



**December 18, 2024**

*The WLA Office will be closed Wednesdays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Your next regularly scheduled WLA Wednesday will be issued on Wednesday, Jan. 8. Have a warm and wonderful holiday season with your loved ones!*



### **WLA Pawsident Election Fundraiser - Vote Now!**

Elections are now open for the [2025 Pawsidental Election](#) through **Monday, Dec. 30**. Learn more about the [Pawsidental Candidates here](#). **The voter donation is a minimum of \$10**. You may retake the voting form if you wish to support more than one candidate! Voters do not need to be WLA members, so you can campaign for your pawsidental favorite along friends, colleagues, and family.

The pet that raises the most funds will be declared 2025 WLA Pawsident! The winner will be recognized at the 2025 conference, will become an unofficial non-voting member of the WLA Board, and will have their picture available on merchandise in the WLA Store for the next year. The election is part of our ongoing #SupportWALibraries fundraising, which assists with WLA scholarships, member services, and more.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the WLA Office at [info@wla.org](mailto:info@wla.org). Thank you for your support of WA State library professionals and students!

Vote meow!

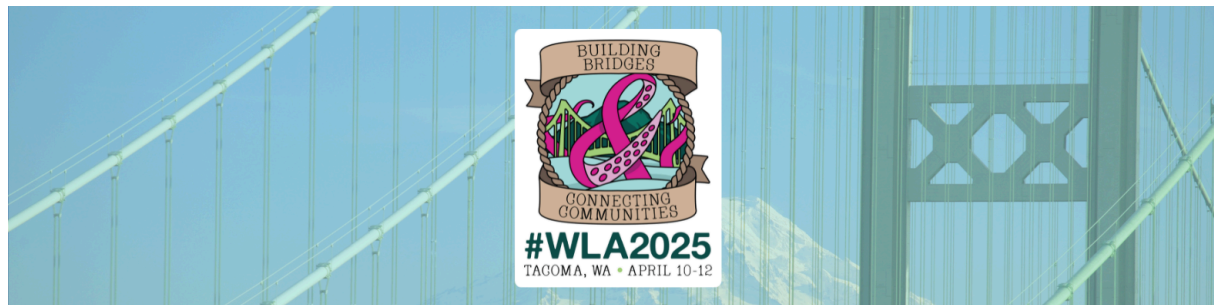


### **WLA 2025 Merit Awards Nomination Form Now Open!**

The [WLA Merit Awards](#) offer the opportunity to recognize and highlight the outstanding work that has been ongoing in Washington libraries.

Library workers at all levels and in all types of libraries are eligible! Nominees do not need to be WLA members (with the exception of the Emeritus Award). Additionally, nominators do not have to be WLA members. Award winners will receive a complimentary year of WLA membership and will be invited to be recognized during the Merit Awards lunch at the 2025 WLA Conference!

Please visit our [webpage](#) for more information and to nominate!



### **Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor at #WLA2025!**

Vendor registration is open for the 2025 Washington Library Association Conference! Don't miss your chance to engage with WLA attendees as they gather this spring in Tacoma. The conference will bring together library professionals from academic, public, school, and special libraries!

**When:** April 11-12, 2024

**Where:** Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, WA.

Why sponsor/exhibit at the 2025 WLA Conference?

- **Meet many new prospects** from all around Washington's academic, public, school, and special libraries.
- **Talk to buyers.** Many attendees control buying or influence purchasing decisions.
- **Find new customers** who do not attend national conferences.
- **Enjoy an active show schedule** with at least 15 hours of exhibit time – with refreshments, receptions, and raffles.
- **Connect with virtual attendees** and generate leads through our conference app.

You can [download our prospectus here](#) and visit the conference site for information on pricing and opportunities for engagement. The registration deadline to be recognized in the printed program is **Wednesday, March 12.**

[Register here](#) to join us in Tacoma as an exhibitor, sponsor, or advertiser.



### **WLA Individual Member Rates to Change in January**

New WLA **individual** member rates will be taking effect beginning Jan. 1, 2025! The updated rates [were approved](#) by membership during this year's WLA elections.

Consider [joining WLA](#) in the new year to take advantage of the new rates in time for [#WLA2025](#)! WLA members gain access to our Divisions and interest-based Sections, are eligible for leadership opportunities and involvement, receive members-only discounts for annual conference and events, and much more!

Please note: current *Individual Employee* members in good standing have received communications about updating their dues. All other current individual members will see changes automatically, where applicable. If you have any questions, please contact [info@wla.org](mailto:info@wla.org).

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### **Winter Issue of *Alki* "Library in Community" Out Now!**

This issue of *Alki* addresses the vital roles libraries play in the communities and networks that exist beyond their doors. From institutions like schools and

hospitals to local and national publics, this issue captures the entanglements, challenges, and aspirations of libraries' work engaging their communities writ large.

Inside this issue, you'll see the breadth of those roles and networks. From broader school funding to library politics to the role of the librarian-advocate, this issue covers a variety of perspectives on how libraries go above and beyond to meet their communities. You'll also read about under-utilized library networks, like Washington's Network of Health Information Ambassadors, and how readers' broader networks, such as social media and culturally inclusive calendars, can make for great recommendations. Our cover photo, capturing the 1915 librarian founders of the Spokane Mountaineers club, also invites the big questions, such as: "what's in that bucket, anyway?"

[Read the Winter Issue of Alki Here!](#)



### **THANK YOU for attending the WLA Bibliotherapy in Libraries Summit!**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the [Bibliotherapy in Libraries Summit!](#) Each session was filled with insightful, thought-provoking discussions, and we hope attendees left with fresh ideas and actionable strategies to implement in their spaces.

We'd like to give a huge round of applause to our incredible speakers! Your dedication and expertise truly made this event unforgettable—we couldn't have asked for a more exceptional lineup.

Missed out? Don't worry! It's not too late to register. Recordings, transcripts, and materials will be sent out by Friday, so you can still catch all the amazing content for up to a year.

[Register Here!](#)

**WLA Community Happenings**



*Please check back later for community updates!*

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*All WLA Meeting Zoom links are available on the [WLA Member calendar](#).*

## Look Who's Hiring

Central Skagit Library is seeking a [Library Associate](#) (closes Dec. 30).

Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries is seeking a [Branch Manager](#) and a [Public Services Librarian](#).

King County Library Systems is seeking a [Children's Services Coordinator](#), a [Director of Collection Management Services](#) (closes Jan. 12).

Kitsap Regional Library is seeking a [Public Services Supervisor](#) (closes Jan. 1).

NCW Libraries is seeking multiple [Bilingual Branch Librarians](#).

North Olympic Library System is seeking a [Public Services Librarian](#).

Primary Source - We Speak Library is seeking an [Administrative Assistant](#).

Sno-Isle Libraries is seeking an [Accounting Technician](#), [Library Associate \(Adult & Youth Services\)](#), and a [Library Circulation Supervisor](#).

Tigard Public Library is seeking [On Call Librarians](#).

The Washington State Library is seeking a [Branch Librarian \(Prison Libraries\)](#).

Whitman County Rural Library District is seeking an [Executive Director](#).

*If your institution has a posting for libraries in the WLA community you would like to submit, please email [newsletter@wla.org](mailto:newsletter@wla.org) and indicate "Look Who's Hiring" in the subject line.*

## News & Notes



### **Save the Date: America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026**

Plans are already underway for the commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Washington State has established an official state committee to plan events and activities, and recently launched the official America250 WA website.

Libraries are encouraged to partner with America250 WA to help educate and promote semiquincentennial activities. Join the list of partners to help promote activities in your community at this [link](#).

Lorraine Ralston, the state America 250 coordinator, will be working with partners to help ensure this commemoration is a statewide observance. Please feel free to contact her with questions at [info@america250wa.org](mailto:info@america250wa.org).

For more information about Washington State plans, visit [America250WA.org](http://America250WA.org).



### **America's Field Trip Contest**

America's Field Trip is back, as a program of America250! Students in grades 3-12 are invited to participate in this year's contest by sharing their perspective about what America's means to them.

Winners will receive an unforgettable field trip experience to one of our nation's most iconic historic or cultural sites. Written or original artwork answering the

question "**What does America mean to you**" are now being accepted; the deadline for submissions is 2 p.m. PT on April 16, 2025.

For more information, please visit [America's Field Trip - America250](#)

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### **WSL First Tuesdays – Back in 2025!**

The Washington State Library is excited to bring back the popular First Tuesdays Webinar series! Register today for January's Webinar:

#### **Compassionate Computer Help**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 9 a.m.

In this session presented by WSL Workforce Development Librarian Joyce Abbott, library staff will be equipped with the skills to support patrons in their digital skills development. Learn how to understand the goals and scope of digital assistance and discover best practices for offering this service within the public library setting. The session also provides guidance on establishing reasonable boundaries while assisting patrons, ensuring a balanced and respectful approach. This training will help you confidently provide compassionate and effective digital support to library users and your teammates.

**Registration:** <https://washstatelib.libcal.com/event/13504669>

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## Teen Internship Grant Program Info Session

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2-3 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Attend this informational session and Q&A to learn about the Washington State Library's (WSL) Teen Internship Grant Program. Attendance at this session or watching the recording is required if you are interested in applying for the grant. WSL will be discussing the basics of the grant, logistics, and more, and encourages you to invite anyone in your library who would be involved if you decide to apply (supervisors/managers, library staff, HR/Finance, etc.).

Grant applications will open on **Tuesday, Jan. 7**, and are due **Friday, Jan. 31**.

WSL is offering a limited number of grants to public and tribal libraries in Washington State to hire and mentor a teen intern during summer 2025. This grant opportunity is inspired by [PLA's Inclusive Internship Initiative](#) and the [State Library of Oregon's Teen Internship Grant](#) program.

Libraries may request up to \$5,000 to fund the salary, benefits, and accompanying project costs for one teen intern during summer 2025. The intern will be mentored by a designated library staff person, and over the course of their internship they will plan and implement an interest-driven Connected Learning project. Library mentors will receive training and support, and teens will have opportunities to connect with other teen interns and participate in virtual learning activities, facilitated by the Washington State Library.

During the course of their internship, teens will learn about what it's like to work in a library, plan and implement an interest-driven [Connected Learning](#) project with support from their mentor, and gain skills and connections to further their learning and goals.

Library mentors will receive mentorship and Connected Learning training, participate in a community of practice with other mentors, develop supervisory skills, and more.

*Supported by funding provided by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Library Services and Technology Act, through the Washington State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.*

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## 2025 ALA LIRT Awards

The ALA Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT) welcomes your submissions for two awards created to recognize excellence in information literacy and instruction.

- The **LIRT Librarian Recognition Award** honors a practicing librarian for their contributions to information literacy and instruction.
- The **LIRT Innovation in Instruction Award** honors a library for their innovative approach to information literacy and instruction.

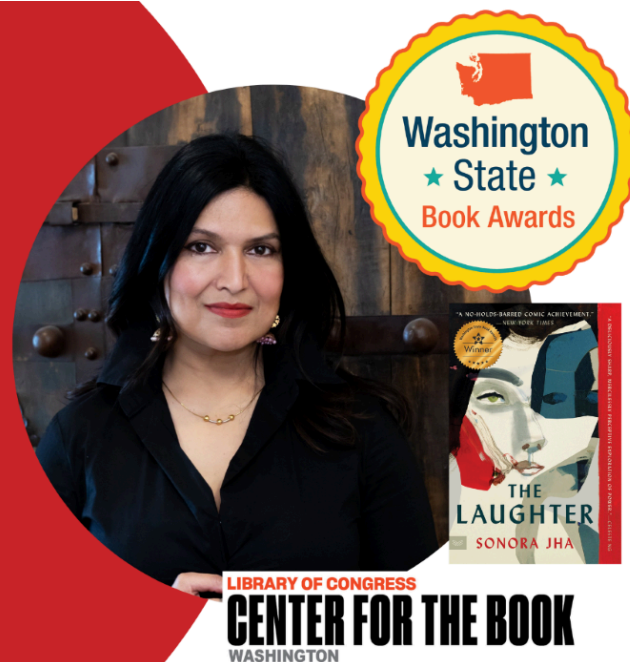
Submissions from all types of libraries (public, school, special, academic) are encouraged. Winners will receive a \$1,000 award, a plaque, and a \$500 stipend to be used to attend the 2025 ALA Annual Conference.

Submissions will be accepted until **Jan. 15**. For full details on how to apply for these awards or to nominate someone to receive them, please see the LIRT Awards site (<http://www.ala.org/rt/lirt/awards>).

**Author Talk**  
**Jan. 16, 7 p.m.**

**Sonora Jha**  
***The Laughter***  
in conversation with  
WSBA judge Jennie Diaz.

In person at the Hugo House  
and online via Zoom.



**2024 WSBA Winner Sonora Jha in conversation with Jennie Diaz**



Winner of the 2024 Washington State Book Award for Fiction [The Laughter](#) by Sonora Jha is an explosive, tense, and illuminating work of fiction... a fascinating portrait of privilege, radicalization, class, and modern academia that forces us to confront the assumptions we make, as both readers and as citizens. [Sonora Jha](#) will be in conversation with librarian and Washington State Book Award Judge Jennie Diaz.

This event will be on **Jan. 16 at 7 p.m.**, in person at the Hugo House and online. [Registration for the online event is required.](#)

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### **Call for Proposals for the PNLA Virtual Conference**

The Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) conference will be taking place online **Aug. 7-9, 2025** through Zoom Workplace. The theme for this year's conference is **Reach Further: Connecting Libraries Beyond the Screen.**

As libraries continue to evolve in a digital-first world, we want to explore innovative ways to bridge the gap between virtual and physical spaces, enhancing connections with patrons, communities, and colleagues — both online and off!

Presentations can address a wide range of topics, including, but not limited to:

- Digital Literacy, Library Education
- Virtual Programming, Outreach Innovation
- Online Engagement, Inclusive Communities
- Social Media, Online Tools
- Hybrid Collaboration

#### **Submission Guidelines**

Email the attached form in **Word** format to Debbi Kramer at [debkramerpnla@gmail.com](mailto:debkramerpnla@gmail.com).

Proposals will be accepted until **Thursday, Jan. 30**. Incomplete forms will not be considered. The Conference Selection Committee will evaluate and select programs.

Speaker Contracts for selected conference programs will be emailed by March 7, 2025. Conference programs not selected will be notified by email no later than March 14, 2025.

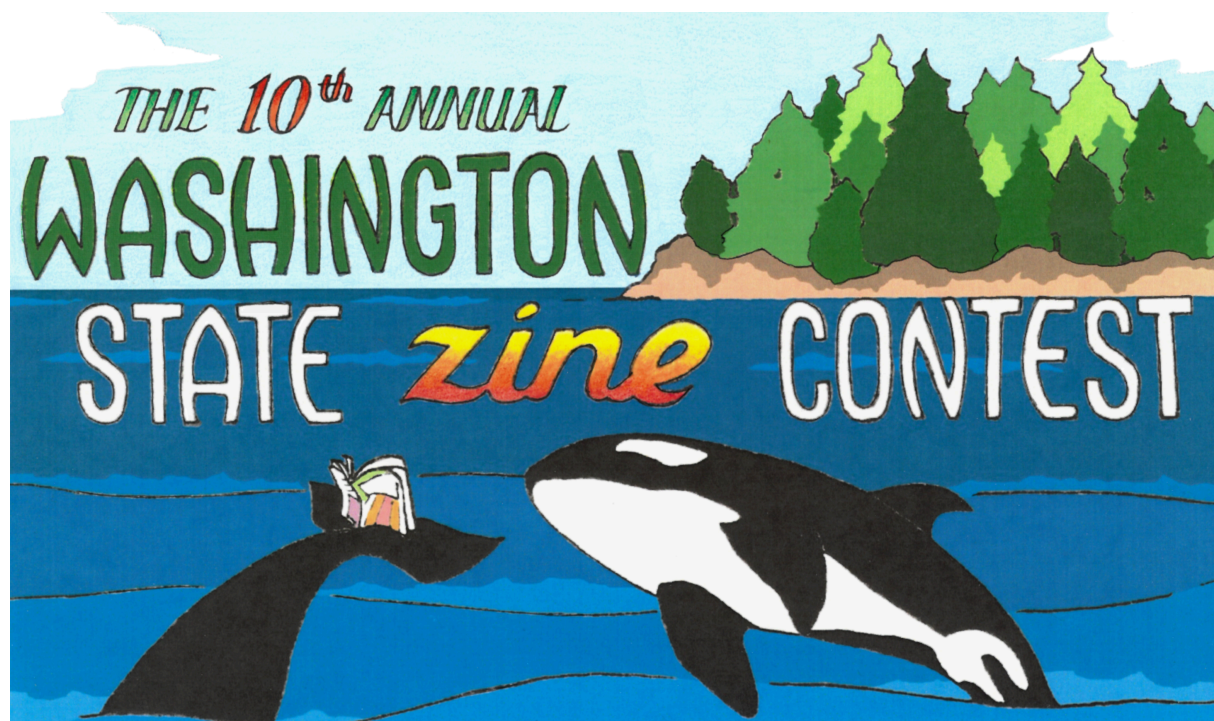
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### **Funding for Technology, Collection Development, and Professional Development Opening Soon**

Get ready, the Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) [Region 5](#) will soon offer new funding opportunities.

Funded awards improve access to health information, furthering the mission of the NNLM. [Learn more about this upcoming opportunity on our blog.](#)

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[The 10th Annual Washington State Zine Contest is now open!](#)

You can find downloadable posters and double-sided entry forms and submission guidelines to share with your community at the [Washington Center for the Book website](#).

If you have questions or want to share zine programming you are doing in your library, please email Sara Peté at [sara.pete@sos.wa.gov](mailto:sara.pete@sos.wa.gov).

Thank you to Tien Triggs, WLA's Special Library Division Vice Chair and Advocacy Committee Chair, for this year's beautiful poster design!

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### **Native Youth Reading Challenge**

The Native Youth Reading Challenge program has officially launched! This initiative is a partnership with school districts across Western Washington and tribal and public library systems. friends and family to register and join in!

Youth and families can register from here: <https://nyrc.beanstack.com/>  
For more information: <https://unitedindians.org/services/uiatec/>

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### **Book Bans and the Freedom to Read Virtual Panel Discussion**

WLA member Antioch University and the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) recently hosted, "Celebrating the Freedom to Read: Book Banning, Censorship, and Democracy." During the event, five librarians came together to hold a virtual panel discussion about today's threats to intellectual freedom, the rising number of book bannings, and the importance for school librarians to act ethically and strategically to support their students.

Read more and watch the video [here](#).

## The Learning Curve

### Questionnaire: Funding Barriers to Digitizing Library/Archive Collections The [Network of the National Library of Medicine \(NNLM\)](#)

A student currently enrolled in the [Free Upcoming Webinars](#) at the University of Washington is conducting research for a project looking at practical experience with funding barriers to digitizing collections and archives. Please visit the [NNLM website](#) for a full list of upcoming webinars.

Please note that your project will be gathered from a (free) questionnaire, and if you can't attend, visit the registration page to view a recording (posted a few weeks after the session) on this project only and will not be published, shared, or included in any other project.

Please find the link to this short survey on the WLA office at [newsletter@wla.org](mailto:newsletter@wla.org) by Monday to be included in that week's digest. Please include any relevant graphics, as well as the blurb you would like posted in our newsletter.

*It's a great time to become a member of the Washington Library Association. [Join](#) or [Renew](#) your membership today!*



### Contact Info:

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