



Welcome to WLA Wednesday

March 14, 2018

On this day: In 1879, Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany.

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Making Headlines

WLA Legislative Summary and Report

The 2018 Legislative session adjourned on time—for the first time since 2014—on March 8, 2018. The 60-day legislative session was a busy one with hundreds of new bills introduced. In the end, though, only 261 made it to the Governor's desk for his signature.

For Washington libraries, the operating budget had a number of important spending victories:

- \$250,000 is appropriated for the Secretary of State's office to hire two staff people to digitize state library materials for wider accessibility and to further develop the online teacher portal.
- \$80,000 was appropriated to facilitate a capital needs assessment study of public libraries in distressed counties – including the library facility backlogs and local funding capacities for both non-historic and historic libraries.
- \$900,000 is appropriated from to enable more student access to digital learning through the e-rate program.
- \$100,000 was appropriated for K-12 Open Educational Resource grants
- \$100,000 was appropriated to expand access to electronic Braille display technology at the Washington State School for the Blind

On the policy side, WLA had some key victories but also lost a couple bills due to the fast time frame and the fact that more time was needed to complete the work.

- **Increasing Broadband Access (SB 5935):** This bill would have set up an Office of Broadband Access and provided funding for broadband improvements throughout the state.

Although WLA was able to amend the bill to ensure participation in the Office of Broadband Access and the needs assessments by the Washington State Librarian, the bill was not able to be brought to the floor for a vote prior to the end of session due.

- **School Library Bills (SB 6140/HB 2695):** These bills would have created a three prong edapproach for school library support. They would have given “library materials” its own line item in the prototype school allocations, required OSPI to study what is happening with school libraries across the state, and added a school library oversight position at OSPI. While neither of these bills made it past the cutoff dates, WLA was able to amend the “library materials” change onto SSB 6362 which passed and is now on the Governor’s desk.
- **Service Animal Misrepresentation (HB 2822):** This bill clarifies the definition of “service animal” for all public accommodations (including libraries) to match the federal definition of a dog (or miniature horse) that is specifically trained to do a task for a person with a physical, psychiatric, mental, or sensory disability. The bill, which was drafted by the Governor’s Office for Disability Rights and the Human Rights Commission, passed both houses with overwhelming support and is now on the Governor’s desk. The hope for this bill is that it will make people think twice before bringing their untrained pet into a public place and will also provide more protection for those who do have trained service animals in the disabled community.
- **Expanded Learning Council (HB 2802):** WLA was very disappointed to see this bill die in the Senate Early Learning & K12 Education Committee. The bill would have made permanent the existing Expanded Learning Council (which has a WLA serving on it). This council is important to coordinating efforts between early learning, K-12 education and summer learning programs. The proponents, including WLA, plan to work over the summer and bring this bill back next year.
- **Student Freedom of Expression (SB 5064):** This bill, which passed and is now on the Governor’s desk awaiting his signature, offers protection to student media at both public high schools and higher education institutions. School officials may only prohibit student media that is: libelous or slanderous; an unwarranted invasion of privacy; obscene or indecent under the Federal Communications Act; violates school district policy or procedure related to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or discrimination; incites students to commit an unlawful act on school premises or violate a lawful school regulation; or creates a material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. Political expression by students in school-sponsored media may not be deemed use of public funds for political purposes and student media advisors are also protected from repercussions for failing to repress student-protected media.

To read the full report from WLA lobbyist Carolyn Logue and to see the comprehensive list of bills tracked by WLA over the 2018 Legislative session, [visit the WLA website.](#)

The WLA Legislative committee worked hard over the session to read bills and help narrow this list. Now comes the work of deciding the 2019 Legislative Priorities.

Look Who's Hiring



Bellingham Public Library is seeking a [Library Director](#). The position closes April 6.

University of Washington Libraries is seeking a [Data Visualization Librarian](#). The position closes April 13.

Washougal School District has two openings for a Library-Media Teacher at [Hathaway Elementary/Gause Elementary](#) and [Canyon Creek Middle School/Cape Horn-Skye Elementary](#). Both positions are open until filled.

[The Pacific Northwest Library Association](#) (PNLA) lists job openings frequently. You can also browse WLA institutional members' postings [here](#).

If you have a current posting for libraries in the WLA community you would like to submit, please [email](#) us and indicate "For WLA Wednesday" in the subject line.

News & Notes

Contact Congress to Fund Libraries TODAY



Right now, two Dear Appropriator letters are circulating in the House, asking for support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Department of Education's Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) program. These letters are in response to the White House FY 2019 budget proposal, which eliminates the majority of federal library funding.

Conference Communiqué

Now Accepting Proposals for the 2018 WLA Conference!

Program proposals are now being accepted for the 2018 Annual [Washington Library Association Conference](#), October 17-20 at the [Yakima Convention Center](#). This year's conference theme, "Cultivating Communities, Harvesting Ideas," honors the bridge-building and innovation happening in and outside of libraries, as well as gives a nod to Yakima's autumnal agriculture.

All proposals from Academic, Public, School, and Special library staff and advocates will be considered, as will those from community partners. Please reach out to the dynamic presenters in your communities or share your own skills and experience by leading a session or workshop.

- Proposals are due no later than Monday, April 16.
- The person who submitted the proposal will be notified of the outcome by May 8.
- Programs may take the form of 75-minute sessions or 3- or 4-hour workshops.
- Presenters should request approval from their employers to attend the conference before submitting proposals.
- To submit a program proposal, [please use this form](#). To submit multiple proposals, use a new form for each program.

Please direct questions to the WLA office at info@wla.org or (206) 823-1138. On behalf of the [2018 Conference Committee](#), we look forward to receiving your proposals!

The Learning Curve

States Respond: The Fight for Net Neutrality Continues

Tune in to the next ALA Chapter Advocacy Exchange on March 28, 12:00-1:00 pm PT for a conversation focused on how librarians are involved in efforts to enact state-level protections for net neutrality.

WLA Executive Director Kate Laughlin and State Librarian Cindy Aden will speak on the

As an independent grantmaking agency, IMLS provides more than \$183.6 million for libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and its Grants to States program. In just the past five years, the Washington State Library has received a total of \$16,361,638 through this program. That's an average of \$3,272,327 annually. Washington officials, not the federal government, decide how best to use LSTA funds to promote innovation, lifelong learning, research and access to information for patrons across Washington. In addition, Washington is required to provide a 1/3 match for LSTA funding, which means that a cut in federal support likely means a cut in state support for libraries.

Please take a moment today to contact Washington Representatives Pramila Jayapal, Rick Larsen, and Adam Smith to urge them to sign the LSA and IAL letters. As of this morning, they had not signed on to either letter. The letters are due Monday and offices need to know by today if they are signing.

To sign the LSTA letter, please ask the Reps. to contact Naomi Miguel in Rep. Raul Grijalva's office (Naomi.Miguel@mail.house.gov or 225-2435). To sign the IAL letter, please ask the Reps. to contact Justin Maturo in Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson's office (Justin.Maturo@mail.house.gov or 225-8885).

ALA is maintaining a list of Representatives who have signed [here](#). Please take a moment today to find out if your Representative has signed and contact them if they have not. There are talking points and email templates available for your use [here](#).

March 2018 Alki: *Bridges and Walls*

[recent Washington state legislation](#) to protect net neutrality. Presenters also include Larra Clark from the ALA Washington Office and Kieran Ayton and Julie Holden from the Rhode Island Library Association. [Register today!](#)

Institutional Library Services in Washington State

The next PNR Rendezvous is March 21 from 1:00 – 2:00pm PT. This session will provide an overview of institutional library services in Washington state, including history, challenges, and information regarding services for incarcerated populations. Attendees will find this session informative, no matter in which state you reside. (1 MLA CE) [Registration is encouraged.](#)

Free Financial Consumer Protection Course for Librarians

Financial literacy may be a serious and stressful topic, and the Spokane County Library partnered with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and designed a workshop that will make this topic less intimidating. The goal of this all-day workshop (May 7, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm) is to provide Librarians with information and tools to inform our communities about free, unbiased financial information and referrals, build local partnerships and promote libraries as community resources for financial literacy education. We can help our communities learn to be more financially literate and take control of their money, connect them to valuable information about fraud prevention, savings and retirement planning, student loan repayment and financial caregiving.

This workshop is open to all librarians in eastern Washington and northern Idaho. [Register here!](#)

Community Engagement Training: Turning Outward to Lead Change

How can small, rural libraries transform their communities? Find out at this full day, experiential workshop, *Community Engagement Training: Turning Outward to Lead Change*. Participants will learn how to create community-based libraries by



In the [latest issue of *Alki*](#), the journal of the Washington Library Association, we look at how libraries -- the services, the collections, the buildings themselves -- bridge gaps and take down walls. The Seattle Public Library finds a collaborative solution to a dearth of Somali language materials. Bellingham Public Library and the Spokane County Library District explore new ways of meeting the needs of patrons experiencing homelessness. A new community space opens up within the walls of the Spokane Public Library, while the Everett Public Library helps patrons explore the fascinating, even macabre, history of their own four walls. High school students find success as college interns, former prisoners are welcomed as new library patrons and even Facebook neighborhood groups and apps like Next Door provide unforeseen opportunities for outreach -- all in the March 2018 issue of *Alki*.

National Student Walkout: What to Know About Students' Rights

This morning, students across the country are expected to stage walkouts to protest gun violence. Hear from a free speech advocate at the ACLU and a lawyer about about the rights of students and school staff from this [article from CNN](#).

ALA Elections Are Open and Every Vote Counts!

identifying local resources, improving communication with stakeholders and “turning outward,” using tools developed by the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation.

Join Amber Williams, from the Spokane County Library District, and Erica Freudenberger, from the Southern Adirondack Library System, to adapt and customize a roadmap to engage your community, build the capacity of your library, and incorporate the tools used by the American Library Association’s Libraries Transforming Communities initiative. Libraries are invited to send a team consisting of library staff, trustees, and/or community leaders.

By the end of the workshop, participants will confidently:

- Use free tools, such as the Ask, Aspirations and Community Conversation, to gather public knowledge;
- Assess public needs;
- Use community-based decision-making to inform library services;
- Utilize the free resources available through ALA.org/LTC.

There are three locations and dates for this important and transformative training experience, which will run from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm each day:

- April 16: Pierce County Library Administrative Center, Tacoma
- April 18: Wenatchee Public Library
- April 19: Ritzville Public Library

Don't miss out! [Register now](#).

Robots: Our New Helpers or Our New Overlords?

While there’s nothing new about automation systems in libraries, recent developments in robotics (including autonomous vehicles, drones, and AI chatbots) are turning the whole notion on its head. How are these trends impacting our society now, and how might they begin affecting libraries? This webinar takes a fun and thought-provoking look at the potential and pitfalls of robots and other automation in delivering public services.

Find more information and register for this webinar from the Texas State Library and



WLA works closely with ALA through our association affiliation and through individual efforts of many WLA members.

WLA/ALA members are urged to vote in all appropriate elections to ensure that our national association hears from as many members as possible.

Current ALA members have now received a ballot link. [Don't forget to vote!](#)

Evergreen Teen Book Award

It's time to vote for your favorite Evergreen. [Teens](#) can submit their own vote for the 2018 winner, or [librarians](#) can submit the total votes for their libraries. Contact [Jodi Kruse](#) for a paper ballot.

The Evergreen committee is already compiling a list of nominees for the 2020 Evergreens. They are looking for books that are (or can be) popular with teens, deserve to be promoted or celebrated, are diverse in genre and audience, and have a copyright of 2017. They welcome nominations from educators, librarians, and students. [Nominate](#) your favorites using the hyperlinked nomination form.

Call for Applications: Library of Congress 2018 Literacy Award

The Library of Congress invites organizations committed to the advancement of literacy to apply for the 2018 Library of Congress Literacy Awards. Applications will be accepted from March 1 to April 30, 2018.

Created and supported by philanthropist David M. Rubenstein, the Literacy Awards Program is designed to broaden and stimulate public understanding of the essential role of literacy

Archives Commission [here](#). Tune in Thursday, March 22 at 12:00 pm PT.

Intergenerational Programs at the Library: Connecting Generations for Healthy Communities

Walk into almost any public library and you'll see people of all ages engaging in the community space. When libraries offer programs and services that intentionally spark connection between generations, they contribute to more vibrant and cohesive communities. Learn how your library can develop inviting opportunities to encourage more intergenerational connections on a day-to-day basis. This webinar will discuss why intergenerational relationships are important and will help you develop skills to foster intergenerational communication in your library. We'll explore ideas and resources that will turn your library into a community intergenerational catalyst.

Tune in to this free WebJunction webinar on Thursday, March 29 at 12:00 pm PT. [Register here!](#)

Focus Group for Public Library Workers

This opportunity is for public library staff, both professional and paraprofessional, to participate in virtual focus groups this spring. The purpose of the research is to better understand the challenges and rewards of providing health information in public libraries. The focus groups will happen by telephone and will last 1.5 hours; we are scheduling on all days of the week except Sundays. Audio tapes will be made of the groups and only members of the study team will transcribe these audiotapes. No individual person or library will be identified in the transcripts or publications; individual speakers will be referred to as, for example, "Reference Assistant Kansas-1." Participation will last approximately 1.5 hours. As a token of our appreciation, each participant will receive an Amazon gift card worth \$25 (which can be donated to your library if employees are not permitted to be compensated). More information is available at [this link](#).

Medical Library Association (MLA)

in all aspects of society.

Organizations may submit applications for one of three major prizes: the David M. Rubenstein Prize (\$150,000), the American Prize (\$50,000) and the International Prize (\$50,000). Applications in all categories will also be considered for Best Practice awards of \$5,000 each.

In addition to receiving cash awards, winning organizations and best practices honorees have opportunities to participate in:

- A prestigious awards ceremony and reception at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.
- An annual conference that encourages peer-to-peer learning, best practices promotion and collaboration.
- A robust network of literacy professionals working all over the world.

The application, rules and other information are available [here](#).

Two Washington Libraries Selected for ALA Pilot Program



The Seattle Public Library and King County Library System have been selected to participate in the pilot phase of the [ALA Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation \(TRHT\) Great Stories Club](#). The twenty-five libraries selected from across the country will engage in a thematic reading and discussion program series that will engage underserved teens through literature-based library outreach programs and racial healing work.

The Seattle Public Library will partner with Interagency Academy Alternative High School. King County Library will partner with West Auburn High School. Programming will take place from May to October 2018.

Have news to share? Please send it to the [WLA office](#) by Monday to be included in that week's digest. Please include "For WLA Wednesday" in the subject line.

Symposium: Health Information for Public Librarians

The Medical Library Association (MLA) has joined forces with the Public Library Association (PLA) and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) to provide a health information symposium for public librarians that runs concurrent with the last day and a half of MLA '18. U.S.-based public librarians with interest or responsibility in providing health information to their communities qualify for a free registration for the 1-1/2- day symposium. In addition to the \$500 stipend, more funding support to defray travel costs is also available from the NNLM Pacific Northwest Region. Don't miss this opportunity! Space is limited to a maximum of 150 public librarians. [Learn more and apply... deadlines are soon](#).

Boosting STEM Engagement Through Play

Many librarians have engaged with the maker movement because they see STEM development as critical gateways to future careers. Play and playfulness are often hidden drivers in how and why children stick with STEM tools and maker materials: they use LEGO to create toys to play with or fabric to create puppets. In an age where children are increasingly scheduled or engage in pre-made worlds onscreen, kids crave and need play. In this webinar, you'll look at ways in which we can support the playful side of STEM exploration. [Tune in](#) Tuesday, March 27 at 11:00 am PT.

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www.wla.org

Questions? Email us at info@wla.org