PLSR Focus Group Update for Steering Committee

Summary of Demographics and Scaled Questions:
- 33 participants in the three focus groups
- Represented all 16 of Wisconsin’s library systems
- All were library directors
- Years as director ranged from 6 months to 30 years
- Overall assessment of their current library system on a 10-point scale: 7.23 (low of 2, high of 10; mode of 9)
- The importance of connections and collaboration between libraries on a 10-point scale: 9.2 (low of 6, high of 10; mode of 10)

General issues/concerns raised regarding redesign outcomes:
Note: this is a list of a few of the issues we heard during our three focus groups last week. These should be read with an important caveat that this list is not based upon a systematic review of our notes from these groups.

A few of things we heard were . . .
- Broad goal embraced by everyone: equity in services and service quality across the state.
- Deep concerns about funding to ensure equity – especially on how to lift smaller more financially strapped libraries up without taking resources away from larger more financially stable/secure libraries
- Concerns about maintaining local library autonomy and uniqueness vs. uniformity/conformity for the sake of efficiencies – people want the power, resources, and efficiencies of the group while also maintaining their local identity
- Concerns with higher authorities’ and the legislative bodies’ willingness and ability to make the tough choices: to fund and support libraries to raise the bar and ensure equity across the state . . . without taking resources away from strong and service rich libraries.

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