**Press Release: More Resources Needed to Support Libraries in WNY**

The Western New York Library Resources Council (WNYLRC), a not-for-profit library and library systems consortium that promotes resource sharing amongst its membership, announces the publication of results from its 2023 WNY Asset Mapping Survey.

Led by the Library Education, Advancement, and Partnerships (LEAP) Committee, the WNY Asset Mapping Survey collected responses on library characteristics and digital technology services from 240 public, academic, hospital, cultural, and K-12 libraries in the six-county region served by WNYLRC (Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans counties; with some Allegany respondents). Because libraries play an integral role in facilitating access to digital resources, an essential need for most individuals today in both their work and personal lives, the LEAP Committee sought to identify how prepared libraries in WNY are to grow in this role and what further resources and supports they need to best serve their patrons.

The survey found that, on average, a WNY library has one part-time and fewer than two full-time professional librarians on staff serving relatively substantial populations. Also, 43% of respondents expressed a desire for more professional staff dedicated to providing technology services, like digital skills training and support for makerspaces (workshops providing access to creative technologies like art supplies, robotics, 3D printers, etc.) to meet the demands of those they serve. The survey also identified needs to improve the availability of regularly scheduled classroom-style digital skills training and to expand makerspace services to reach more adult patrons. Future investments in libraries could support improvements to staffing and technology services, expanding the resources available to library patrons and advancing digital equity and inclusion in Western New York for a more robust and productive community.

The full report and survey data (with codebook) are available for download on the WNYLRC website (<https://wnylrc.org/services/digequity>). For more information about this project, please contact Heidi Ziemer, Outreach and Digital Equity Coordinator, at 716-633-0705 x114.