

The Washington State Library in Focus

Why Do We Need a State Library?

To quote a prominent library administrator: “Every library is designed to serve a specific community:

- Public libraries serve the people of a specific city or county.
- Academic libraries serve the faculty, staff, and students of a specific college or university.
- School libraries serve the students and teachers of a specific school.
- Medical libraries serve doctors, nurses, and patients at a specific hospital.
- Law libraries serve the attorneys and staff of a specific law firm.

Each library is designed to add value to the specific community that it serves.”

The [Washington State Library](#) (WSL) takes a broader view than any of those libraries. The State Library understands that its role is to collect and preserve materials of value for the entire State of Washington.

To understand the specific roles that the WSL plays, Rand Simmons, the State Librarian, has provided a crucial overview. Please read the following article to understand the important roles which the State Library plays in the intellectual ecosystem of the State of Washington.

Why the Washington State Library Matters

The [Washington State Library](#) (WSL) provides crucial backing and technical assistance and [grants](#) for the libraries of the state and their many patrons. It is a core service of state government, and much appreci-



ated and used.

Leveraging modest state appropriations, the WSL uses federal funding for [grants](#), consulting services, training and [professional development](#), [affordable databases](#), and other critical support your local libraries rely upon. State “maintenance of effort” dollars of \$1.8 million leverages \$3.3 million – a wonderful “bang for the buck!”

Under the banner of “Library 21,” your Washington State Library is creating statewide cutting-edge projects and showing leadership in [literacy and education programs](#) to support [early-childhood and K-12 instruction](#).

The State Library partners with Microsoft to provide the [IT Academy](#): online, self-paced, free instruction to equip veterans, students, returning workers, and others in fundamental technology skills that can lead to a family-wage job or job advancement. The State Library’s “[Gadget Managerie](#)” introduces students, elders, and others to the joys of the online world.

[Digital collections](#) are a growing emphasis at WSL, including [classics in history](#), and [historical newspapers, maps](#), and [photos](#). Civics students have access to a searchable database of [Washington governor biographies and photos](#). The [Washington Rural Heritage](#) program is an online treasure trove of the people and places of small-town and rural Washington.

Thousands of family history buffs love the [genealogy-related materials](#) available through the State Library’s digital and hard-copy collections.

The State Library co-sponsors [summer reading programs](#) and materials, and supports community and school librarians in serving pre-K through K-12 and higher education. WSL sponsors the “[Letters About Literature](#)” writing contest that inspires thousands of children and youth.

Community libraries connect and share resources and best practices through the WSL. Through partnership with the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, [a mobile app](#) connects citizens to their public, tribal, and academic libraries. Libraries receive help with [e-books and downloadable audio books](#).

The WSL proudly includes the [Washington Talking Book & Braille Library](#), which serves thousands of patrons and circulates over 350,000 items and downloads over 100,000 items annually.

The WSL operates [branch libraries](#) in our state prisons and mental hospitals, to support re-entry and recovery. The branches serve over 11,000 inmates and patients, and circulate over 689,000 items annually.

The [Ask-WA](#) program ties together more than 60 libraries to provide 24/7 online reference services to their patrons.

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The WSL is the official repository for [state](#) and [federal](#) documents that many researchers need.

IN SUMMARY:

Your Washington State Library serves many thousands of patrons across the state. The Central Library in Tumwater relies on state funding, but faces a \$2.4 million revenue shortfall. Public hours have been reduced by half and efficiencies and staff reductions have been made. Still at risk are services such as:

- Reference and information services -- [Ask a Librarian](#), where library staff answer customer questions in person, by phone, via email, and through online chat, and the “help desk” for WA citizens and others who use the [Access WA web site](#) to find information about our state.
- Interlibrary loans of resources such as state and federal agency publications; Washington newspapers, current and historical; and Washington history and genealogy material.
- Digitizing and making accessible newspapers, rare books and manuscripts, and state agency publications.
- Maintaining the comprehensive collection of state and federal publications.
- Stewardship of the Washington Territorial Library and rare and historical material, such as the original Isaac Stevens collection.
- Services to sight and physically challenged individuals unable to use standard print materials, and service to prisoners and residents of state hospitals.

The remaining articles in this newsletter highlight key WSL programs.

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With assistance from Dave Ammons, Director of Communications and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Secretary of State.

Digital Collections

The Digital Collections staff at the Washington State Library focuses on providing free, online access to historical materials and government



publications.

The digitization of historical materials began when staff realized the need for access to their rare materials by students, teachers, researchers and genealogists across the state of Washington and, in fact, around the world.

Many of the items in the collections are primary resources – contemporary accounts written by those witnessing the events – and/or very fragile, making them difficult to handle. Primary resources are particularly valuable to students and teachers as they attempt to understand what life was like during a time period or event and help them to develop critical and analytical thinking skills.

The digital historical collections at WSL include books, manuscripts, maps, and newspapers. The books and some manuscripts can be found in [Classics in Washington History](#). These books deal with the early history of Washington, pioneer life, military history, women’s stories and much more. Readers can share the experiences of early explorers and settlers as they build the communities we know today.

The historical newspapers are primary research tools and document the daily life of communities in a way

no history book can. WSL has two different historical newspaper collections. [Historic Newspapers](#) was created in-house and covers Washington’s territorial period (1853-1889) with a searchable index. Another group of titles was created in conjunction with the Library of Congress and NEH and is available through the [Chronicling America](#) site.

[Historical Maps](#) add a visual element to history. The maps for this digital collection are drawn from state and territorial government records, historic books, federal documents and the library’s Northwest Collection, and cover the history of Washington from early exploration (1794) to modern times.

Types of maps include geological, boundary, highway, railroad, military, and nautical charts. The examination of maps allow students to see these documents as more than just a tool for locating places since they show the political and natural geography of the time period, providing more context to the time period being studied and helping to develop students’ visual literacy and critical analysis.



Historical manuscripts are also a part of the WSL digital collections. Currently, the scrapbooks and correspondence of suffragette Emma Smith Devoe are available the [Washington Women’s History](#) consortium site. The scrapbook of Josephine Corliss Preston, the first female Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction (1913-1929) is online in the [Classics](#), as is the Washington State Library’s collection of Industrial Workers of the World records and publications (early 20th century). This collection was assembled during trials involving the Wobblies after the Ever-

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ett and Centralia massacres. Soon the scrapbooks of Albert Johnson, a Washington Republican congressman from 1913-1933 will be added to the online collection.

By law, Washington State Library must collect, preserve, and provide access to publications produced by Washington state government agencies.

[State publications](#) provide current and historical information about State government, including regulations, scientific research, statistics and reports. They are a resource for research into Washington's past and they are a cornerstone for Washington's future. They are the foundation of transparency in government.

With the electronic age that we live in today, most of these publications are in electronic format. The library's digital collections program is responsible for collecting these documents, submitting them to the Digital Archives for preservation, and providing access to them through their catalog. See the next article for more information.

So, as you can see, the Washington State Library Digital Collections Program provides free access to the state's history and a window into the state's future, giving students, teachers, historians, and genealogists the tools they need for success. Visit the [WSL Digital Collections](#) to open your window to Washington's past, present and future.

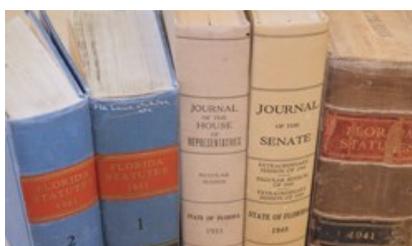
State and Federal Depository Programs

The Washington State Library is home to two government publication depository collections, one for [WA state publications](#) and one for [federal government publications](#). We also administer the WA State Depository Program and we serve as the Regional Federal Depository Library for Washington and Alaska.

The Washington State Depository Program was officially established by the Washington State Legislature in 1963 to provide Washington citizens with economical, convenient and per-

manent access to publications produced by Washington state government agencies. The program helps citizens locate information by collecting, cataloging, and loaning materials and by providing reference services to answer questions.

The State Depository Program includes a permanent depository for State of Washington print and electronic publications at the Washington State Library and a system of depository libraries geographically spread across the state. There are currently 11 full depository libraries that keep state publications for a minimum of five years and 14 partial depository librar-



ies that keep publications for a minimum of 2 years.

The State Depository Program includes both current and historical publications. State agencies are required by law to provide copies of their print and electronic publications for the State Depository Program.

The Washington State Library has been participating in the Government Printing Office's (GPO) Federal Depository Library Program since its inception over 100 years ago. The State Library was designated as the Regional Depository Library for Washington and Alaska in 1965. Since that time the library has received most federal publications distributed by GPO through the program. The requirements for the program are in Section 19 of Title 44 of the U.S. Code. The formats distributed through the program include printed reports, microfiche, CD-ROMs, DVDs, and maps. The program also provides access to online publications and services via the Internet.

There are 20 selective depository libraries in Washington and 7 in Alaska. Selective depositories are allowed to select which federal publications they receive and they must retain them for a minimum of five years.

Researchers use our state and

federal publications for a variety of reasons including researching legislative history, tracing the shape of an Indian reservation over time, documenting the history of a national park, researching the formation of a military base, and more.

State and federal publications that are 50 years old or newer are usually available for checkout at the State Library or at local library through interlibrary loan. Older publications may be used at the State Library and scanned versions of publications may be available upon request through WSL's [Ask a Librarian](#) service.

Public Services

If you have ever visited the State Library, asked us a reference question, or checked out a book from us, chances are you have interacted with someone in the Public Services Unit. Public Services librarians and staff answer reference questions through our [Ask a Librarian](#) service; staff the Reference/Circulation/Receptions Desk; develop and maintain our print newspaper, newspaper microfilm, genealogy, and reference collections; and process interlibrary loan requests.

Our library is dedicated to serving the citizens of Washington and our librarians are very knowledgeable about our state. We are happy to answer questions about Washington state government, history, culture, the federal government, and [genealogy](#). We are state government experts and are eager to help citizens navigate agency websites and find the answers to basic questions that are often available, but difficult to locate.

For more difficult or more specific questions, we find the appropriate person and/or phone number so that the citizen talks with the right person at the agency the first time, rather than after multiple calls and transfers. We strive to put a friendly face on government and make the experience of interacting with government agencies a pleasant one.

Genealogists often contact us for help with researching relatives who lived in Washington and we assist them by searching birth, death, mar-

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riage, and divorce indexes, city directories, and a variety of other sources.

We provide access to Ancestry.com and America's Genealogy Bank to visitors to our building and they are welcome to use materials in our print Genealogy Collection as well.

Our [newspapers](#) on microfilm collection, which is one of the most comprehensive collections of WA newspapers in the world, is a treasure trove for those looking for obituaries and articles. The microfilm can be used at the library, or it can be borrowed through a local library through interlibrary loan. We are happy to send our microfilm to libraries across the state, country, and world. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide copies of obituaries for customers.

Many of our librarians love to dig in and research questions about the history of our state. We have assisted with research about people, places, historical events, legislative history, and more. Researchers love our maps and other special collections.

The primary way that customers contact the State Library is through our [Ask a Librarian](#) service, which includes live online chat, email, telephone, and in-person assistance. Our online chat service is available from 8-5, Monday – Friday, and emails can be submitted anytime. Customers can visit or call the State Library between the hours of 12 noon and 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Institutional Branches

Institutional Library Services (ILS) operates branch libraries in the nine largest Department of Corrections prisons and the two Department of Social and Health Services adult psychiatric hospitals in support of the missions of both those agencies.

Library services to inmates include providing access to collections that reinforce institution treatment programs and education, with particular emphasis placed on resources for successful transition back into our

communities. Library services to patients include providing access to collections that support hospital treatment programs, with particular emphasis placed on resources for successful recovery and ability to transition back into our communities.

Institution safety and security is supported by providing a legitimate activity with a place where inmates spend constructive time. Inmates with access to library and information services will be prepared for effective re-entry into the community.

ILS supports literacy, continuing education, and training; support for ongoing classes and training; support for inmates/patients to stay current in their professions/jobs; and exploring retraining into new fields. All of these areas can be critical to a successful re-entry to society.

ILS supports patrons religious and emotional needs by providing resources that they can use on their own or that other staff/volunteers can point them towards. Examples are SOTP, AA, NA, religions, meditation, stress reduction, and physical fitness.

Talking Book & Braille Library

The Washington Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL)'s roots began in 1906 with a small braille lending library in the Seattle Public Library. In 1931, by an act of Congress (Pratt Smoot Act), the Library of Congress started the National Braille and Talking Books network and Washington became one of the first eight regional network libraries for the blind and physically handicapped.

WTBBL originally provided library service to Washington State, Montana, and Alaska. Currently WTBBL serves all 39 Washington counties with a patron base of roughly 10,000 and over 400 institutional accounts.

WTBBL endeavors to provide equal access to information and reading materials for Washington residents unable to read standard print material. People who are blind, deaf-blind, visually impaired, physically disabled such

that they cannot hold a book or turn a page, or reading disabled are eligible for library service.

WTBBL also currently supports schools, nursing homes and care facilities, hospitals, and public libraries who have users or residents who can benefit from the service with deposit collections and download accounts.

The services provided by WTBBL include digital audio books and all necessary equipment for playback, braille books and print-braille books, large print, and downloadable audio books and braille books. Libraries can get a demonstration account for downloading books and assisting their eligible patrons learn that process.

We also offer an app for iOS devices for downloading and reading audio and braille books. The bulk of our collection comes from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and we supplement that collection with local productions.

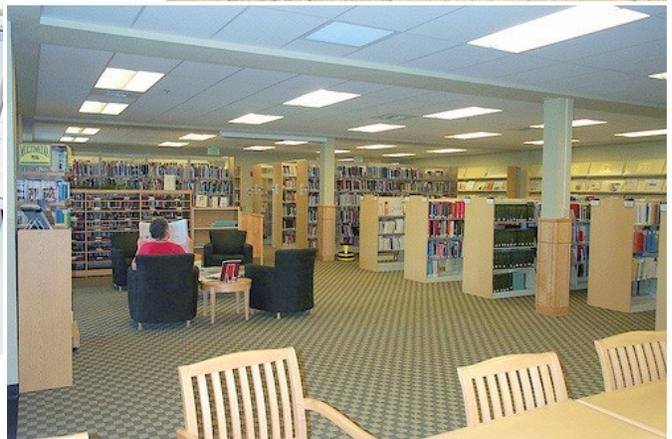
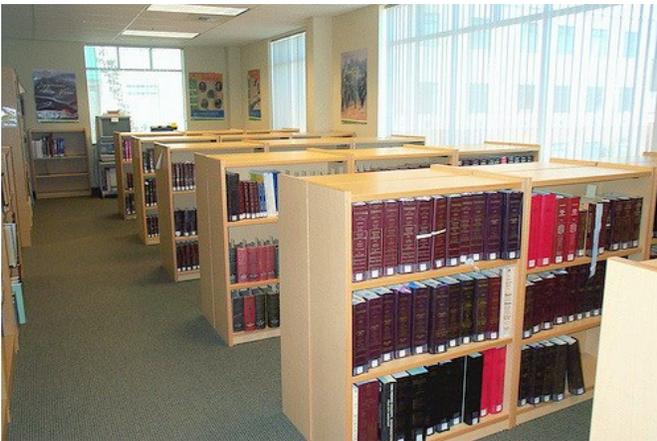
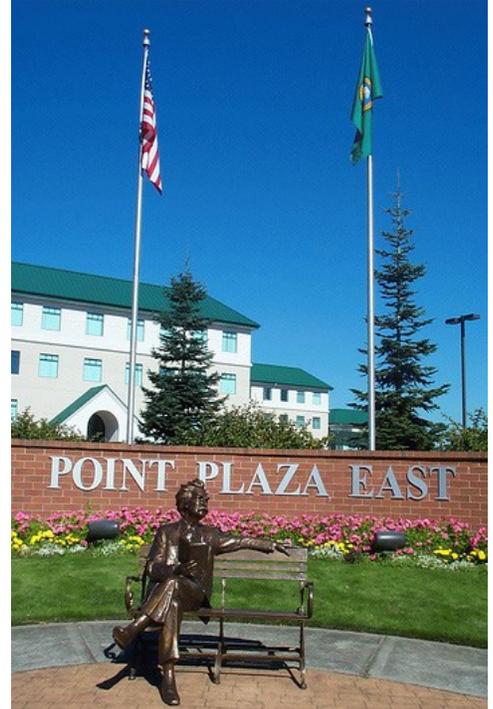
Local productions are done both in audio and braille, available in hard copy and for download. The Audio Book Production Department has nine recording booths and over 70 volunteer narrators and reviewers. The Braille Department has approximately 15 volunteers transcribing books remotely and 7 teams of volunteer proofreaders.

WTBBL also has a rich youth services program that includes a summer reading program, pen pal program, teen book club, storytimes, and events like our youth art contest. We have a quarterly book club held at the library and remotely by telephone, as well as supporting many other book clubs around the state.

A small computer lab and online and telephone training support library patrons in downloading books, using general computer applications, and learning about and how to use assistive technology. The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library is truly a comprehensive library service with resources for all ages, from one year old to our oldest patron at 112 years old. More information and applications for service are available on the [WTBBL website](#).

Picture Gallery - Picture Legend on Page 8

The Washington State Library in Tumwater



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Washington Talking Book and Braille Library



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WSL Institutional Branches



Picture Gallery Legend

Page 5: The Washington State Library Building in Tumwater

Clockwise from upper left:

- 1) The Washington State Library is a division of the Office of the Secretary of State, and its main building is located at 6880 Capitol Boulevard in Tumwater.
- 2) The building is located in a complex called Point Plaza East which sports twin flagpoles.
- 3) Mark Twain, reading his own book, *Huckleberry Finn*, greets you at the intersection of Capitol Way and Israel Road.
- 4) The second floor reading room is open to the public, and includes public access computers (just out of sight behind the photographer).
- 5) Current newspaper subscriptions.
- 6) The Genealogy Collection.

Page 6: The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

Clockwise from upper left:

- 1) Audio Book volunteer Shadzeeda welcomes you to WTBBL.
- 2) Readers Advisor Alan checks out a book to WTBBL patron Mr. Fort.
- 3) Shipping Manager Sally Jo readies a bin of digital talking books to go out on the USPS mail truck (WTBBL circulates between 1,600 – 2,000 talking books a day).
- 4) Braille proofreading volunteers Steve and Elizabeth (and guide dog Alvin) enjoy a break in the sun.
- 5) Hoang, shipping volunteer, shows off a section of digital talking books.
- 6) Youth Services Librarian Mandy rings in Teen Read Week with a display of staff favorite and classic young adult titles.

Page 7: WSL Institutional Branches, a sampling

Clockwise from upper left:

- 1) Library Snapshot Day at the Twin Rivers Correctional Center (TRU) Library in Monroe, WA.
- 2) “Freedom Tails goes to the library;” Library Snapshot Day at the Stafford Creek Correction Center (SCCC) Library in Aberdeen, WA.
- 3) “Hunger Games;” Library Snapshot Day at the Stafford Creek Correction Center (SCCC) Library in Aberdeen, WA.
- 4) Library Snapshot Day at the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) Library in Gig Harbor, WA.
- 5) Library Snapshot Day at the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) Library in Gig Harbor, WA.
- 6) Library Snapshot Day at the Coyote Ridge Correctional Center (CRCC) Library in Connell, WA.

State Library Funding

The Washington State Library is facing a serious budget shortfall in future budget cycles, unless the Governor and/or the Legislature take action to remedy the situation.

Currently, WSL is funded through the Heritage Fund, which receives its income from a percentage of various filing fees. Unfortunately, revenue from the fund has not met previous budget projections.

Consequently, the Office of the Secretary of State is asking for \$2.4 million in “back fill” funding in the 2015-2017 biennium to make up the difference between Heritage Fund revenues and the amount needed to maintain library services at current levels.

The information in this publication is intended to show the range of services provided by the Washington State Library, but the information

ADVOCATE

Published by WLFFTA and WLA

Receiving the *ADVOCATE*, a publication of the WLA Washington Library Friends, Foundations, Trustees & Advocates Interest Group, is a benefit of interest group membership.

The *ADVOCATE*'s mission, like that of WLFFTA, is to advance community and statewide support for libraries, encourage library Friends, trustees and foundation associates to share ideas and enthusiasm, assist in their training, and link library supporters across Washington to address effectively issues impacting libraries.

The deadline for submissions is open. Contact the editor for specific issue deadlines. More information about WLA and WLFFTA can be found on the Internet—see <http://wiffa.wla.org>

Comments and suggestions for articles and WLFFTA activities are welcome.

Views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those held by the editor, WLA, or the WLFFTA Board.

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provided here is by no means a comprehensive list. For more information about the Washington State Library and its services, visit:

<http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/>.

For information on services that the State Library provides to the rest of the libraries throughout the state, visit: <http://sos.wa.gov/q/Services>.

The Friends of the Washington State Library have a Facebook page: <http://sos.wa.gov/q/Friends>.