



# OUTRIDER



WYOMING STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 54 | ISSUE 7 | JULY 2025

## SHARE YOUR SUMMER READING SUCCESS WITH THE WYOMING LIBRARY COMMUNITY



*A young Teton County Library patron gets some help from a Salida Circus performer.*

How is your library's summer reading program going? The Wyoming State Library is excited to learn about and share all of your library's summer adventures! We love sharing all of the amazing things going on in our Wyoming libraries and help keep the creative juices flowing by sharing ideas with the Wyoming library community.

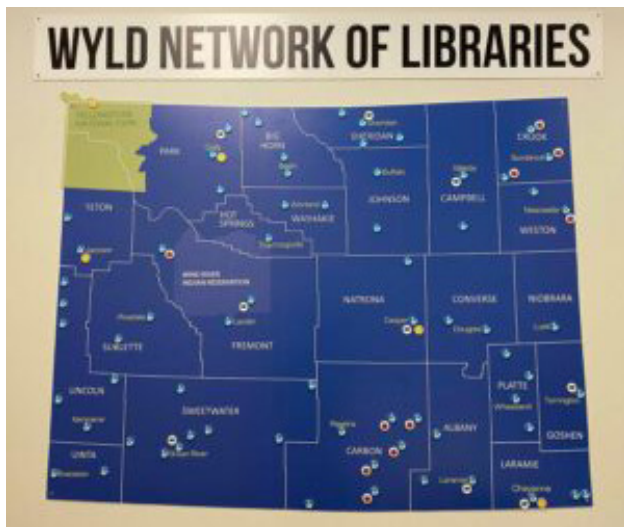
Share information, photos, and quotes (from library staff or patrons) about your library's events by emailing [Christi Weinzierl](mailto:Christi.Weinzierl), the Wyoming State Library's Communications and Grants Specialist, at [christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov](mailto:christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov). To share your info, photos, and quotes even more quickly and conveniently, you can use this [Google form](#).



*Aaron Fowler plays and sings with young Niobrara County children and families.*

## WSL News

### 2025 WYLD ANNUAL MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS



*Members of the WYLD consortium gathered from across Wyoming.*

On June 12 and 13, seventy-one members of the WYLD consortium converged for the 2025 WYLD Annual Meeting. The meeting was held at Central Wyoming College in Riverton, Wyoming. Attendees and presenters included library professionals from across Wyoming, as well as the WYLD Support Team from the Wyoming State Library.

“The annual WYLD meeting is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with library staff from all over the state,” said Desiree Saunders, Wyoming State Library WYLD

Program Manager. “We had more input and help with planning this year, which I think added value to the programming, including networking opportunities and presentations from staff in member libraries. The Central Wyoming College staff were wonderful hosts!”

The event’s program this year offered four tracks (Interlibrary Loan, Tech Services, Symphony, and General and Admin) to enable participants to attend sessions to ensure everyone’s time was well spent gaining and sharing information beneficial and applicable to their individual needs.

“It was encouraging to see how interested and excited everyone was about the new ILL changes coming in October,” said Shaylee Krueger, WSL Resource Sharing Librarian.

Event attendees and presenters alike were unanimous in their positive responses to the variety of information available at this year’s WYLD Annual Meeting and appreciated the applicable information, the knowledgeable presenters, and the time to meet and connect with colleagues from other parts of the state.

“I loved having more presenters and co-presenters from several WYLD libraries this year,” said Shantry Miller, WSL Bibliographic Services Librarian. “They all did a great job!”

Read the [full blog post](#).

## JOANNE PRUITT ATTENDS ALA CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA



*Joanne with the Bigfoot mascot at ALA 2025*

Joanne Pruitt, the Wyoming State Library’s Youth Services Specialist, attended the 2025 ALA Annual Conference, which took place in Philadelphia June 27-July 1.

“There were about 25,000 attendees.” said Joanne. “ALA 2025 was a whirlwind of bookish brilliance, professional inspiration, and library love!”

From the electric energy of the exhibit halls packed with publishers, tech innovations, and ARC giveaways to thought-provoking sessions on equity, innovation, and the future of librarianship, every moment buzzed with connection and creativity. Keynotes from icons

like Geena Davis and George Takei added star power, while the poster sessions and networking events made it feel like a reunion of library rock stars. With tote bags full of swag, notebooks packed with ideas, and hearts full of purpose, attendees left energized and already counting down to next year.

Along with gaining valuable knowledge, insight, and inspiration, Joanne was able to network with other library professionals and see some historical sites around Philadelphia, including the Liberty Bell.

Joanne said, “I came for the knowledge and experience, and left with a brain buzzing full of ideas, connections from around the world, and a TBR pile that’s as tall as I am!”



*Joanne visited the Liberty Bell while in Philadelphia.*

# Summer Reading

## SALIDA CIRCUS VISITS TETON COUNTY LIBRARY IN JACKSON



*Salida Circus performers wowed Teton County Library patrons with their amazing talents.*

The Salida Circus traveled to Teton County Library in Jackson on Tuesday, July 15. As part of their Wyoming tour, the group shared a mini circus and circus skills workshop with nearly 120 children, parents and caregivers. The audience was awed and inspired by the variety of acrobatics shared by the performers. From aerialists to acrobats, the performers shared a variety of talents. Highlights included globe walking and a hilarious magic show from Salida's youngest performers. Once the show commenced, participants were invited to try their hands (and feet) at globe walking, aerial silks, juggling and hula-hooping. The library as the "big top" host for this fun summer event made for a dazzling adventure!

## SUMMER FUN AT THE NIOBRARA COUNTY LIBRARY



*Mr. Kneel was one of many special guests hosted by the Niobrara County Library this summer.*

The Friends of the Niobrara County Library, the Niobrara County Library, and the Niobrara County Library Foundation have hosted several events this summer. The summer kicked off in June with music educator Aaron Fowler, followed by DoArt Productions and a Comic Workshop. In July, Sean Gaskell presented the West Africa Kora to children and adults, and Mr. Kneel brought his Hawaiian fun with beatboxing, stories and more. Two bands, "The Rough and Tumble" and "The Honey Badgers" also performed in concert. Upcoming events include Meghan Casey and Rocky Mountain Puppets with "Prism Break" and Ann Lincoln's Foam on the Range.

## WYOMING LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS SUPPORT SUMMER READING

Joanne Pruitt, Wyoming State Library (WSL) Youth Services Specialist, was recently quoted in the [article](#), “Summer Sparks Literacy,” on the Wyoming Enrichment Network’s website. Natrona County Library (NCL) and Michelle Ottoes, Laramie County School District 1 Elementary Library Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), were also featured in the article. Congratulations to Joanne, the NCL, and Michelle Ottoes for being amazing ambassadors for Wyoming libraries and promoting the monumental importance of summer reading in our state!



## LINCOLN COUNTY LIBRARIES' COLOR RUN



To kick off their summer reading program, several branches of the Lincoln County Library, including their Star Valley Branch, Alpine Branch Library, and Thayne Branch Library, held a 5K Color Run and party at the park.

“It was lots of fun and we had excellent attendance!” said Kestina Roberts, Youth Services Librarian. “We had color-themed games at the finish line as well as library card sign ups, Summer Reading signups for each library, and promotional materials for upcoming events. This event even made our local newspaper.” Read [full blog post](#).

## Subscribe Today!

If you're not getting the *Outrider* in your email inbox every month, [sign up now](#) so you never miss an issue!

## GREYBULL LIBRARY PATRONS COLOR THEIR WORLD WITH A MURAL



*The finished mural now hangs in the children's section of the Greybull Library.*

Children, families, and staff of the Greybull Public Library (GPL) created an “All Together” mural to celebrate their summer reading accomplishments.

“Altogether, 47 including adults and children,” said Shawnea Chestnut, the GPL’s Assistant Manager regarding the event’s great turnout.

The work of art was a collaborative project with each artist contributing a piece to the whole.

**ACCESS FREE RESOURCES**

**Wrangle Yourself Some Handy Research and Learning Tools!**

Wyoming STATE LIBRARY

*Let's Ride!*

## IF YOU GIVE A KID A COOKIE...



*Ten Sleep kids show off their works of art.*

What happens when you give the kids at the Ten Sleep Branch Library cookies and frosting and add some instruction, inspiration, and freedom for creativity? Lots of fun, delicious and beautifully-decorated cookies, and a group of happy, smiling kids!

Earlier this month, the Washakie County Library in Ten Sleep invited the local “Cookie Lady” from Ten Sleep Sweets to come to the library and teach young patrons how to paint cookies.

## Share the News!

Do you have colleagues who aren't on the *Outrider* mailing list? Encourage them to [sign up](#) and catch all the library news.

## SWEETWATER COUNTY LIBRARY HOSTS SPECIAL GUESTS



*A young patron makes friends with some arachnids.*

Sweetwater County Library System patrons recently got up close and personal with some unusual guests. Earlier this summer, a huge snake and some large spiders, courtesy of a local family, joined the children and library staff for story time at White Mountain Library in Rock Springs.



*Youth Librarian Mariza Salguero and Youth Manager Kassia Capozzoli hold a huge snake.*

# Wyoming Library Association

## WLA ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS AND GRANTS



**TIME IS  
RUNNING OUT!!!**

The Wyoming Library Association's Awards/ Grants Committee is currently accepting nominations for Outstanding Hero/Heroine, Outstanding Librarian, Outstanding Library, and the Lifetime Achievement Award through **July 31st**. The Nora Van Burgh Grant is also available for continuing education.

If you know of anyone, or a group, deserving of recognition for what they have done in/or for a Wyoming library, **NOW** is the time to nominate them for those achievements!

An awards reception will be held at the WLA 2025 Conference.

Learn more and submit your nominations or grant applications online at <https://wyla.org/Awards/Grants-Committee> by **July 31st**.

Questions? Contact [WLAwardsCommittee@gmail.com](mailto:WLAwardsCommittee@gmail.com) or Travis Pollok at [travis.pollok@wyo.gov](mailto:travis.pollok@wyo.gov) or Alan Vaughn at [avaughn@sweetwaterlibraries.com](mailto:avaughn@sweetwaterlibraries.com)

## WLA HOSTS BASKET RAFFLE IN SUPPORT OF WLLI



Attention, Wyoming Library Community! The Wyoming Library Association (WLA) is excited to officially announce the return of the Wyoming Library Leadership Institute (WLLI) Basket Raffle at this year’s WLA Conference with the purpose of raising funds to support our next “Newbie” Institute, a multi-day leadership development program, and would love YOUR help in making it a success.

There are two ways to get involved:

- Donate a themed basket to the WLA Annual Conference in September. Baskets can be cozy, quirky, or even Wyoming-themed. Be creative!
- Make a monetary donation. Direct donations to support WLLI’s mission of developing library leaders across the state are welcome, too.

For more information or to donate to this worthy cause, please contact Erin Losik at [erin@sublettecountylibrary.org](mailto:erin@sublettecountylibrary.org) or Lorene Heinzen at [lheinzen@natronacountylibrary.org](mailto:lheinzen@natronacountylibrary.org). Find more information in the [full blog post](#).

## New Books

These are the latest additions to the Wyoming State Library’s professional development collection available through [WYLDcat](#). Questions, comments, or suggestions may be directed to Library Development Manager Brian Greene at [brian.greene@wyo.gov](mailto:brian.greene@wyo.gov) or (307) 777-6339.



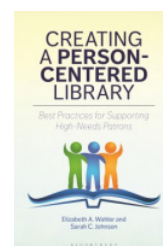
**[101 Seeds for Library Joy](#)**  
Rebecca Hass  
Chicago: ALA Editions, 2025.



**[The 12 Steps to a Community-Led Library](#)**  
Audrey Barbakoff  
Chicago: ALA Editions, 2024.

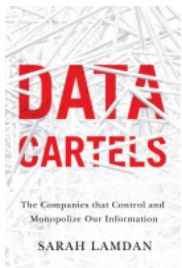


**[Checklist of Library Building Design Considerations](#)**  
William W. Sannwald  
Chicago: ALA Editions, 2024.



**[Creating a Person-Centered Library: Best Practices for Supporting High-Needs Patrons](#)**  
Elizabeth A. Wahler  
New York : Bloomsbury Libraries Unlimited, 2024.

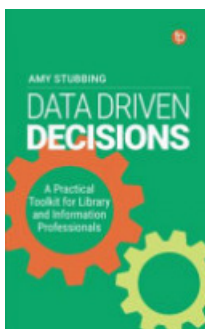




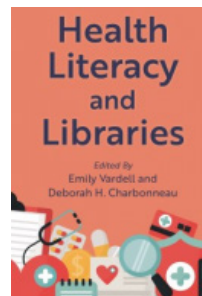
**Data Cartels**  
 Sarah Lamdan  
 Stanford, California: Stanford  
 University Press, 2023.



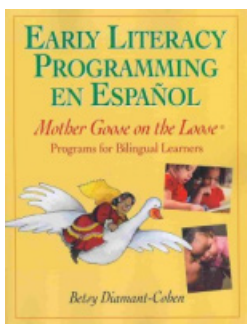
**Foundations of Informational Law**  
 Paul T. Jaeger  
 Chicago: ALA  
 Neal-Schuman, 2023.



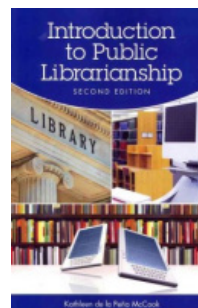
**Data-Driven Decisions:  
 A Practical Toolkit for  
 Library and Information  
 Professionals**  
 Stubbing, Amy  
 London : Facet  
 Publishing, 2022.



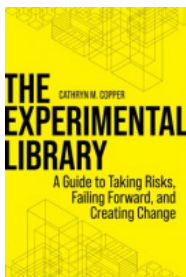
**Health Literacy  
 and Libraries**  
 Emily Vardell  
 Lanham : Rowman &  
 Littlefield, 2024.



**Early Literacy:  
 Programming  
 En Español-**  
 Betsy Diamant-Cohen  
 New York: Neal-Schuman  
 Publishers, 2010.



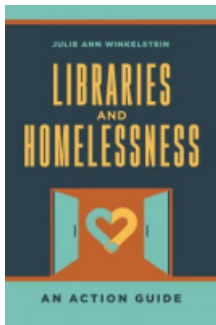
**Introduction to Public  
 Librarianship**  
 Jenny S. Bossaller  
 New York: Neal-Schuman  
 Publishers, 2011.



**The Experimental  
 Library**  
 Cathryn M.  
 Copper  
 Chicago:  
 ALA Editions, 2024.

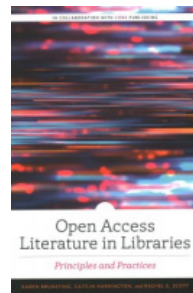


**Library 2035**  
 Sandra Hirsh  
 Lanham, Maryland:  
 Rowman & Littlefield  
 Publishing Group, 2024.



**Libraries and Homelessness:**

Julie Ann Winkelstein  
Santa Barbara, California:  
Libraries Unlimited, 2021.



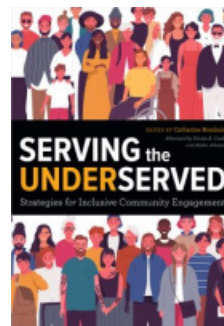
**Open Access Literature in Libraries: Principles and Practices**

Karen Brunsting  
Chicago: ALA Editions, 2023.



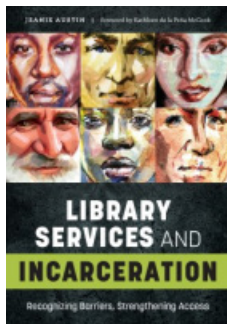
**The Library Friends, Foundations, and Trusts Handbook**

Diane P. Tuccillo  
Rowman & Littlefield  
Publishing Group, Inc., 2024.



**Serving the Underserved: Strategies for Inclusive Community Engagement**

Catharine Bomhold  
Chicago: ALA  
Neal-Schuman, 2025



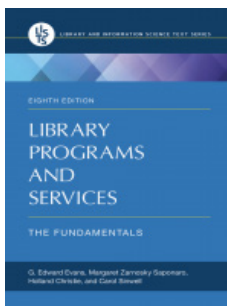
**Library Services and Incarceration: Recognizing Barriers, Strengthening Access**

Jeanie Austin  
Chicago : ALA Neal-Schuman, 2022



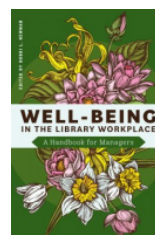
**Using Literature to Support Children's Mental Health**

Kim Becnel and  
Robin A Moeller  
Chicago: ALA Editions, 2025.



**Library Programs and Services: The Fundamentals**

Stacey Greenwell  
New York: Libraries Unlimited, 2015



**Well-Being in the Library Workplace**

Newman, Bobbi L.  
Chicago : ALA Editions, 2025.

# Electronic Resources

## IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING ACCESS TO UW-FUNDED GOWYLD RESOURCES

The University of Wyoming Libraries announced an update in May for how users may access UW funded online resources. This change affects all non-higher education users, including both in-library and home access.

Beginning in late July and early August, users accessing **UW funded resources** from GoWYLD will experience the following:

- If you're using a library computer at UW or the Wyoming community colleges, you'll still be able to access resources as you always have—no changes needed.
- If you're at a library in another location (e.g. public or K12), you'll be asked to log in using your WYLD library card number and PIN to access online resources.
- If you're accessing library resources from home or another remote location, you'll continue to log in using your WYLD library card and PIN, or another existing login method.

UW funded resources are marked with the following icon: .

Please be aware that the WYOSCHOOL login and any other anonymous user access cards will no longer be accepted for remote authentication for any GoWYLD resource, not just those funded by UW.

The State Library is in the process of updating links and messaging on the GoWYLD site and will provide further updates as needed.

## WYLDcat APP ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE IN GOOGLE PLAY STORE

The Wyoming State Library is very happy to announce that the **branded WYLDcat app is once again available for Android users** in the Google Play Store!

The app was temporarily unavailable while we worked through Google's organizational identity verification process. We appreciate your patience and are glad to report that WYLDcat is now fully restored.

Many of you have used the unbranded **Aspen LiDA** app during this time, and we're grateful it served as a reliable alternative. Now that WYLDcat is back, we encourage you and your patrons to return to it for a more familiar, branded experience connected directly to the WYLD consortium.

## 2025 LIBRARY LAWS DOCUMENT NOW AVAILABLE

The 2025 edition of *Wyoming Library Laws* has been posted on the Wyoming State Library [website](#). This annual publication is a ready reference to the range of statutes affecting Wyoming libraries.

The statutes in *Library Laws* are extracted, not printed in their entirety, so this is intended as a ready reference only. The WSL recommends that libraries consult the [full text](#) of Wyoming Statutes and visit with their legal counsel when faced with difficult issues.

Questions? Our Library Development Office is ready to assist. Contact LDO Manager Brian Greene at [brian.greene@wyo.gov](mailto:brian.greene@wyo.gov) or (307) 777-6339.

## WRANGLE YOURSELF SOME HANDY RESEARCH AND LEARNING TOOLS

Need information, learning tools, a great book to read or listen to on the go, or the answer to a research question?

At [Wyoming's destination for free resources](#), you'll find:

**Research Guides**-Our research guides provide access to full-text article databases with rich content for current issues as well as deep backfiles for historical research.

**Digital Collections**-Take a virtual journey through the Equality State and its rich history with millions of archived newspapers, state and federal documents, patents and trademarks, and digital exhibits.

**eLearning Tools**-Learn a new language, gain new skills, prepare for an exam, or find out how to fix your car with popular e-learning resources including LinkedIn Learning, Mometrix, Chilton Library and other tools.

**Virtual Libraries**-Read or listen to thousands of great titles free of charge on Libby, Tumblebooks, and more!

**Patents and Trademarks**-As the only Patent and Trademark Resource Center in Wyoming, we provide free access to these resources in various formats.

**Reference Services**-Contact our expert librarians here at the Wyoming State Library with your research or reference questions about the WYLDcat library catalog, GoWYLD research tools, finding library materials, or requesting interlibrary loans.

**Business Resources**-The WSL partners with Wyoming Library to Business (WL2B), a business-focused, community driven and completely free resource, based in your local library.

Make the Wyoming State Library your destination for information and resources.

***Let's Ride!***

# Training and Professional Opportunities

## THRIVELIB: RECLAIMING JOY, BALANCE, AND BOUNDARIES IN LIBRARIES



Registration is open for the inaugural **ThriveLib: Reclaiming Joy, Balance, and Boundaries in Libraries**, taking place **August 12–14, 2025**. This fully virtual conference is the first of its kind to center the well-being of library workers, not patrons.

Library workers across all types and roles are navigating burnout, blurred boundaries, and shrinking resources, all while continuing to serve their communities with care. ThriveLib was created to offer a space to reflect, reconnect, and reimagine a healthier path forward, together.

This conference is for frontline staff, middle managers, directors, and anyone who believes that sustainable, compassionate library work is not only possible but necessary. Find more information and registration links for this event in the [full blog post](#).

# Grants & Awards

## [Nasdaq Foundation Financial Literacy Grants](#)

**Deadline: August 1, 2025**

These grants are open to library foundations and “Friends of” library groups. Driven by Nasdaq’s Purpose to advance economic progress for all, the Nasdaq Foundation works with organizations that promote and support under-resourced communities by reimagining investor engagement and equipping communities with the financial knowledge needed to share in the wealth that markets create. Grants will be given in this area to organizations and programs that deliver impact in one or more of the following ways: enhancing financial literacy among under-resourced communities, with an element of teaching participants how to invest; improving access to knowledge and tools for investing; and wealth creation among under-resourced communities. There is no set minimum or maximum grant amount. The Nasdaq Foundation’s Leadership Team will consider whether the amount requested is commensurate with the proposed project and appropriate for the Nasdaq Foundation’s annual grant-making target and charitable purposes. Reasonable overhead costs may be included in the grant request, provided they are specified.

## [Carol June Bradley Award for Historical Research in Music Librarianship](#)

**Deadline: August 11, 2025**

This award was created by the Music Library Association in 2003 through the generous financial

support of its namesake. Since Dr. Bradley's death in 2009, MLA has continued to fund the award in her honor. The award exists to support research-in-progress in music librarianship or music libraries. There are no restrictions as to an applicant's age, nationality, profession, or institutional affiliation. All proposals are reviewed entirely on the basis of merit. Preference will be given to projects that are in the latter stage of the research process. An award of up to \$500 is available for 2026.

### [Lois Lenski Covey Foundation's Bookmobile Grant](#)

**Deadline: August 15, 2025**

The bookmobile grant program provides grants for purchasing children's fiction or non-fiction books. The books are intended for young people to check out for pleasure reading or as a source of information for a school assignment. The library grant program DOES NOT provide grants for book distribution programs (book gift programs), atlases, dictionaries, basal readers or similar texts, workbooks or similar instructional tools, magazine subscriptions, or for textbooks or encyclopedias.

### [Nora Roberts Foundation Literacy Grant](#)

**Deadline: September 1, 2025**

The Nora Roberts Foundation's mission is to create a beautiful, equitable, and safe world and pursues this goal by supporting literacy organizations, as well as organizations focused on the arts, children, social justice, and the environment. Although priority is given to organizations surrounding the Washington, DC area (**MD, PA, VA, WV**), organizations

that operate locally and nationally in the United States are eligible for these grants. It is recommended that first time grant-seekers ask for \$3,000-\$5,000, although smaller grants will also be considered. The application includes a program summary, non-discrimination statement, organizational documents, brochures and optional attachments (budgets, impact report, testimonials, etc.)

### [Carolyn M. Hewins Scholarship for Aspiring Children's Librarians](#)

**Deadline: September 1, 2025**

Areas of focus for the Fall offering include Business & Economic Development, Education & Workforce, Health & Well-being, Public Service & First Responders. Grant maximum of \$5,000 or have at least 75% of the project currently funded. Priority projects include Technology and broadband-enabled focused projects, those with a long-term impact on the community and its residents. Projects that promote community participation and engagement, and create a more sustainable rural community. Applicants will need to complete an online portal application that includes contact information, history, project details, budget, and narrative of the grant funding need.

### [Foundation for Rural Service Community Grant Program](#)

**Deadline: September 5, 2025**

Areas of focus for the Fall offering include Business & Economic Development, Education & Workforce, Health & Well-being, Public Service & First Responders. Grant maximum of \$5,000 or have at least 75% of the project currently

funded. Priority projects include Technology and broadband-enabled focused projects, those with a long-term impact on the community and its residents. Projects that promote community participation and engagement, and create a more sustainable rural community. Applicants will need to complete an online portal application that includes contact Information, history, project details, budget, and narrative of the grant funding need.

### **Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize for Public Libraries**

**Deadline: September 15, 2025**

The Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize, developed in partnership between the Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation and *Library Journal*, was created in 2019 to recognize the public library as a vital community asset. When libraries, civic entities, organizations, and the people they serve become close partners, their communities thrive. One winning library will receive \$250,000 in unfettered grant monies from the Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation. The winning library will also be profiled in the March 2026 issue of *Library Journal* and online. Honorable mentions may also be named. The winning library will be identified based on the degree of its impact on the community in the following key areas: engagement with local government to support the service area's defined goals, engagement with the community to develop library services, community recognition, inclusive service that supports broad community interests, leadership development to perpetuate the library's organizational strength and dynamism, environmental sustainability and

leadership in sustainable thinking, inventiveness as exemplified by one of the library's services which is particularly original, both strategically and tactically, and resilience in the face of challenges.

### **Joann Sweetland Lum Memorial Grant**

**Deadline: December 1, 2025**

This grant aims to recognize a librarian who has a creative, innovative project that promotes literacy and is designed to recognize a creative, innovative literacy project for and with youth (ages 10-19).

Examples of literacy include, but are not limited to, digital, media, visual, computer, data, financial, civic/ethical, news, information, multicultural, and cultural.

### **The Courage Project: Celebrating Everyday Courage in America**

**Deadline: Ongoing**

The Courage Project seeks to recognize individuals and organizations that embody the foundational values of our nation through acts of courage that strengthen our communities, our democracy, and our shared future. The Courage Project distributes awards to organizations and honors everyday people for acts of courage and compassion that demonstrate bravery in their communities. For organizational awards, local nonprofit organizations will receive recognition for specific actions, whether that's supporting free speech, championing equality, or building community. For individual recognition, recipients may recommend donations to values-aligned American non-profit organizations, seeding civic engagement in their communities and strengthening our democracy. By allowing recipients to "pay it forward," the project gives

Americans the chance to seed lasting change in their own communities. The award amounts will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Whether it's a librarian defending free speech, a teacher protecting vulnerable students, or a local leader bridging divides, these recipients embody core national values: kindness, empathy, and community. For individual honorees, The Courage Project also provides an opportunity to "pay it forward" by directing funds to nonprofit organizations aligned with their values – helping to foster long-term impact at the grassroots level.

### **The Community Heart & Soul Grant Program**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 in funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns to start the Community Heart & Soul model. Grant funding requires a \$10,000 cash match from the participating municipality or a partnering organization.

### **Believe in Reading – Grants for Literacy Program**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

Grants are made to organizations with 501(c)(3) status or its equivalent for educational institutions, including public libraries. Believe in Reading will consider funding programs that serve any age or aspect of supporting reading and literacy, including adult literacy, English as a second language projects, or Braille projects for the blind or visually impaired. Believe in Reading will supply funds only if they are earmarked for

literacy, not just a general campaign. Reading must be the prime activity. Because addressing literacy is not a short-term process, Believe in Reading's grants are renewable for up to a maximum of three years, but a first-year award does not guarantee any subsequent awards. Currently, the maximum grant amount is \$10,000; however, the vast majority of grants are for \$3,000 or less. First-time applicants will not be funded for more than \$3,000.

### **Rural Technology Education & Assistive Technology (AT) Grants**

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

Grants are typically \$500 - \$2,500 for staff and student-led projects in public schools and libraries. The projects funded are designed to help spark student interest in technology-based careers like computer science, computer engineering, information technology, programming, cyber security, robotics, or similar areas. In some cases, these project donations may include a few smaller items like a Raspberry Pi microcomputer or a robotics kit or entire Maker Spaces equipped with things like circuit development kits, 3-D printers, robotics kits, and classroom sets of individual microcomputers to build upon. Other projects include early-stage robotics classes, teams, and clubs interested in project-based learning that culminates in competitive events like FIRST. The focus is on funding libraries and schools in rural or high-poverty areas that are designed to reach multiple students equitably and help establish ongoing student interest groups like maker spaces and coding clubs.



### [Wyoming Humanities' Indian Education for All Program](#)

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

One of the best ways to fulfill the Indian Education for All Act is to have Tribal Knowledge Keepers visit Wyoming classrooms. This is not always feasible because costs for travel and honorarium to those wanting to share their valuable wisdom. To address these challenges, Wyoming Humanities is offering funds for K-12 educators in Wyoming to bring an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper into their school, classroom, or field trip. All requests for support should help fulfill Indian Education for All standards and requirements. Wyoming Humanities will offer one-time compensation to support the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge Keeper in the classroom, including a \$350 honorarium and \$200 in travel funds (if 100+ miles roundtrip.) Payment will be made directly to the Indigenous Knowledge Keeper. Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. If payment is required prior to the classroom visit, apply at least six weeks before the visit. If payment is NOT required prior to the classroom visit, apply at least four weeks before the visit.

### [Wish You Well Foundation](#)

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

The Wish You Well Foundation supports adult and family literacy in the United States by fostering the development and expansion of new and existing adult literacy and educational programs. The focus is on supporting nonprofit organizations that teach adults the literacy skills

they need to communicate, grow, and thrive within their communities. Grants amounts range from \$200 to \$10,000.

### [Scholastic Possible Fund](#)

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

The Scholastic Possible Fund was established to provide a single repository of quality children's books to be donated to charity partners that share the Company's mission to improve global literacy and put books into the hands of children who might otherwise have none. The Fund seeks to improve access to books in underserved communities and to provide relief in communities recovering from crises or natural disasters. The non-profit partners receiving donations from this fund have demonstrated the ability to effectively educate children and families in diverse communities about the importance of books and reading from birth through adulthood.

### [Jan Stauber-Sherlock Holmes Literacy Grant](#)

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

The mission of the Jan Stauber Grant is to provide needed financial assistance to persons and organizations developing literacy programs and other educational experiences that will introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes. Educators or librarians can be awarded up to \$1,000 for a project that encourages young people to read and introduces them to Sherlock Holmes.

### [Art Resources Transfer's Library Program](#)

#### **Deadline: Ongoing**

This program provides free books on contemporary art to public institutions nationwide. Public libraries, public schools, prisons, and reading centers that self-define as under-served are eligible to order free books through our Library Program. Institutions can order anytime throughout the year. Books are entirely free and shipped free of charge.

### [The Pilcrow Foundations Children's Book Project Program Grant](#)

#### **DEADLINE: Rolling**

The Pilcrow Foundation, a national non-profit public charity, provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public libraries that receive a grant through its Children's Book Project and contribute \$200-\$400 through a local sponsors for the purchase of up to \$1,200 worth (at retail value) of new, quality, hardcover children's books. Pilcrow provides a list of over 500 quality hardcover children's books from which Children's Book Project grant recipients can select books best suited for their community. The book list includes award-winning and star-reviewed titles from educational and literary organizations.

### [Black Hills Corporation Community Giving](#)

#### **DEADLINE: Ongoing**

Areas of focus are arts and culture, civic and community development, education, environment, human services, and youth development. Giving limited to Black Hills Energy service areas.

### [BNSF Railway Foundation Grants](#)

#### **DEADLINE: Ongoing**

These grants are given to organizations and programs that support and improve the general welfare and quality of life in the communities in which BNSF Railway Company operates. Generally, requests that clearly fall within one or more of the following categories will be considered for funding: civic services, cultural organizations, educational institutions, health and human service organizations, youth organizations, and a federally recognized tribal government.

### [T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program](#)

#### **DEADLINE: Ongoing**

T-Mobile is investing \$25M in 500 rural towns over 5 years to jumpstart projects and build stronger communities. These grants can be used to help upgrade tech at your local library, build new hiking trails, revitalize historic buildings, and more.



## News in Brief

Here is a roundup of news and articles regarding literacy, libraries, and library professionals.

### [Bears Will Be Boys: A Data Analysis of Animal Gender in Children's Literature](#)

Is it common to assume that a frog is a “he?” What about a bear, or a bird, or a cat, or a pig? This fascinating article explores data collected on the genders of anthropomorphized animals in popular children’s books.

### [Library IT vs. the AI Bots](#)-An

unprecedented attack tests the ingenuity of the University of North Carolina Libraries’ IT department and reveals a dark side of artificial intelligence.

### [Reading Together: Partnerships With a Purpose](#)

School and public libraries and universities have a lot to offer one another and across the country, libraries and universities are teaming up to ignite a love of reading in children. Whether through mascot-led read-alouds, themed literacy camps, or mobile book deliveries, these partnerships blend energy, expertise, and fun.

### [How One College Library Plans to Cut Through the AI Hype](#)

As higher ed institutions embrace generative artificial intelligence tools, Stony Brook University’s library is spearheading efforts to help students and faculty learn how to use them in an ethical, responsible way.

[Is the Use of AI Worth It?](#)-This opinion piece presents the potential pitfalls of using AI.

### [‘It Opened Up Something in Me’: Why People Are Turning to Bibliotherapy](#)

”Bibliotherapy” has been soaring in popularity as a means of improving people’s wellbeing, but getting it right depends on the book—and the person.

### [Policy Pressures: AI and Public Libraries](#)

As libraries define their relationship with artificial intelligence (AI), library policy will play an essential role. History tells us that technological developments tend to thwart well-intentioned policy, and this may prove especially true with respect to AI!



**WLLI Basket Raffle**

It's that time of year again!  
We need YOU to get creative and put together your donation basket for WLA!  
All proceeds from the basket raffle go to the Wyoming Library Leadership Institute to empower more library leaders in our beautiful and growing state!

Ready to donate or have questions?  
Please reach out to:  
Erin Losik - [erin@sublettecountylibrary.org](mailto:erin@sublettecountylibrary.org)  
Lorene Heinzen - [lheinzen@natronacountylibrary.org](mailto:lheinzen@natronacountylibrary.org)  
WLA conference September 24th-26th