

**ARL Director of Libraries Report for March and April 2022
May 2022 Meeting**

Administration & Personnel

- Staffing: **all open positions currently filled.**
- All three county's Boards of Commissioners have approved the revisions to the Interlocal Agreement. The next step is to get the necessary three signatures from each county (Clerk to the Board, Chairman of the Board, Finance Director) and to send a signed copy to the State Library. *Wilkes County attorney Tony Triplett has taken this job on, much to my delight.*
- A one-time extra \$10 million from ARPA is in the current state budget for **State Aid to Public Libraries**, but **we STILL do not know when or how that money will be distributed**, nor any of the restrictions that may come with it.
- Jane has announced her retirement in early January, 2023.

Budgets & Finance

- Please see the regional and local budget reports for details for the period ending April 30. If we received funding and spent money equally month by month, we'd be at 83.33% for both revenues and expenditures at the end of February.

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Ashe	87.56%	71.88%
Watauga	81.53%	78.86%
Wilkes	78.34%	74.05%
Regional	73.3%	80.98%
TOTAL	80.85%	73.69%

- We budgeted for less revenue from **Fines/Fees** for this FY, and so far these **revenues are still running ahead of budget**. At the end of April, when we'd like to see 83.33% of **fine revenue** collected, Ashe had collected 107.68%, Watauga 100.77%, and Wilkes 115.87%.
- The **Manager's Proposed 2022-2023 budget in Watauga County** includes the amount we requested for the library. The commissioners have not yet approved the budget.

Grant Activities

- ARL is applying for an LSTA Bright Ideas grant in the total of \$15,000 (\$5,000 per county for a different project in each county). The money, if granted, must be spent by September 1, 2022.
- Grant \$** received for the region and for individual libraries in 21-22 remains at **\$108,610**.

Technology

- We think it's time to evaluate usage of web pages and decide if any pages/information should be deleted due to lack of interest or if any needs to be added or amped up because people pay more attention to them.
- We received and rolled out 17 new hotspots for Wilkes. We were able to take advantage of an offer from the company to replace our existing devices for free!
- We completed migration of our Envisionware console at the Wilkes Library to a new PC.
- We rolled out improved wireless downstairs at Ashe.
- We completed upgrade and migration of the Deep Freeze console which provides protection for every public PC across the region.