achieve success, and pursue recreational and educational interests in the area of technology.**

The library is a resource for the community's technology needs. WCPL wants the library to be a place to learn about computers, Internet, online resources, and non-print material. WCPL wishes to provide the technology for those who do not have it at home.

- 3. WCPL provides the connection, resources, and assistance needed for the people of Wells County to discover books, develop a love of reading, and begin the journey of lifelong learning that will help them lead productive, satisfying lives.**

WCPL wants to offer opportunities at the library that will bring people to the library to be introduced to books and their value. WCPL wants to assist every resident with obtaining the skills necessary to learn to read, receive an education, enjoy a career, and pursue their interests.

4. WCPL offers a strong collection of resources and varied learning opportunities so that Wells County residents and visitors can enrich their understanding and appreciation of genealogy and the county's history.

WCPL wishes to increase the opportunities for people to obtain information concerning their Wells County heritage through training and resources. The library will continue to make more information available online as well as within the library walls.

Attached is an action plan created to provide a roadmap for the Board and staff as we work to meet the needs of Wells County and its patrons.