



**FY 2023 – 2025 State Budget Priorities
BadgerLink & Newline for the Blind**

What is BadgerLink?

BadgerLink is an online library which provides Wisconsin residents with **increased 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repair manuals, company profiles, country economic reports, industrial reports and yearbooks, biographies, primary historical documents, charts, images, schematics, maps, poems, essays, speeches, plays, short stories, author audio programs and book readings, author video programs, book reviews,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
- WISCAT (the online catalog of Wisconsin library holdings), OCLC WorldCat (an international database of library holdings), directories of libraries, digitized library collections, and other essential reference information and full text resources not available through regular internet search engines

What is Newline for the Blind?

Newline for the Blind (Newline) provides **daily access to newspapers for people who cannot read print newspapers**, using an automated electronic voice that can be accessed using a regular touch-tone telephone.

Newline 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 \$104,000 in 2023-2024 and \$203,000 in 2024-2025 to cover costs to continue contracts with all current BadgerLink vendors and to maintain the current level of services through Newline for the Blind.

	2023-24 Request	2024-25 Request
Requested Funding	\$3,387,300	\$3,486,300
Less Base	\$3,283,300	\$3,283,300
Requested Change	\$104,000	\$203,000