

[Join](#)[Renew](#)[Donate](#)[Shop](#)

November 20, 2024



#WLA2025 Now Accepting Program Proposals!

The #WLA2025 program RFP is now open. On behalf of the conference committee, we invite you to submit a program proposal.

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 **December 4**.

Applicants will be notified of their proposal status by **January 10, 2025**.



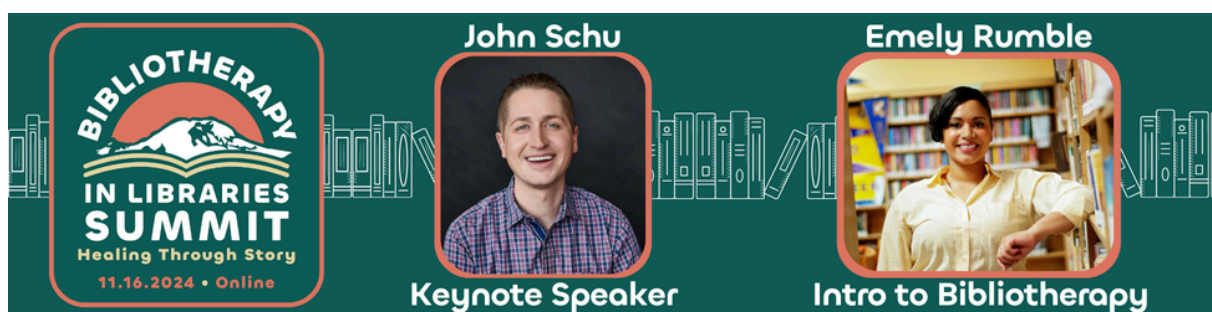
2025 WLA Pawsident

Do you have a pet who loves watching you read? Do they try to attend your online library-related meetings? Do they inspect your tote bag after every library trip you make? If so, your pet probably loves libraries! That's already worth celebrating—give yourself (or your pet) a pat on the back. But why stop there? WLA is hosting a "Pawsidental" election fundraiser, and we'd love for you to [nominate](#) your furry friend! **Nominations close Friday, Nov. 29.**

The [pawsident election](#) is part of our ongoing #SupportWALibraries fundraising, which assists with WLA scholarships, member services, and more!

2024 Past-Pawsident Chewy

Take a look at Pawsident Chewy's whirlwind term as WLA's very first Pawsident. He received his own library card, became the face of the WLA Advocacy campaign, and got to "hang" with some cool library workers.



THANK YOU for attending the WLA Bibliotherapy in Libraries Summit!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Bibliotherapy in Libraries Summit this past Saturday! 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!](#)



Interest Form Now Open for WLA 2025 Committees

It's not too late to join a WLA Committee! The **Member Services Committee** and **Finance Committee** are still looking for new members.

If you are passionate about building a strong library community and enjoy finding ways to engage, recruit, and retain members, join the [WLA Member Services Committee](#) and help shape WLA for years to come.

If you are detail-oriented, enjoy working with budgets and financial planning, and would like to collaborate with others to shape WLA's financial future, you would be the perfect addition to the [WLA Finance Committee](#). Please check back next week for updated WLA happenings!

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

- Participate in monthly online meetings (year-round) and periodic email discussions
- Have an interest in or previous experience with the focus area of the committee

Look Who's Hiring

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

Jefferson County Library District is seeking a [Public Records Analyst \(part-time\)](#). please complete this form by **Wednesday, Nov. 27**.

King County Library Systems is seeking a [Children's Services Coordinator](#). There will be a committee member orientation on **Friday, Dec. 6 from 3:30-4:30**

NCW Libraries is seeking multiple [Bilingual Branch Librarians](#). Contact info@wla.org if you have any questions.

Olympic College is seeking [Library & Archives Paraprofessional 2](#) (closes Nov. 24).

Oregon Tech is seeking a [Director, Portland Metro Campus Library](#) (closes Nov. 25).

Sno-Isle Libraries is seeking a [Collection Development Librarian - Youth Services and Media](#) (closes Nov. 24).

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

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

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library is seeking a [Circulation and Systems Librarian](#).

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 and indicate "Look Who's Hiring" in the subject line.

News & Notes



Save the Date: America's 250th Anniversary in 2026

Plans are already underway for the commemoration of the 250th 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.

For more information about Washington State plans, visit 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](#)

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>

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

Alex Kushner: ack34@uw.edu

James O'Brien: jameso9@uw.edu

Ellie Rogers: erogers6@uw.edu

Gracie Wehner: gwehner@uw.edu



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 10th at 9:00am-10:30am](#)
- [Thursday, December 12th 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.

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 Awards site (<http://www.ala.org/rt/lirt/awards>).



[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.

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

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/>

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](#)

Grant Opportunitites

Applications Open for Jason Reynolds Travel Grant

ALA is accepting applications for its 2025 Jason Reynolds/Simon & Schuster Travel Grant. The grant will cover expenses for five Black/African American librarians to attend the 2025 Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Applicants must work in youth or teen services in a public library or as a librarian or media specialist in a school library.

Grant recipients will receive up to \$3,000 (and no less than \$1,500) for travel, housing, registration, and ticket to the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast, where recipients will be acknowledged. Applications are due Dec. 1 and winners will be announced in Feb. 2025. For more information and to apply, visit the [grant website](#).

Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries

Per the grant guidelines of the Laura Bush Foundation, the grant is to be used to purchase school library books, e-books, and magazine requests as outlined in your grant application. Use of the funds for shelving or furniture of any kind, equipment (i.e.: computers, electronic readers, Kindles, etc.), staffing, software, videos, guides, tests or exams, classroom book sets, or similar items, is prohibited. For more information and to apply, please visit the [grant website](#).

Eligibility Requirements

- A **certified librarian or other paid professional** must be assigned as responsible for the collection, care, and use of the materials housed in the school library.
- Public school applicants must be **Title 1 eligible**.
- Private and parochial schools are also welcome to apply if at least **50% of their student population qualify for financial aid**.
- Your school must have a library or designated space on campus where books are accessible to all students to check out.

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. CT on **Friday, Dec. 6**.

State Broadband Office opens application for \$1.2 billion in funding

The Washington State Broadband Office opened the application period today for \$1.2 billion in federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding intended to bridge the digital divide in Washington by bringing high-speed internet to everyone. An additional \$300 million in state matching funds will be available to local governments and federally recognized tribes. The BEAD program is open to:

- Units of local government, including but not limited to ports and public utility districts
- Federally recognized tribes
- Nonprofit organizations
- Nonprofit cooperative organizations
- Public private partnership
- Private companies
- Public or private utilities

In addition, **projects must serve areas identified and approved through the BEAD process**. Commerce recently posted updated [BEAD construction project area maps](#) that detail unserved and underserved locations across the state that are eligible for BEAD funding. View the [Notice of Funding Opportunity document](#) and access the [ZoomGrants portal](#) to apply. Information about BEAD funding and more is available on the [Commerce Internet For All website](#). The first 60-day round of applications closes in January, and further application rounds may follow. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will review applications in May and June 2025, and the Broadband Office is expected to announce Washington's BEAD projects following NTIA approval sometime next summer.

Call for Applications to Attend ALA 2025!

Professional Development Grant Award

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS now until Dec. 22.

Would you like to attend this year's ALA conference, but don't have the means to do so? Apply for the NMRT Professional Development Grant award by 11:59PM on December 22. The award offers \$1,000 to one person to offset costs and expenses to attend this year's Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA on June 26-30, 2025. You must be a current ALA and NMRT member to apply. To join, visit the ALA website and follow the "[Join ALA](#)" link.

To apply, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/professionalgrant>. Applicants will be notified in February.

Shirley Olofson Memorial Award

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS now until December 22nd.

Would you like to attend this year's ALA conference, but don't have the means to do so? Apply for the Shirley Olofson Memorial award by 11:59PM on December 22. The award offers \$1,000 to one person to offset costs and expenses to attend this year's Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA on June 26-30, 2025. You must be a current ALA and NMRT member to apply. To join, visit the ALA website and follow the "[Join ALA](#)" link.

To apply, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/shirleyolofson>. Applicants will be notified in February.

For questions, please contact the chair of the NMRT Awards Committee, Jennifer Huston: jhuston@sailsinc.org



**LIBRARIES
TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES**
ACCESSIBLE SMALL AND
RURAL COMMUNITIES

ALA American Library Association

**A SPECIAL GRANT
OPPORTUNITY
FOR SMALL AND
RURAL LIBRARIES**

ala.org/LTCAccess

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities will offer more than \$7 million in grants to small and rural libraries to increase the

accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities.

To be eligible, a library must have a legal area population of 25,000 or less and be located at least five miles from an urbanized area, in keeping with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) definitions of small and rural libraries.

ALA will award four rounds of grants to be distributed over the next four years ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Please visit the [grant webpage](#) for more information.

Have grants to share with the WLA community? Please send information to the WLA office at newsletter@wla.org by Monday to be included in that week's digest. Please include any relevant requirements, as well as the hub you would like posted.

Conference Bulletin

Registration Open for 2024 Rural Library Network eSummit

Partners for Rural Impact's 2024 Rural Library Network eSummit is scheduled for Dec. 4 from 9 am-2:30 pm PT.

The purpose of the Rural Library Network eSummit is to celebrate the work by rural libraries in the community, connect and convene rural library professionals committed to moving outcomes for rural children and families, provide an opportunity for rural library professionals to network and share best and promising practices, and drive resources and opportunities to rural communities through libraries.

The theme for the 2024 Rural Library Network eSummit is "**Books Count: Eliminating Book Deserts in Rural Places**" and various tracks may focus on youth services/programs, family engagement, community engagement, health and wellbeing, bookmobiles, funding opportunities, advocacy, grant writing, etc. will enhance the experience for the attendee. Rural libraries will have an opportunity to be selected for incentives such as STEMkits, bookstore vouchers, Scholastic early literacy materials, Amazon.com gift cards, and more.

Register here: [Rural Library Network 2024 eSummit registration.](#)



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, where you'll brush elbows with a vibrant, creative community of emerging writers, artists and musicians, passionate entrepreneurs and small business owners who do their very best to add to Tacoma's colorful commercial landscape, and families who have invested in Tacoma for its charming neighborhoods and big city amenities.

Keep an eye on our [conference webpage](#) for more details to come!

The Learning Curve

Rural Health Webinar Series November 2024

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.

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).

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!

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](#).

Have news to share? Please send information to the WLA office at 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:

Washington Library Association

PO Box 33808 Seattle, WA 98133

(206) 823-1138

info@wla.org

Connect with Us!

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn