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DOA Launches *OpenBook Wisconsin* Website

Creates Wisconsin's First Transparency Website

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) announces the launch of its beta version of the *OpenBook Wisconsin* website, which provides a level of financial openness and transparency never before available to Wisconsin taxpayers. The website includes the operating expenditure data for state agencies, the legislature, the courts, and the University of Wisconsin System. *OpenBook Wisconsin* includes the amount paid for purchasing goods or services, travel, and vendor payments.

"This website is part of this Administration's on-going commitment to making state government more transparent for the citizens of Wisconsin," said DOA Deputy Secretary Chris Schoenherr. "With more than 25 million entries in the website, we are taking a dynamic approach to transparency and providing greater access to information about how taxpayer money is being spent than has ever been provided before."

The website data is updated every two weeks from the state's accounting system, and provides data detail similar to a credit card statement. This first phase of the *OpenBook Wisconsin* website includes operation expenditures for state agencies, the legislature, and the courts. The website database may be searched by vendor, expenditure categories, agency and fiscal year. The site currently contains data about the expenditures made by State Government from fiscal year 2008 through the most current month.

"We are calling this our beta version because it is a work in progress," said Schoenherr. "In the future, we plan to add salary and fringe benefits paid to state employees, grants awarded, and contracts entered into by state agencies to the website." As directed by law, the website does not include aids payments to individuals, organizations, and local assistance payments.

Here is a table that outlines the operating expenditures included in *OpenBook Wisconsin* website at openbook.wi.gov:

Organization	<i>OpenBook Wisconsin</i> Content
State agencies	All expenditure data, including the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
Legislature	All expenditure data paid through the State's accounting system
Courts	All expenditure data for FY2008 – FY2011 (Courts data part of State's accounting system) Partial data for FY2012 and FY2013 (Courts on different accounting system starting in 2012; data being converted)
UW System	All expenditure data starting in FY2013 (UW System on different accounting system) Purchase card data to be included in the future

The *OpenBook Wisconsin* website was added to state law as a transparency tool (part of 2011 Act 32). The data has been reviewed by software programs and personnel to help ensure that confidential information such as social security numbers, home addresses, or home telephone numbers of any employee will not be displayed on the website.

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