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December 4, 2024



### #WLA2025 Program Proposals DUE TODAY!

Don't miss out on submitting a proposal for the #WLA2025! Tonight is the deadline!

Our 2025 conference theme, *Building Bridges & Connecting Communities*, invites you to explore the many ways libraries and library workers can bridge divides, connect individuals to valuable resources, and strengthen ties within their communities.

Join us in **Tacoma, April 10-12, 2025**, to connect with fellow library professionals and work together to build a brighter future for libraries in Washington and beyond!

Programs relevant to all kinds of libraries are sought. Additionally:

- Pre/Post-Conference Workshops are either 3 or 4 hours in length, or all day.
- Standard conference sessions are either 45 or 75 minutes in length.

- "WLA After Dark" sessions are 45-minute evening programs that are more fun or provocative than our standard fare.
- Lightning Talks are 10-minute presentations that focus on a concept, project, or how-to.

As you collect your proposal information, you may wish to refer to a preview of all questions here: <https://tinyurl.com/yef79uwm>.

[Submit Your Proposal Here!](#)

Due to the number of proposals received, not all will be accepted. In some cases, strong proposals covering similar topics may be asked to combine into one program to provide varying perspectives on the topic and to ensure that we have room on the schedule for diverse offerings. Program Coordinators may suggest alternative presentation opportunities, such as panel discussions, lightning talks, or poster sessions, to allow for as much engagement and collaboration as possible at the conference.

Proposals are due no later than **today, Wednesday, December 4**. Applicants will be notified of their proposal status by **January 10, 2025**.



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

Elections are now open for the [2025 Pawsidential Election](#) through **Monday, Dec. 30**. Learn more about the [Pawsidential 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 pawsidential 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 Opens TODAY!**

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!



### **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

### Final Public Library Division Quarterly Meeting TODAY!

Join the PLD this afternoon **from 3-4pm** at the final Public Library Division check-in for the year. Drop in to connect with colleagues and share successes, challenges, takeaways, ideas, and more.

Please reach out to Jannah Minnix, PLD Chair, at [jminnix@sno-isle.org](mailto:jminnix@sno-isle.org) if you have questions.



The graphic features a dark teal background with a pattern of small white dots. On the right, a white coffee cup with a latte art heart sits on a matching saucer. The text 'SRRT' is in large, bold, light-colored letters, with 'final' in a smaller, white, cursive font overlapping it. Below 'SRRT' is the word 'MEETING' in large, bold, light-colored letters. On the left, there are three light-colored rounded rectangular boxes containing text: 'Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)', 'Please join the SRRT with a warm mug in hand for our very final meeting!', and 'Tuesday, December 17th @4pm'. At the bottom left is the Washington Library Association logo, a QR code, and the text 'Learn more at: <https://www.wla.org/srrt>'.

### Join us for the Final SRRT Meeting of the Year!

Warm up through a cup of cocoa or coffee with the Social Responsibilities Round table this cozy season during our final meeting. Thank you for making the SRRT the special section that it has been! After years of service, SRRT will be sunsetting; join us for our very last meeting on December 17th at 4pm. We'll review what we've accomplished this year and we welcome those who would like to share SRRT's commitment to WLA members in previous years.

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

Look Who's Hiring



Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries is seeking a [Branch Manager](#).

King County Library Systems is seeking a [Children's Services Coordinator](#), a [Director of Collection Management Services](#) (closes Jan. 12), and a [World Languages Cataloging Librarian](#) (closes Dec. 5).

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

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).

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### **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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First  
Tuesdays  
A conversation and continuing-education opportunity

### **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 and Time:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 9:00am

In this session, we'll equip library staff 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.

Presented By: Joyce Abbott, Workforce Development Librarian, Washington State Library

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

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### **Questionnaire: Funding Barriers to Digitizing Library/Archive Collections**

A student currently enrolled in the MLIS program at the University of Washington is conducting research for a project looking at practical experience with funding barriers to digitizing collections and archives.

Information for this project will be gathered from a ten-question, anonymous survey via Google forms about your experience. The information collected will be included in this project only and will not be published, shared, or included in any other project.

Please find the link to this short survey here:

<https://forms.gle/UKmKtuoSMPBkrDws7>

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### **Survey for Rural Librarians**

As part of an intro research course, a group of UW MLIS students are looking into the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Washington state rural libraries and their collection needs. Please consider taking this 15-minute questionnaire as soon as possible to assist these graduate students!

Link to survey: <https://tinyurl.com/2s4hcpye>

Any and all responses will be reported anonymously. Please reach out to the research team at the following email addresses if you have any questions or concerns:

Hannah Heizer: [hbheizer@uw.edu](mailto:hbheizer@uw.edu)

Alex Kushner: [ack34@uw.edu](mailto:ack34@uw.edu)

James O'Brien: [jameso9@uw.edu](mailto:jameso9@uw.edu)

Ellie Rogers: [erogers6@uw.edu](mailto:erogers6@uw.edu)

Gracie Wehner: [gwehner@uw.edu](mailto:gwehner@uw.edu)

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The Washington State Library is excited to present “Peer Coaching: The Power of Curious & Intentional Conversations” with Dr. Helen Chung.

In this interactive workshop, you will have the opportunity to coach and be coached and develop skills for holding curious and intentional conversations that will deepen awareness, unlock insight, and foster a learning culture.

The workshops are limited to 20 participants. Registrants will be asked to watch a short video prior to the workshop.

Register today for this interactive workshop. There are *\*TWO\** opportunities to participate! Please click on the links below for more information and to register:

- [Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am-10:30am](#)
- [Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm-6:30pm](#)

*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, 2025**. For full details on how to apply for these awards or to nominate someone to receive them, please see the LIRT



## Call for Proposals for the PNLA Virtual Conference

The Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) conference will be taking place from **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, 2025**. 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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[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!

#### **The Learning Curve**

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.

### **Rural Health Webinar Series November 2024**

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

This series includes 8 webinars, exploring the community partnerships and health information resources that address the unique health needs of rural communities. Registration is free and open to all.

Please [visit the homepage here](#) for more information and to register.

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### **The [Network of the National Library of Medicine \(NNLM\)](#) Free Upcoming Webinars**

Please visit the [NNLM website](#) for a full list of upcoming webinars.

Please note that you need to [create a user account](#) (free) to register. If you can't attend, visit the registration page to view a recording (posted a few weeks after the session is over).

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### **CSLP Summer Symposium 2024**

Get ready for the 2025 "Color Our World" Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) theme with a virtual symposium on Dec. 5 from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. PT.

The opening keynote will welcome [Mychal Threets](#) with his keynote address, "You Belong in Libraries." Attendees will be able to participate in sessions about summer reading marketing, creative programming, and sustainability.

[Learn more](#) about the Symposium. Registration is now open!

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### **[Demystifying LIS profession to BIPOC undergraduate students: BIPOC Become Librarians](#)**

Dr. Mantra Roy from San Jose State University will present about a project to increase diversity in the library profession on Dec. 5 from 11am-12pm PST.

In this presentation, our guest presenter will share the premise of the IMLS-funded program, 'BIPOC Become Librarians' which addresses the lack of diversity in the LIS profession. They will discuss the process they developed and what was learned.

This presentation champions increasing diversity in health sciences librarianship, highlighting an NLM and NIH priority.

In addition, if you are in Region 5 (Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States in the Pacific) you are invited to register to attend the [first virtual Town Hall](#) Nov. 13 to connect with Region 5 staff - hear updates, ask questions, and share ideas.

Visit our [NNLM website for more training opportunities](#).

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*Have news to share? Please send information to 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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(206) 823-1138

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