



## What is BadgerLink?

BadgerLink is an online library which provides Wisconsin residents with **access to information resources** such as magazines, newspapers, scholarly articles, videos, images, and music in cooperation with the state's public, school, academic, and special libraries. Through economy of scale purchasing, these resources are used by libraries, schools, universities, and businesses at a **statewide savings of \$73-75 million**.

**By the Numbers:** BadgerLink vendors, such as Encyclopaedia Britannica, Wisconsin Newspaper Association, and TeachingBooks.net provide users with access to:

- Approximately 20,000 full-text magazines, journals, newspapers, reference materials, and other specialized information sources, including over 8,000 full text magazines and journals, over 1,500 newspapers and newswires, approximately 6,800 full textbooks, and 2,900 historical newspaper titles
- Automobile repair manuals, company profiles, country economic reports, industrial reports and yearbooks, biographies, primary historical documents, charts, images, schematics, maps, poems, essays, speeches, plays, short stories, author audio programs and book readings, author video programs, book reviews, and discussion guides
- Essential reference information and full text resources not available through regular internet search engines.

## What is Newsline for the Blind?

Newsline for the Blind (Newsline) provides **access to newspapers for people who cannot read print newspapers**, using an automated electronic voice that can be accessed via a telephone. Newsline provides users with access to 14 Wisconsin newspapers and over 365 national newspapers, news wire services, and some national magazines.

## Modest Funding Increase

WLA supports DPI's request for an increase of \$96,600 in FY27 to cover costs to continue contracts with all current BadgerLink vendors and to maintain current level of services offered through Newsline for the Blind.

|   | 2025-26 Request | 2026-27 Request |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Estimated BadgerLink and Newsline cost        | \$3,276,200     | \$3,582,900     |
| Combined Chapter 20 Appropriation (FY25 Base) | \$3,486,300     | \$3,486,300     |
| <b>Difference (DPI request)</b>               | <b>\$0</b>      | <b>\$96,600</b> |