



## Ten Sleep Branch Library Awarded 2025 National Medal for Museum and Library



*Ten Sleep Branch Library Staff-(left to right) Veronica Risch, Karen Funk, Carol Greet, Rhonda Carter*

The Ten Sleep Branch Library in Washakie County was recently selected as one of ten recipients of the 2025 National Medal for Museum and Library Service by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This award is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities. The award will be presented at a ceremony this summer.

"I am so honored to receive this prestigious award," said Washakie County Library Director Karen Funk. "The team at the Ten Sleep Branch Library has consistently tried to give some large library experiences in a small rural town library setting. We have provided good customer experiences with small town hospitality."

The Ten Sleep Branch Library's service area encompasses the eastern half of Washakie County, including the town of Ten Sleep, also serving as the school library for Washakie County School District #2, a K-12 school with 110 students. During the summer, the Ten Sleep community grows with rock climbers and tourists from across the United States and other countries who routinely use the facility, including its high-speed internet, for work, school and keeping in touch with family and friends. Read the full blog post [here](#).

## Upcoming Celebrations

Check out this list of April celebrations pertaining to libraries and literacy:

April 1-30-[School Library Month](#)

April 1-30-[National Poetry Month](#)

April 12-[Drop Everything and Read \(D.E.A.R.\) Day](#)

April 19-25-[National Library Week](#)

April 26-May 2-[Preservation Week](#)

April 26-[World Intellectual Property Day](#)

April 30-[Children's Day/Book Day/El día del niño/El día del los libros](#)

## Famous Quotes

“Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world.”  
— Lauren Ward



# Around the State

## LIBRARIANS REPRESENT WYOMING AT COSLA'S ANNUAL VOICES FOR LIBRARIES



*Cass Kvenild and Cristine Braddy discuss the importance of Wyoming libraries to their communities with U.S. Senator John Barasso.,*

Three Wyoming librarians recently represented the Cowboy State at the Chief Officers of State Library Agency’s (COSLA) annual Voices for Libraries event in Washington, D.C.

Voices for Libraries is an annual gathering during which a team of library professionals from each state has the opportunity to engage with legislators and discuss the crucial role libraries play in their state’s communities and their impact on the citizens of their state. This year’s event was held March 4-5, and Wyoming’s delegation

included Wyoming State Librarian Abby Beaver, Goshen County Library Director Cristine Braddy, and Dean of University of Wyoming Libraries Cass Kvenild.

The event included opportunities for library professionals to receive training about policies and funding from a variety of speakers, including Second Lady of the United States Usha Vance and COSLA President Jamie Ritter. During their time in the nation’s capital city, Abby, Cristine, and Cass met with U.S. Senators Cynthia Lummis and John Barasso, as well as U.S. Representative Harriet Hageman. Conversations centered around the many resources and services Wyoming’s libraries provide, including databases, summer reading programs, and the upcoming AI Summit.

“It was a great opportunity to share information about all the awesome programs going on in our Wyoming libraries,” said Abby.

## LARAMIE COUNTY OFFERS SELF-SERVICE AT RURAL BRANCHES

On Monday, March 2, [Laramie County Library System \(LCLS\)](#) became the first library system in Wyoming to offer self-service library access at its Burns and Pine Bluffs branch libraries, joining only a handful of libraries in the Rocky Mountain region to implement this forward-thinking innovation.

Eligible library users are now able to access the Burns and Pine Bluffs libraries from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., seven



*Antonia Gaona demonstrates the new self-service entry at Laramie County Library System's Burns Branch Library.*

## Library Jobs

### [Library Development Manager](#)

Wyoming State Library  
Cheyenne, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted January 29, 2026

### [Patron Services Manager](#)

Laramie County  
Library System  
Cheyenne, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted March 23, 2026

### [Library Services Manager](#)

Teton County Library  
Jackson, WY  
Closes April 19, 2026  
Posted March 18, 2026

### [Adjunct Instructor, Ludden Library](#)

Laramie County  
Community College  
Cheyenne, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted March 9, 2026

## WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY



Since its inception in 2000, World Intellectual Property Day has been celebrated each year on April 26 to enhance the general public's understanding of Intellectual property (IP) and celebrate creativity and innovation.

According to the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) website, Intellectual property (IP) refers to "creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce."

This year's theme is "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate," and will focus on the creators, inventors, and entrepreneurs whose passion and ideas drive the future of sports.

Learn more about World Intellectual Property Day on the [WIPO website](#), and learn about Wyoming inventors and patents on the Wyoming State Library's [Wyoming Inventors database](#).

days a week, even when staff are not present. Using secure entry powered by Bibliotheca's Open+ Access technology, patrons can now scan their library card to unlock the building and enjoy services such as browsing and checking out materials, computer use, printing, Wi-Fi access, hold pickups, and use of meeting rooms outside of staffed hours.

"Many residents in Burns and Pine Bluffs commute for work, school, or essentials like grocery shopping, which makes it difficult to visit the library during our traditional staffed hours," said Antonia Gaona, Executive Director of LCLS. "This service is about breaking down that barrier. We are expanding access for our rural communities and making it easier for everyone to use their library on their own schedule. It's a direct reflection of our strategic plan and our commitment to equitable access across the county."

Self-service library access is an addition, not a replacement, for traditional staffed hours. Library staff will continue providing expert support, programming, and personal assistance during regular open hours. It also ensures continued access to the library's main services during unexpected staffing challenges, when branches might previously have needed to close due to illness or coverage issues.

The project is a part of LCLS' Rural Services Expansion Project, and is supported, in whole or in part, by the Wyoming Library Multipurpose Community Facility Program (WLMCFP) funded by federal award number CPFFNO188 awarded to the State of Wyoming by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

"The biggest challenge with this project has been getting new technology to work in our older buildings," said Antonia. "It's taken a lot of creativity and problem solving."

This project will benefit the two communities greatly. The library branches in Burns and Pine Bluffs are truly community hubs for those who live there.

LCLS’ Self-Service Library Access represents a new model for rural libraries, expanding access, increasing reliability, and bringing innovative services to rural communities across Laramie County. Learn more at [lcls.pro/selfservice](https://lcls.pro/selfservice). Read the full blog post [here](#).

## FREE SUMMER READING RESOURCE KIT



Summer reading is around the corner, and Britannica Education is offering a “Can You Dig It?” free digital summer reading toolkit full of resources to support your upcoming summer reading program! The full kit (plus some bonus content!) is available on the [Britannica Education website](#).

- Resources available include:
- Reading booklists for all ages (with dinosaur-themed options!)
  - Bonus Britannica School and Britannica Library links
  - Coloring activity sheets, including a Jurassic puzzle, bookmarks, a bookish Bingo card, and a word search with leveled vocab lists and quizzes
  - Four Teach Britannica graphic organizers for K–12 independent reading (in both English and Spanish)
  - Social media graphics
  - Certificate for chomp-ion readers

Check out this great resource!

**GoWyl'd**  
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

TELL US HOW YOU USE OUR DIGITAL RESOURCES

**250TH RESOURCES  
AVAILABLE FROM THE  
WSL AND THE USPTO**



The 250th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, also known as the Semiquincentennial, is coming up in just a few short months on July 4, 2026. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office website has free online resources to help your library honor our country's past, celebrate American ingenuity, and inspire the future!

If you're looking for patent and trademark information specific to Wyoming, check out the Wyoming State Library's Wyoming Inventors database, visit our Patent and Trademark Resource Center, or contact State Documents Librarian Anne Kuipers at [anne.kuipers@wyo.gov](mailto:anne.kuipers@wyo.gov).

Celebrate our country's 250 years of discovery, creativity, and enterprise!

**SWEETWATER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM RECEIVES  
\$5,000 WYOMING HUMANITIES GRANT FOR CFAC**

The [Sweetwater County Library System \(SCLS\)](#) recently received a \$5,000 Culture Grows Grant for General Operating Support from Wyoming Humanities. The grant funds will be used to support programs at the library's Community Fine Arts Center from July through December of 2026.



*Sweetwater County Library System's Community Fine Arts Center*

“We are excited to be a recipient of this grant,” said SCLS Director Lindsey Travis. “These funds will go a long way to help the CFAC provide monthly art programs.”

The SCLS is one of 15 organizations across the state to receive a Culture Grows Grant. This grant is designed to support the cultural network of Wyoming.

“If any organization understands the necessity, benefit, and relief that general operating support can provide, it is Wyoming Humanities,” says executive director Chloé Flagg. “We believe that these dollars are transformative for our cultural organizations across the state, but there is so much more to this grant program.”

Awardees of the Culture Grows Grant join a cohort that will move throughout the year in concert with one another, sharing each other's work and finding inspiration and collaboration along the way, all facilitated by Wyoming Humanities.

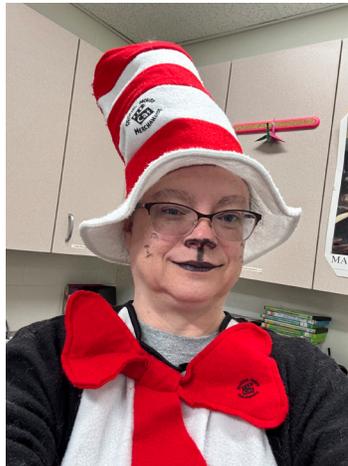
# School Libraries

## SCHOOL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: JENNISON LUCAS

This month, we are honored to feature a dedicated leader in the Wyoming library community who has spent her entire life—quite literally—mastering the art of the library.

### Meet Jennison Lucas

Title: District Librarian  
District: Park County School  
District #6 in Cody, WY



*Jennison Lucas*

### The Path to the Library

Jennison has been a professional school librarian for 24 years, but her journey started long before that. At just four years old, she was already organizing her personal bookshelf by topic and navigating the complexities of a card catalog! While she initially considered becoming a classroom teacher or an academic cataloger, her natural talent for working with people led her to the perfect middle ground: school librarianship. With a husband who is also a teacher, Jennison’s life is truly rooted in the world of education.

### A Fun Fact: A Special Guest

Mark your calendars! Jennison is excited to share that award-winning children's author Mac Barnett will be visiting Cody on September 21! This is a fantastic opportunity for our local reading community.

### Insights from the Library: The "Why" Behind the Work

For Jennison, the most rewarding moments happen when students realize the library is a place where they can learn anything. She loves:

1. The Connections: Watching kids put information together in ways they never have before.

## Library Jobs

### Foundation

#### Administrative Assistant

Sheridan County Library  
System  
Sheridan, WY  
Posted February 12, 2026  
Open until filled

### Branch Assistant-Float

#### (part-time)

Laramie County Library  
System  
Pine Bluffs, WY  
Open until filled  
December 18, 2025

### Library Director

Carbon County  
Library System  
Rawlins, WY  
Open until filled  
Posted October 24, 2025

ACCESS FREE RESOURCES

Wrangle Yourself  
Some Handy Research  
and Learning Tools!

Wyoming  
STATE LIBRARY

Let's Ride!

2. Critical Thinking: She recently engaged a group of students in a deep dive into the Dewey Decimal System. Using the book *Dewey and the Alien*, she led a discussion that challenged students to rethink how subjects are categorized and why they belong (or don't belong) in certain sections.

### What Parents & Students Should Know

"The library is about the process of learning, not just finding a book to read." Jennison wishes more people understood that the library is where we learn how to interact with information. It's a hub for:

- Information Literacy: Navigating digital spaces, identifying misinformation, and engaging with complex data.
- The Human Experience: Jennison believes that information isn't just found in nonfiction; fiction is a vital tool for exploring the depths of the human experience.

### Success in the Stacks: The Great Snowball Fight

Jennison recently wrapped up the 5th Annual Snowball Fight, a massive reading competition between Cody elementary schools.



*Jennison and a colleague read to children as *Mo Willem's Elephant and Piggie*.*



*Jennison gets into character (as a squirrel!) as she reads a story to students.*

- The Rules: For three weeks, students and staff record their reading. Picture books are tracked by title and author on a snowball while longer chapter books are tracked by minutes read. Students earn white paper snowballs and teachers are awarded yellow paper snowballs!
- The Results: This year, the district tallied an incredible 47,776 snowballs and 955,000 minutes of reading!
- The Trophy: The winning school took home the traveling trophy, but the real victory was seeing students get so excited about reading.

Jennison encourages everyone to talk about the library and feels that by sharing the "great things" that happen within our walls, library professionals can help the community understand that libraries are about much more than just physical books. As Jennison says, "Books are just an ancient way to share information"—and in her library, information is shared in every way imaginable.

# Training and Professional Opportunities

## REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026 AI SUMMIT IS NOW OPEN

Join the University of Wyoming Libraries, the Wyoming State Archives, and the Wyoming State Library **Friday, May 29** for a day of presentations led by professionals from around the state on current topics surrounding AI use and libraries.



Created for librarians, archivists, and information professionals, the AI Summit provides an opportunity to explore innovative, practical, and thoughtful approaches to artificial intelligence in library and archival work.

This year's program features presentations on **AI literacy, accessibility, user privacy, intellectual property, digital collections, security, and emerging uses of AI in creative and technical workflows.**

The Summit's keynote speaker, Joshua Sternfeld, is a historian and heritage strategist whose work **focuses on the implications of AI for libraries, archives, and museums, bringing a national perspective on digital preservation, cultural heritage, and responsible innovation.**

Be sure to check the [AI Summit website](#) for updates! [Register for the 2026 AI Summit](#) before **Friday, May 15th**.

Whether you are new to AI or already experimenting with its possibilities, the 2026 AI Summit offers space to learn, connect, and share ideas with colleagues from across Wyoming. We're excited to learn with you—see you at the Summit!

## News in Brief

### [Airport Libraries Take Off-](#)

In recent years, public libraries across the country have begun partnering with airports to bring books, digital materials, and dedicated reading spaces into terminals.

### [Newsmaker: Mychal Threats-](#)

This article includes an interview with children's librarian and author Mychal Threats on falling in love with library service and his road to Reading Rainbow.

### [Getting Started with Web Accessibility-](#)

The ultimate goal of web accessibility improvement should be a website that maximizes accessibility and considers inclusive access in all decisions, but even incremental improvements have real benefits. This article outlines several changes that can have a significant impact without requiring the wholesale redesign of a website.

### A Bit of Library Humor

Have you read the latest book about anti-gravity? It's impossible to put down!

## News in Brief

### [Considering AI in Your Collection Policy](#)

This article explains how to ground decisions in mission, prioritize transparency and quality, and remain flexible as technology evolves.

### [What School Library Professionals Should Know-](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration has published a new AI Literacy Framework designed to guide AI literacy efforts across workforce development and education systems nationwide.

### [Library of Congress Now Accepting Concepts for the 2026-2027 Innovator in Residence Program-](#)

The Library of Congress is seeking their next Innovator in Residence to start in September 2026 and will fund an individual up to \$90,000 per year, for a maximum of two years, to create a transformative digital work with Library of Congress collections for the American people and to serve as an ambassador for the Library.

## REGISTRATION OPEN FOR YSIG MINI-CONFERENCE, JURASSIC SPARK!—IGNITE THE WONDER

The 2026 YSIG mini-conference, Jurassic Spark!—Ignite the Wonder, will be held May 7-8 in Casper, Wyoming.

This mini-conference will focus on children and teen services in libraries and provide participants with opportunities to connect with fellow

professionals, hear from expert speakers, and get the latest summer reading insights. The agenda features multiple speakers and activities, and a sandwich lunch is included in the registration cost.

Member registration is \$15.00 and non-member registration is \$20.00 for this event. Please register on the [Wyoming Library Association website](#) by Friday, May 1. Lodging for participants is available at the [Courtyard by Marriott](#) located at 4260 Hospitality Lane in Casper, Wyoming, for \$110.00 per night. [Book your group rate for WLA-Youth Services.](#) Don't miss this opportunity to learn, collaborate, and spark new ideas!



## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2026 WYLD ANNUAL MEETING

The 2026 WYLD Annual Meeting will take place at Sheridan College in Sheridan, Wyoming, on May 27-28. More information, including a draft schedule will be available soon on the [Wyoming State Library website.](#)



# Grant and Award Opportunities

## [2027 Children's Literature Lecture Award](#)

**Deadline: April 30, 2026**

The 2027 Children's Literature Lecture Award committee is excited to announce that the application process to host the 2027 event – which will feature award-winning author, Kwame Alexander – is now open! The Children's Literature Lecture is an annual event, announced at the Youth Media Awards in January, at which an author, critic, librarian, historian or teacher of children's literature presents a paper that makes a significant contribution to the field. A library, university, special collection, or other appropriate organization can be considered as the host institution. Host sites for the Children's Literature Lecture receive a \$2,000 honorarium to help with costs incurred by hosting the lecture. The lecture is administered by ALSC.

## [Labcorp Charitable Foundation](#)

**Deadline: Ongoing**

The Labcorp Charitable Foundation invests in community-based nonprofits advancing health, education, and well-being. From supporting food pantries and summer meal programs for children to expanding healthcare access and STEM education, Labcorp's giving reflects its mission to improve health and lives. Recent grants have funded medical screenings, patient support services, and educational programs that inspire the next generation of scientists and healthcare professionals.

## [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/Apply after April 1, 2026**

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.

### **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 sponsor for the purchase of up to \$1,200 worth (at retail value) of new, quality, hardcover children's books. We provide 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.