

OUTRIDER



WYOMING STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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WLA School Library Interest Group Gathers for 3-Day Conference

The Wyoming Library Association's School Library Interest Group (SLIG) hosted a 3-day conference at the T.A. Ranch outside of Buffalo, Wyoming in early August. This was the first gathering in many years, and almost 30 participants were able to network and learn from one another during the Summit. Some highlights included a writing wellness session with authors Matt Daly and Lucy Flood; a Zoom session with State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Megan Degenfelder; and a presentation by Wyoming author; Nanci Turner Steveson.

Session topics included creating standards-based lessons around picture books from WLA's Buckaroo Awards list, helping to connect boys with books in secondary schools, a panel on best practices for collection development policies, and a share-out of favorite tech tools from librarians.



2023 School Library Interest Group (SLIG)

The summit was funded by the Wyoming State Library and Wyoming Library Association, and concluded with a business meeting in order to establish future leadership roles for the group. SLIG hopes to make this an annual event, and to continue to serve the school librarians and school library staff across our state.

If you are interested in learning more about SLIG and becoming a member, please visit wyla.org or email wyoislig@gmail.com.

WSL News

SILENT HEROES EXHIBIT FEATURED AT THE WYOMING STATE LIBRARY



From now until September 11 the Wyoming State Library is presenting *Silent Heroes*, an exhibit created in 2003 by Mr. Jawors Jr. to honor the firefighters who served on 9/11 and those who serve today, as well as those who have and are serving in the armed forces. Mr. Jawors and two generations of his family have served as first responders and in the armed forces. This exhibit has been shown in the Kansas State House and in numerous places throughout Florida and Colorado. His goal moving forward is to show the *Silent Heroes* exhibit in all 50 states.

What's Up?

If you have great happenings at your library, we'd like to know! Send news to Susan Mark at susan.mark@wyo.gov.

WYOMING STATE LIBRARY HOSTS FOUR LIBRARY DIRECTORS IN AUGUST



L to R: Becky Voss, Jennifer Anderson, Samantha "Sam" Griffis, and Bonnie Stahla

On August 1 and 15, the Wyoming State Library welcomed four visitors for library directors' orientation. The first group included Northwest College Library Director Becky Voss, and Sheridan College Library Director Jennifer Anderson.

The second group included Samantha "Sam" Griffis from Gillette College Daly Library, and Bonnie Stahla from Crook County Library. All library directors spent the day visiting with WSL staff and learning about all the services the State Library has to offer.

Travel for new directors to attend orientations are supported by federal [Library Services and Technology Act funds](#) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

KATIE RAHMAN DEPARTS THE WYOMING STATE LIBRARY

After more than six years of dedicated service as a member of the WYLD team, Katie Rahman is departing the Wyoming State Library. She has accepted a position with the University of Missouri as a Systems Librarian.



Katie Rahman

Katie joined the State Library in January 2017 as a Systems Librarian. In May 2021, she was promoted to Systems Manager, where she oversaw and managed all aspects of the integrated library system (ILS), public access catalog, and integrated third-party products. She also provided technical support to WYLD Consortium library staff, including creating custom reports.

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT APPLICATIONS OPENED ON AUGUST 24

Visit the program website for details:

<https://library.wyo.gov/construction-program>

“I really enjoyed getting to know everyone at the State Library,” Katie said. “What a fun bunch of people to work with! I want to especially thank my supervisor Desiree Saunders for her support and mentorship. Because of the opportunities she provided, I now know that my career path is systems librarianship.”

“Katie has been a valuable member of the WYLD Office team,” WYLD Manager Program Manager Desiree Saunders said. “Her work on rolling out BLUEcloud Analytics was key to the success of that project. She’s also been a critical resource in the implementation of Aspen Discovery, and many other projects, too numerous to mention. It’s been a pleasure working with her these past six years, and I wish her all the best as she moves on to new opportunities.”

Katie became such an expert in BLUEcloud that she presented at a national users’ group conference on topics related to Analytics. She provided training, helping library staff across state transition to the new reporting program, and created dozens of reports to help libraries with their data needs. One group of reports she’s most proud of helps libraries determine how diverse their collections are.

Although she’s moving on, Katie has enjoyed her time as part of the Wyoming library community. “I’ll miss working with library staff across the state,” she said. “I really got to know some wonderful people.”

TEKLA SLIDER TO EXPLORE NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

After almost 8 years serving the Wyoming State Library, Tekla Slider will be leaving to explore new career opportunities.



Tekla Slider

Tekla joined the State Library in October 2015 as the Federal Documents Librarian after having worked for the Laramie County Library and the F.E. Warren Air Force Base Library.

“Tekla has been a valuable member of the State Library team,” Information Services Manager Abby Beaver said, “Her talent at researching unique reference questions and her care of helping our patrons will be missed. We wish Tekla well in her future endeavors!”

And answering reference questions is her favorite aspect of her job. “I have helped a variety of patrons including a man living in Kentucky, a librarian at the Library of Congress, and an intern working with a state agency. Collaborating with other library staff helps all of us become better librarians and researchers as we discover new resources to answer reference questions,” Tekla said.

Asked what accomplishment she was most proud of, she responded, “My work with the Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) office to create Assistive Technology toolkits for libraries around the state is one experience that I will forever cherish. The toolkits and our presentations at the Wyoming Library Association were opportunities to promote programs and services to Wyoming residents with disabilities.”

She added, “I will miss being a part of the library community. I have made many friends and memories during my 22 years in this profession”.



Calendar

- Sep 1-30 | [Library Card Sign-Up Month](#)
- Sep 8 | [International Literacy Day](#)
- Sep 19 | [National Voter Registration Day](#)
- Sep 20-23 | [ARSL Conference](#)
- Oct 1-31 | [Health Literacy Month](#)
- Oct 1-7 | [Banned Books Week](#)
- Oct 4 | [Banned Websites Awareness Day](#)
- Oct 9-11 | [ABOS Conference](#)
- Oct 24 | [Wyoming Snapshot Day](#)

Around the State

SEPTEMBER IS LIBRARY CARD MONTH – GET IN YOUR ELEMENT

September is [Library Card Sign-up Month](#), a time when Wyoming libraries join other libraries nationwide to remind everyone about the resources available with a library card.



From borrowing books, ebooks, and audiobooks to getting homework help, learning new skills, or attending a book club or story time, a library card helps everyone do more of what they enjoy. All without stretching their budget.

All libraries can participate and amplify this year's message by using [free tools](#) (including Spanish versions) from ALA. They include:

- Sample proclamations and press releases
- Ready-to-print & customizable mini-posters
- Coloring pages of "Elemental" characters
- Digital graphics for your website and social media accounts
- Ready-to-air Public Service Announcements
- Full size posters and bookmarks (available through the ALA Store)

There's something for everyone at your local library, and signing up for a library card is the first step on the path to academic achievement and lifelong learning for students. It's elemental, really—everyone should have one!

Since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September to mark the beginning of the school year. During the month, the ALA and libraries work together in a national effort to ensure every child signs up for their own library card.

WYOMING HUMANITIES GRANTS BENEFIT LIBRARIES ACROSS THE STATE



The goal of Wyoming Humanities' grants is to support public programs that use the humanities to explore the state's histories, stories, issues, and connections between groups and communities. Over the past few years, many Wyoming libraries have benefited from these grants. From 2018 to 2022, Wyoming Humanities awarded 35 grants to 15 libraries totaling \$247,198.

Libraries who wish to seek funding may visit www.thinkwy.org/grants.

NATRONA COUNTY LIBRARY UNVEILS NEW OUTREACH VEHICLE



Natrona County Library Director Lisa Scroggins

The Natrona County Library is thrilled to announce the acquisition of a 2023 Chrysler Pacifica as the latest addition to its outreach vehicles. The purchase was made possible by two generous \$25,000 grants – one from Casper Area Transportation Coalition (CATC) and another from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund. The Pacifica will be an additional outreach vehicle, as the Library owns a 10-year-old Toyota Sienna, and marks a significant milestone in enhancing the Library’s outreach capabilities and strengthening community engagement.

After the Library received the first \$25,000 grant from CATC, they turned to the Natrona County Public Library Foundation to help fund the rest. The Library Foundation, which exists to support the goals, services, and programs of the Library

through private fundraising, was able to secure a matching grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund.

The acquisition of this modern vehicle elevates the Library’s ability to extend its services beyond the Library’s physical walls and bring educational and cultural opportunities to various neighborhoods, schools, and community centers throughout the county.

“We are beyond excited to introduce the 2023 Chrysler Pacifica to our outreach fleet,” said Lisa Scroggins, the Library’s Executive Director. “This new addition allows us to meet our community members where they are, delivering our resources and programs right to local daycares, senior resident facilities, and community centers. We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to CATC and the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund for their invaluable support in making this vision a reality.”

CATC’s support has played a pivotal role in elevating the Library’s outreach capabilities, ultimately benefiting the entire community. While no longer providing transportation services, CATC remains committed to using their remaining funds to help move people and resources around the community.

The \$25,000 grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund showcases the Fund’s dedication to fostering cultural enrichment and educational

initiatives throughout the state. This contribution enabled the Natrona County Library to secure the much-needed minivan, ensuring that the Library remains at the forefront of community connection and outreach.

Having only one outreach vehicle has limited the Library’s ability to schedule community outreach. This second vehicle means the Library will be able to send more staff into the county, taking Library services and programming to more locations and partners than ever before. It will serve as a vital resource, bridging the gap between the Library and the community, and providing access to invaluable resources and educational opportunities.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE 20233 WYOMING SNAPSHOT DAY

This year’s [Wyoming Snapshot Day](#) is on the calendar for Tuesday, October 24, 2023.



Snapshot Day 2022 at Guernsey Branch Library.

On Snapshot Day, we gather photos and stories from libraries around the state to share how libraries make a difference in their communities every single day.

We’d love to have your library’s participation! Contact Susan Mark, Wyoming State Library Outreach Librarian, at susan.mark@wyo.gov or (307) 777-5915 to sign up.

Although October 24 is the official date, we invite libraries to celebrate Snapshot Day on any day that week that works for them. For any questions, contact Susan.

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.

CHILTON[®]LIBRARY
The most trusted name in auto repair

Tune up your auto repair know-how
When you need reliable car repair info, turn to Chilton, car-care experts for more than 100 years—available on our library’s website. Find the most up-to-date coverage for almost every year, make, and model.

- Save time and money with do-it-yourself car repairs
- Mobile friendly interface with 24/7 access from library, home or on-the-go
- Look up recalls and service bulletins
- Find estimated labor time
- Prepare for ASE mechanic certification with test prep quizzes

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE WYOMING EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLABORATIVE CONFERENCE



Registration is now open for the [Wyoming Early Childhood Collaborative Conference](#), taking place in Riverton on September 28-30!

[REGISTER NOW](#) to reserve your spot! Registration closes on September 5, 2023.

What to Expect

Preregistration is required to attend the conference. The conference sold out quickly last year and the event has now moved to a larger venue to accommodate an unprecedented number of attendees.

[Download the event flyer](#) for more details on this popular conference.

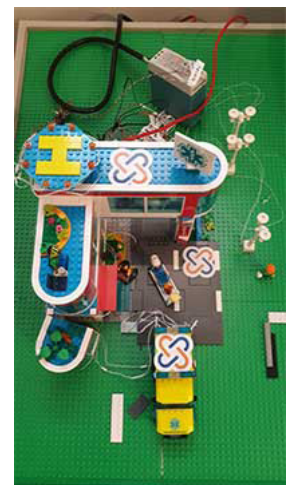
About this Event

Partnering as an early childhood system to bring you a conference dedicated to a thriving and growing community that supports children throughout their early development.

School Libraries

LEGO KIT PROGRAM TO HELP WYOMING SCHOOLS TEACH CYBERSECURITY

The [CyberWyoming Alliance](#) has received a grant from the [Wyoming Community Foundation](#) (WCF) to provide interactive, educational cybersecurity Lego models to Wyoming teachers for the purpose of teaching engineering, networking, circuitry, programming, and cybersecurity attack and defense principles.



Interested teachers can register to receive a model at <https://www.cyberwyoming.org/lego/>.

With only three models available, a waiting list is expected, however, the CyberWyoming Alliance will keep a list for both fall and spring semesters.

Want More News?

Get the news as it happens: Follow the Wyoming State Library on our [blog](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

Wyoming Library Association

WHAT THE HECK? 'WHAT THE TECH' IS BACK!



Looking for an opportunity to practice your outreach and presentation skills in a low-pressure, friendly environment? The ever-popular crowd participation event “What the Tech?” is back for the first time since 2019!

This is a wonderful and low-commitment way to practice public speaking by presenting a 90-second slideshow in front of our lovely library community. Please consider joining us and volunteer to share your knowledge in the “What the Tech?” session at the Wyoming Library Association Conference in October. This session is a lightning round tour of technologies that

you can put to use in your library and maybe even your everyday life. There’s something for everyone in this rapid-fire, whirlwind trip of websites, apps, tools, and tech developments!

Contact Jessica Otto (jessica.otto@wyo.gov) or Paige Bredenkamp (paige.bredenkamp@wyo.gov) for more information, and [visit this Google form](#) when you’re ready to sign up.

Need more convincing? Check out these blog posts from our previously successful What the Tech programs:

- [Take a Tour of What the Tech \(2019\)](#)
- [Websites, Apps, & Gizmos from ‘What the Tech’ \(2018\)](#)
- [Try These Great Tools from “What the Tech?” \(2016\)](#)

DON'T MISS WLA'S 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, “BOUND TOGETHER”

Are you looking for a refreshment of ideas in your position? Are you new to librarianship in Wyoming or in general? Are you feeling discouraged in your career? Are you looking to “get out of the office”?

All these and more are reasons to join your fellow librarians October 4 – 6 in Casper for the [Wyoming Library Association’s 2023 Annual Conference](#). This year’s theme is “Bound Together.” It is no secret that these times are

trying for many librarians around our state and the 2023 WLA Conference wants to serve as an encouragement to all library professionals. The work that librarians do is vital to the fabric of our society and WLA wants you to know you are not in it alone.

The conference is a wonderful opportunity to bond with coworkers, discover avenues of support, hear about new ideas and technologies, and gain innovative ways to connect with your communities. Early-bird registration ends August 21, so [sign up soon for the discount!](#)

Questions or issues with registration may go to WLA President Conrrado Saldivar at wylibraryassociation@gmail.com or Kristin Evans with [Amigos Library Services](#).



Government Info

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AVIATION DAY WITH WYOMING PATENTS

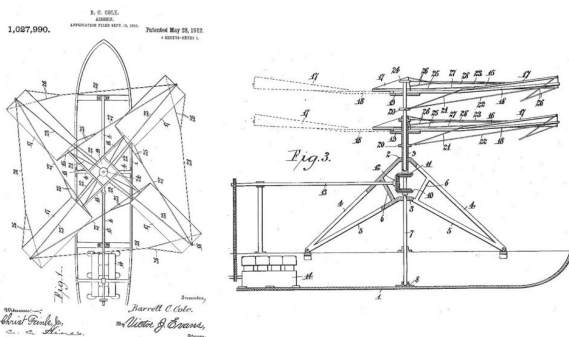
On August 19, National Aviation Day, we celebrate aviation and all things flight-related. This day was declared by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 to encourage interest in aviation. Humans have envied birds in flight for time immemorial, as seen in the myth of Daedalus and Icarus. We have flung gliders and balloons in the air but it was not until 19th and 20th century that we became airborne. Orville and Wilbur Wright's 1903 flight in Kitty Hawk, NC started an aviation craze throughout the world.

After the Wright Brothers' flight people continued to work on creating flying machines. The brothers were secretive about their process and at one point disassembled their machine to protect it. This led to increased interest in making functional aviation devices by. During the early 1900s many investors offered cash awards for functional flying machines. This spurred on innovation surrounding flight both for inventors and everyday people.

Newspapers referenced aviation innovations, keeping the public informed on where the science was. Opinions on the feasibility of flight peppered pages. Finally, several Wyoming inventors tried their hand at flight. While few

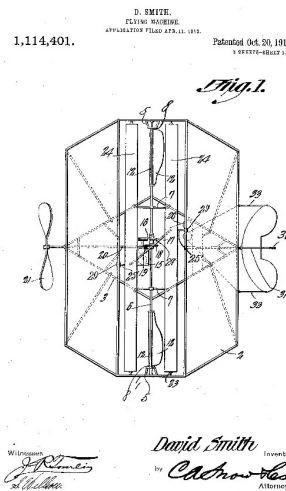
patents made the long trek to receive a patent in D.C., interest was growing in the state. Only five flying machine inventions made it through the patent process before 1920. By looking at three of these patents we can see the variety of Wyomingite’s attempts at flight.

The first airship patent in Wyoming came out of Marshall in 1912. It resembles a helicopter more than a plane, with two sets of sailed rotors. Invented by [Barrett C. Cole](#) the intention was to lift straight up from the ground in flight. Other inventors used similar designs and even Leonardo Da Vinci had a prototype. It was not until modern engines that helicopter flight became possible.



Two years after Barret Cole’s patent, an inventor in Douglas perfected his flying machine. David Smith received a [patent for his flying-machine](#) on October 20, 1914. His invention resembles an early Wright brothers’ plane, with a boxy shape and two sets of wings. [Bill Barlow’s Budget](#) indicates that there were manufacturers

interested in building his machine. Yet, there is no sign in the newspaper collection that this business ever happened.



David Smith, who is an employe on the new federal building, has received notice from the patent office that his patent on a flying machine device, which he filed April 13, 1913, has been granted. Several manufacturers are endeavoring to secure the privilege of manufacturing the machine. Mr. Smith came to Douglas from DeWitt, Nebr., and has always been interested in machinery.

Cheyenne resident W. H. Kelly was a more fanciful inventor. He received two patents for flying machines in the early 1910’s. [Kelly’s 1917 patent](#) took inspiration from the natural world. In the patent he notes that, “the wings of the device are operated by a flapping movement in imitation of the movement employed by birds.” His previous patent from 1916, also referenced bird wings as a method of flight.

While we do not know if any of these inventions flew, they provide a look into the early history of aviation. In the 120 years since the Wright Brothers’ flight, much has changed in aviation. We’ve gone from celebrating a 12-second flight, to having military drones that can stay aloft for

42 hours. To see a full history of aviation check out Britannica's entry on the [history of flight](#), available through [GoWYLD.net](#) with a local library card.

For more aviation stories on Wyoming's aviation history [WyoHistory](#) has two great accounts: one on [early sky pioneers](#) who delivered mail and one on [Amelia Earhart's trip](#) across the state. Find early reports on flight in the newspapers available at the [Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection](#). For more historic state aviation history check out the Aeronautics Commissions [1958-1964 Aviation Newsletters](#).

All patents in this article came from the Wyoming Inventors Digital Collection. To see more fascinating inventions from Wyomingites, check out [Wyoming Inventors](#) for yourself.



EPILEPSY FOUNDATION RESOURCES FOR YOUR PATRONS



[According to the CDC](#), in 2015 about 3.4 million Americans had active epilepsy, a condition that produces seizures. [The Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado and Wyoming](#) offers valuable information, referral services, and activities for any in your community that may have this condition.

Informational materials for people with epilepsy and their families covers such topics as the basics (Epilepsy 101), seizures and safety, first aid, alert devices, and both medication and non-medication therapy and management. The organization offers community connection and support through support groups and an annual Walk to End Epilepsy. Education and training includes live and on-demand webinars and the Epilepsy Connect Symposium. Camps and retreats offer support and encouragement for children, teens, young adults, and families to build confidence, friendships, and life skills while experiencing the great outdoors. Mental health services are available.

View, download, and print their [informational flyer](#) to share with your patrons who may benefit from their services. More information for you and those you serve is available at www.epilepsycowy.org or by contacting them at info@epilepsycowy.org or (307) 763-5965.

Many services are offered in Spanish: Pueden contactar a Leigh si tienen preguntas sobre estos programas: leigh@epilepsycowy.org o (307) 317-6884.

People News

PEOPLE IN BRIEF

Michaela Clark

joined the University of Wyoming Libraries as the Data Management Librarian in May.

Michaela holds a Master of Library Science from Emporia State University.

She decided to pursue librarianship when she was a student worker in the library while working on her undergraduate degree at Utah State University. Michaela was previously the Library Associate at Dakota State University in South Dakota, where she did interlibrary loan, circulation, and supervised student workers. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, and crafts.



JENNIFER ANDERSON NAMED DIRECTOR OF SHERIDAN COLLEGE LIBRARY

Jennifer Anderson

is the new Director of Library for Services at Northern Wyoming Community College District/Sheridan College. She comes to the college from Sheridan Junior High School, where she was the Library Media Specialist for three years.



Jennifer has a BA in Agriculture Education from Montana State University and an MLIS from Indiana University. She spent more than 10 years working in non-traditional youth development as a 4-H Youth Educator for Colorado State and later for the University of Wyoming as the Coordinator of 4-H Afterschool Programs in Sublette County. She and her family moved to Muscat, Oman in 2015 for four years, where she spent two years working as a primary school librarian while she worked on her master's degree. Their return to the U.S. eventually brought them home to Wyoming.

She sees the Sheridan College Community as very welcoming and supportive — a great teamwork environment helping students, staff and faculty succeed. She was drawn to the position because she loves to learn and wants to support others on their pathway to furthering their education.

“I like to be challenged,” Jennifer said, “and I’m excited to work with faculty and with students to support learning, while also encouraging an atmosphere of belonging in the library and on the college campus. I’m thrilled to interact with a variety of people at different ages and stages of life and with a variety of backgrounds.”

She’s looking forward to the challenges of working with young adults and returning learners instead of K-12 students and of charting a strong path for the library’s future. “Strengthening our commitment to being a cohesive student support center with tutoring, testing, writing center, and reference center will be a priority for this first year as we rebuild staff and do some long-range planning for the physical space and special collections. As Sheridan College and Gillette College split, it’s vital that we keep student needs and learning at the forefront. The split brings a lot of unique challenges to undertake, especially in my first year at the college, but we have a great team and we’ll continue to serve the students.”

She said she and her husband are happy to be settled back in Wyoming with their kids, who both attend Sheridan High School. “Great things never come from comfort zones’ has become my motto. I’ve learned to never say no — I said that once about living in the Middle East and it turned out to be one of the most impactful events in my life!”

SHERIDAN COUNTY LIBRARY WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR AMY LONG

Amy Long joined the Sheridan County Public Library System on August 9 as its new Director. Amy comes from Douglas County Libraries in Colorado where she has worked since 2004, most recently as Manager of Materials Handling, overseeing five supervisors and 70 materials handlers.



Like many in the library profession, she began as a volunteer. In 2004, she graduated with a BA in English writing from the University of Colorado at Denver and began volunteering with the Estes Park Library. That experience convinced her to pursue an MLS. The same year, she began working at Douglas County Libraries as a Library Assistant II in circulation while simultaneously



beginning her online MLS program through Southern Connecticut State University. In 2006, she became a Technology Support Specialist, and was promoted to supervisor in 2008. She later served stints as Patron Services Department Head (Castle Pines) and Branch Manager (Parker). She was part of the building project designing three new locations in Parker, Castle Pines, and Lone Tree. She has also been a community leader, serving as Conference Chair in 2014 for the Colorado Association of Libraries.

“I’m excited to be here,” Amy said. “I’m passionately committed to the role of the library in the community and as a driver for promoting literacy and access to information. I knew I was looking for a library system in a tight knit community that could offer a friendly environment for my family. Sheridan, Wyoming fit the bill! It’s a great community and library system with so much to offer.”

Amy and her husband had been looking for a way to relocate from the busy metropolitan Denver area for a different way of life and to be closer to his family. To them, Sheridan was a beautiful and desirable place to live and work. “In the last few weeks, I’ve been struck by the genuinely kind and helpful people we’ve met throughout Sheridan. The libraries have such heart and community support. It’s always a little bit of magic when you see how a well-run library can become knit into the fabric of the

community, and I’m grateful for the chance to be a part of that.”

As the new Director, she’s looking forward to getting to know the people who work for and support the library — staff, volunteers, Board, Friends, and Foundation, as well as each branch and their respective communities.

“I hope to be able to understand the needs of the library, the community, and the many people involved and see how I can help to create a bright future for the library. And I hope to live and work in Sheridan for many years to come. I’m grateful to be here! I love it already.”

KRMPOTICH HAS RETIRED FROM THE SWEETWATER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Michelle Krmpotich has retired from her position as Assistant Director of the Sweetwater County Library System. Her last day was July 26. She’s moving to Arizona, where her husband, Matt, has taken a new position.



“Michelle’s is one of those rarely heard stories nowadays,” said Library Director Lindsey

Travis. “Not many people stay working for one organization for 28 years.”

Michelle started working for the Sweetwater County Library System in August 1995 as a Substitute Librarian. “Little did I know, this little ‘sub job’ would turn into a career beyond my wildest dreams,” she said.

In 1996, after working as a sub for less than a year, Michelle was hired as a part-time Reference Librarian, and in 1999 was moved to full-time. “Michelle’s time as a reference librarian is obvious,” Lindsey said. “She is great at digging up answers to obscure reference questions, and you can tell that she loves doing so.”

In her time as a Reference Librarian, Michelle worked at the Sweetwater County Library in Green River, the Rock Springs Library, and the White Mountain Library. During that time, Michelle received her Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State University.

In 2011, Michelle was promoted to the Head of Circulation and Reference at the White Mountain Library, where two years later she was named Library Manager. In 2018, Michelle was promoted to Assistant Library Director. As Assistant Director, Michelle managed the White Mountain Library, the Technical Services department, and the library system’s rural branches in Granger, Reliance, Farson, Superior, Wamsutter, and Bairoil.

“I am very grateful for all of the colleagues, managers and directors that mentored, inspired and believed in me along the way,” Michelle said. “Some of those people were former Director Helen Higby, Jo Winkel, Michaela Kaumo, Ernestine Gamble, Carol Pivik, Vivian Hurley and former Director Jason Grubb. There were many more.”

As for her time at the library, she said every day had been different. “So many children and adults have come through these doors to enrich their lives,” she said. “So many programs have been held over the years for all ages and interests at no cost. I am so glad to have been a part of this and making Sweetwater County a better place to live.”

Michelle said she is happy to pass the torch on to new and existing staff. “It has been a joy to work with all of you,” she said. “Each person in our system brings a variety of skills and talents to the organization to make this an outstanding library system. My prayer and hope for all of you is to have the career and work life beyond your dreams.”

Michelle said she plans to do a lot of traveling and projects in her retirement. “If you happen to be by the Colorado River on the Arizona-California border and see a really cute golf cart with a beach flag waving, it’s probably me. Stop by for a cold beverage and I’ll tell you a good story....or two.”

Training

ONLINE TRAINING 'AT YOUR LEISURE'

In addition to the live webinars in our [training calendar](#), each month we try to pick some videos out there that you can watch “At Your Leisure.” This offering caught our attention for September.

[AI and Libraries: Enhancing Services and Engaging Communities](#) (WebJunction)

Library Jobs

Electronic Resources Consultant

Wyoming State Library
Cheyenne, WY
Open until filled

Systems Manager

Wyoming State Library
Cheyenne, WY
Open until filled

Federal Documents Librarian

Wyoming State Library
Cheyenne, WY
Open until filled

Public Services Librarian

Sweetwater County Library System
Green River, WY
Open until filled

Substitute Librarian

Sweetwater County Library System
Sweetwater County, WY
Open until filled

Shelver (part-time)

Laramie County Library
Cheyenne, WY
Open until filled

Branch Assistant (part-time)

Laramie County Library
Pine Bluffs & Burns, WY
Open until filled

Pine Bluffs Branch Assistant (part-time)

Laramie County Library
Pine Bluffs & Burns, WY
Open until filled

Circulation Assistant (part-time)

Laramie County Library
Cheyenne, WY
Deadline: Sep. 5 (noon)

Executive Director

Campbell County Public Library System
Gillette, WY
Open until filled

This position plans, directs, manages, and oversees the activities and operations of the Campbell County Public Library System (CCPLS); provides leadership and vision for CCPLS services, staff, facilities, and activities; works with others to develop long and short-range planning.

Library Assistant Senior, Circulation

Teton County Library
Jackson, WY
Open until filled

Branch Services Specialist

Wright Branch Library
Wright, WY
Deadline: Aug. 23 (5pm)

Library Assistant (part-time)

Star Valley Branch
Lincoln County Library System
Afton, WY
Open until filled

IT Technician

Teton County Library
Jackson, WY
Open until filled

Library Assistant Senior, Makerspace

Teton County Library
Jackson, WY
Open until filled

Circulation Clerk I

Converse County Library
Douglas, WY
Open until filled

Grants & Awards

FIND GRANT DOLLARS FOR YOUR LIBRARY WITH THESE RESOURCES

Each month, the Wyoming State Library posts [Grant and Award](#) opportunities to our blog and runs them in our [Outrider newsletter](#). Have you ever wondered where we find these opportunities? Maybe you'd like to be in the loop yourself so that you can find out about them sooner? Here are some of the free places we look to find money for your library that you can follow as well.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY SOURCES:

- [Library Grants blog](#)
You can follow this in a blog reader or sign up for their email updates.
- [Grants.gov](#)
The source for federal grant opportunities.
- [Demco Free Library & Education Grants Search](#)
- [Philanthropy News Digest RFPs](#)
To see the most recent posts, search all RFPs and then narrow your search by date posted using the dropdown.
- [Library Grants](#)
List compiled by Scholastic.
- [GrantStation Insider](#)
Sign up to get national, regional, and federal grant opportunities delivered to your email inbox.

[Carol McMurry Library Endowment Grants to Libraries](#)**DEADLINE: September 15, 2023**

These grants provide support to Wyoming librarians and publicly accessible Wyoming libraries in three areas: education and training, library resources, and library foundation development. Two grant deadlines annually in March and September. Contact Brian Greene, WSL Library Development Manager, with any questions at brian.greene@wyo.gov or (307) 777-6339.

[Rocky Mountain Power Foundation Grants](#)**DEADLINE: September 15, 2023**

The foundation will award grants for arts festivals, cultural heritage, museums, music, theater/drama, and visual arts. Grants generally are less than \$10,000 with most between \$2,000 and \$5,000.

[T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#)**DEADLINE: September 30, 2023**

The T-Mobile Hometown Grants program will help fund projects to build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections in small towns. Towns of under 50,000 population may apply for up to \$50,000. Grants are open on a quarterly basis; next deadline is September 30, 2023.

[I Love My Librarian Award](#)**DEADLINE: September 30, 2023**

The American Library Association (ALA) invites library users nationwide to nominate their favorite librarians for the prestigious I Love My Librarian Award. The national award recognizes the outstanding public service contributions of librarians working in public, school, college, community college or university libraries. Ten librarians will each receive \$5,000 in recognition of their outstanding achievements. Awardees will be honored at the I Love My Librarian Award ceremony at the 2024 LibLearnX Conference in Baltimore; honorees will also receive free full conference registration as part of their award.

[Carol McMurry Library Endowment Individual Grants for Continuing Education](#)

DEADLINE: September 30, 2023

Want to attend a conference or workshop to build your library skills? Take an online course? Start working toward that library media specialist endorsement or master's degree in library science? Funds are available to those working or volunteering in Wyoming libraries through the Carol McMurry Library Endowment Individual Grants for Continuing Education. Applications are accepted six times during the year. The next deadline is September 30, 2023, for continuing education events starting no earlier than November 1, 2023.

[The Pilcrow Foundation Children's Book Project](#)

DEADLINE: October 1, 2023

The Pilcrow Foundation provides new, quality, hardcover children's books to rural public libraries across the United States. A library's local sponsors can contribute from \$200 to \$400, which the Foundation matches on a 2-to-1 ratio. Thus, a library can receive up to \$1,200 worth of children's books. The Foundation provides a list of over 500 quality hardcover children's books from which grant recipients can select books best suited for their communities. Application deadlines are April 1 and October 1, annually.

[Laura Jane Musser Fund Rural Initiative](#)

DEADLINE: October 2, 2023

Online proposals will be accepted starting September 1, 2023

Fund encourages collaborative and participatory efforts among citizens in rural communities that will help to strengthen their towns and regions in a number of civic areas including, but not limited to, economic development, business preservation, arts and humanities, public space improvements, and education. Applicant community must have a population of 10,000 or less and must be able to demonstrate rural characteristics of their location.

News in Brief

[Call Goes out for Library Grant Success Stories](#)

Stephanie Gerding of the Library Grants blog is on the lookout for inspiring grant stories to showcase the accomplishments of libraries like yours! Be part of the next edition of Winning Grants, 3rd Edition: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians to be published by ALA Editions. Whether it was a game-changer or a small but impactful grant, your stories can inspire others, allow librarians to learn from each other, celebrate collaborative spirit, and benefit your own library. Use [this online form](#) to share the details of your grant project and advice for other grant seekers.

Wyoming Community Foundation 2022 Annual Report Available

The Wyoming Community Foundation released its 2022 annual report recently. Last year, the WYCF made more than 900 grants in communities across the state, distributing over \$8 million to nonprofits that advance education, wildlife, arts, and housing; and that build economic opportunities for Wyoming residents. WYCF grants are available for libraries and library workers and volunteers through the [Carol McMurry Library Endowment](#).

Library of Congress Invites you to Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary

In 2026, just three years from now, we will commemorate the United States Semiquincentennial and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. In the lead-up to this milestone, the America250 Commission has launched America's Invitation, a nationwide campaign for all Americans to share stories and hopes and dreams for our future. Taking part in America's Invitation is easy — visit stories.america250.org to share photos, videos, artwork, essays, songs, poems, or anything else that highlights what America means to you and how you hope to commemorate this milestone.

Internet Safety Tips for Libraries/Patrons

Concerned about internet safety, particularly for your older patrons? The federal government has

free resources available for you and your patrons. Visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for information on [frauds and scams](#). Also check out the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency page on [CISA Cybersecurity Awareness Program Older American Resources](#).

Website Connects Patrons to Careers

[CareerOneStop.org](#), sponsored by the US Department of Labor, is a one-stop website for free, easy-to-use online tools and information. It offers resources for career explorers, job seekers, and career changers, and includes targeted resources for groups with particular employment needs, including workers ages 55 and older, veterans, people with a criminal conviction, and workers with disabilities. Library workers can find training and presentation materials to help make the most of the site. [Learn more](#) on American Libraries.

GrantStation Releases Free State of Grantseeking Survey and Reports 2023

The [2023 State of Grantseeking Report](#) from GrantStation spotlights recent developments in funding so that organizations can be more strategic in their grantseeking. Results, benchmarks, and reports offer leading-edge, key data for fundraising organization. These reports feature data by organizational budget size, mission focus, and government vs. non-government funding.

[ACRL Library Worker Retention Toolkit Available](#)

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association, has announced the launch of a new [Library Worker Retention Toolkit](#). This freely available resource provides effective employee retention strategies for academic libraries, including ideas for stay interviews, retention conversations, as well as many other strategies and tools. The Toolkit is a dynamic resource that will be updated as new publications and resources become available. Ideas and suggestions are welcome via the “Share Feedback” button.

[Earn Your Consumer Health Information Specialization for Free](#)

Now is an excellent time for more library workers to obtain their [Consumer Health Information Specialization](#) (CHIS). This specialization, developed by the Medical Library Association (MLA), “offers training in providing health information services to consumers and recognition for the accomplishment of acquiring new health information skills.” The [Network of the National Library of Medicine](#) (NNLM) provides free CHIS eligible coursework and covers the cost of the CHIS application fee for library staff and students located in their [national network](#). Membership in NNLM is free to libraries.



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