



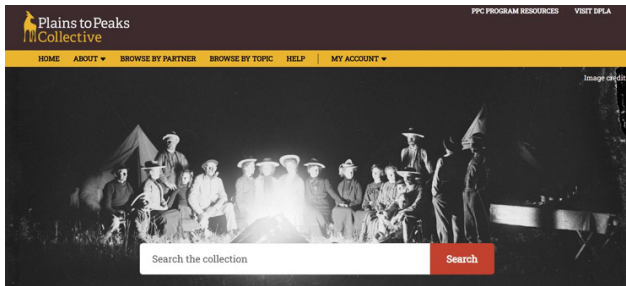
OUTRIDER



WYOMING STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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The Plains to Peaks Collective Launches a New Discovery Platform



With more than 1.2 million items currently available from over 60 organizations, a single search offers limitless opportunities for discovery.

The Colorado State Library, in partnership with the Wyoming State Library, is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new [Plains to Peaks Collective site](#) for searching historic collections across Colorado and Wyoming. The new platform provides free public access to a wealth of photographs, manuscripts, books, audio recordings, artifacts, and videos from numerous cultural heritage institutions in our two states.

The Plains to Peaks Collective (PPC) formed in 2017 as the Colorado-Wyoming Service Hub of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The DPLA brings together descriptive information about collection material from participating libraries, archives, and museums in the United States and makes it freely available. The Plains to Peaks launched to the DPLA in 2018 with just seven partner institutions sharing 46,000 items.

As part of DPLA membership, the PPC launched a DPLA-hosted local site in 2021. This offered users a Colorado and Wyoming level of access to the PPC collections, however, the nature of the membership offering constrained our ability to manage the local information display and improve or enhance the way users interact with the collection. (continued on page 10)

WSL News

THE WSL WELCOMES NEW LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER MAGGIE UNTERSEHER

The Wyoming State Library (WSL) is pleased to welcome Maggie Unterseher, our new Library Development Manager.

"Maggie brings a wealth of educational and leadership expertise," said Wyoming State Librarian Abby Beaver. "She has a proven track record of working closely with the Wyoming State Library and the WYLD network, notably serving two terms on the Governing Board as the School and Special Libraries Representative. Her background will be invaluable as we move forward with our strategic library service goals. We are beyond excited to have Maggie join our team."

Maggie began her journey into the library profession as a middle school librarian at Newcastle Middle School (NMS) in Newcastle, Wyoming, shortly following her graduation from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in political science. In this position, she had the unique experience of working for her former middle school principal while she helped support her parents during her dad's health challenges. During this time, she also met her husband and earned a master's degree in secondary education from Black Hills State University with an endorsement in K-12 library media. Maggie began working in Gillette, Wyoming, as an elementary librarian for students in pre-K through sixth grade after helping her mom get settled after her dad's passing. In 2020, she and her husband returned to Newcastle, where Maggie served for six years as the high school and district librarian for Weston County School District #1 (WCSD1) and her husband taught special education.

When the WSL's Library Development Manager position became vacant after the previous manager's retirement in October of 2025, Maggie thought it sounded like a great opportunity.



Maggie Unterseher, Wyoming State Library's Library Development Manager

"I knew the people at WSL were amazing, so when the opportunity was still available when my position was affected by WCSD1's reduction in force after a large drop in enrollment, I applied for it," said Maggie. "My husband and I had talked about the opportunities available in Cheyenne, and we knew it would be a good time to make the jump."

The timing and opportunities worked out perfectly for Maggie's family, as she was offered the position at the WSL and her husband was offered a position at the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

"My oldest daughter calls me the 'Queen of the Libraries,' and I make a joke from the tv show, 'The Office,' with her that I am the 'Assistant to Queen of the Libraries,' said Maggie in regard to her new position.

Maggie has served on the WYLD Governing Board as the School Representative, Shared Purchases Committee, and different positions with WLA SLIG (Wyoming Library Association School Library Interest Group) and the Wyoming Department of Education's Library Book Guidance Committee. She was also the treasurer for the Weston County Library Foundation Board for almost three years.

As the new WSL Library Development Manager, Maggie looks forward to supporting Wyoming libraries as she leads the Library Development Office team.

"They are a dynamic team of individuals who have an amazing vision and goals for the libraries they support, and I want to help them with their positions, too."

Maggie loves libraries of all kinds and, in the words of Michael Threets, is "a library kid."

"I learned how to use the world wide web at my public library and remember vividly the librarian teaching me that there were NO SPACES in web addresses," said Maggie. "The two librarians I grew up with , Judy and Barrett, still live in Newcastle and they are so special to me."

On a more personal note, Maggie and her family are enjoying becoming "city mice" as opposed to "country mice" after moving to Cheyenne from a much smaller community.

"I've been dealing with some culture shock," Maggie joked. "Cheyenne has more food choices than I have time for!"

Maggie's first day in her new position was June 16.

Upcoming Celebrations/Events

September 1-30: [Library Card Sign-up Month](#)

September 7: Labor Day

September 8: [International Literacy Day](#)

Library Quote

"Nothing is pleasanter than exploring a library."

-Walter Savage Landor

(English writer and poet, 1775-1864)

SAVE THE DATE FOR SNAPSHOT DAY 2026

It's summertime now, but in less than three months, it will be time for Wyoming Snapshot Day!



Mark your calendars for the week of **October 12-16!!!**

This year's online event will be the Wyoming State Library's (WSL) sixteenth annual celebration of Wyoming libraries. We are so excited to share your photos, statistics, and comments or testimonials from patrons and staff that show all the amazing things happening in our libraries across the state.

Participation is fun and easy! First, take photos of and collect comments from your library's patrons and staff during your library's normal activities on the day your library chooses. Then, send photos and comments to Christi Weinzierl, WSL Communication and Grants Specialist at christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov. (Please type all comments into one document and send it as an attachment.) Finally, enjoy seeing your photos and comments along with others from libraries across the state on the WSL's social media channels and on the Wyoming Snapshot Day website.

Help us spread library joy and let everyone know about your library's impact on your community!!!

Libraries may choose to participate any day during the week of October 12-16, 2026. Feel free to send an email letting us know your chosen day, or simply send us your content on the day you choose.

We hope you will join for Wyoming Snapshot Day 2026! Find more information or sign up on the [Wyoming Snapshot Day website](#).



Around the State

TINA ELY RETIRES FROM BIG HORN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

At the end of June, Tina Ely retired from the Big Horn County Library System—again.

Tina began her career at the Greybull Library as a volunteer while going to school at Northwest College in Powell, Wyoming. After earning her AAS in Business, she was hired as a library assistant. Six months later, she took over as branch manager after the previous manager's retirement. Tina served in this position for six years before her first retirement, which lasted four years.

After two years as the director, Tina was ready to retire for a second time. Her last day at the library was June 30.

"I am looking forward to being able to travel to see my sister more often, as well as my son and granddaughters who live too far away," said Tina. "Birding has become my passion in the last few years so having more time to do that is exciting. Just staying home , gardening, and riding my horse seems very appealing to me right now."

Tina hopes the Big Horn County Libraries continue on the path they are on and things just keep getting better. She also hopes communities continue to value the library and encourage their financial support. Tina is most proud of the way the libraries in Big Horn County have become a team that works well together instead of in isolation.

"We have great managers who care about the libraries and want to see them succeed," said Tina. "I also feel that I am leaving the library system well-organized with past problems resolved."

"I would like to add my appreciation to everyone at the State Library and all of the directors in Wyoming for your support and help during my time as Director," said Tina.



*Tina Ely, retired Big Horn County Library
System Director*

People News



Shadow Abbott, library specialist at the University of Wyoming Libraries, was recently awarded UW Libraries Outstanding Staff Award. Shadow has been in her current position since 2021.

Shadow said of her work, "I enjoy that, in my position, I am able to provide access to collections that have limited public access, whether through physical location, fragility, and/or rarity of the items in the collection. People all around the world being willing and able to access and interact with the 3D models and other digitized objects show the desire the public has to interact with these collections and the importance of digital access to museum, special, and other collections."

FORT WASHAKIE SCHOOL/COMMUNITY LIBRARY AWARDED SNAPDRAGON BOOK FOUNDATION GRANT



Fort Washakie Elementary School students proudly display their Very Hungry Caterpillar banner.

Fort Washakie School and Community Library was recently awarded a handsome grant from the Snapdragon Book Foundation. Librarian Robin Levin submitted the "Books & Brains" grant proposal with the purpose of reinvigorating much loved titles from *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Dog Man*, and

Dork Diaries series, and to infuse the K-12/public collection with Indigenous titles of merit. Fort Washakie School and Community Library was recently awarded a handsome grant from the Snapdragon Book Foundation.

Librarian Robin Levin submitted the "Books & Brains" grant proposal with the purpose of reinvigorating much loved titles from *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Dog Man*, *Dork Diaries* series, and to infuse the K-12/public collection with Indigenous titles of merit.

"We're surprised and grateful to be included in this year's list of awardees," Levin commented. "Our patrons deserve clean, fresh copies of the books they love and new titles they'll be eager to explore!"

The Snapdragon Book Foundation provides school libraries with books for disadvantaged children. For more information on this grant program, visit snapdragonbookfoundation.org.

TEN SLEEP BRANCH LIBRARY AWARDED IMLS SERVICE AWARD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Ten Sleep Branch staff recently returned from their trip to Washington, D.C., to receive the Institute of Museum and Library Service Award. It was an honor and a privilege to receive this award for our small, rural library.

"We were not only representing our library," said Washakie County Library Director Karen Jean Funk. "We really felt the responsibility of representing all of the libraries in Wyoming and the work that is done to reach out in all of our communities."



IMLS Senior Program Officer Jill Connors-Joyner, Ten Sleep Library Assistant Carol Greet, Washakie County Library Director Karen Jean Funk, and Ten Sleep Librarian Rhonda Grobe-Carter



The IMLS service award medallion symbolizes the highest honor for museums and libraries in the U.S., recognizing their contributions to community service and engagement. The design of the medal reflects the values of innovation, accessibility and inspiration that these winning institutions embody in their mission to serve the public. The medal (left) will be on permanent display at the Ten Sleep Branch Library.

While in Washington D.C., members of the Washakie County Library (right) visited the Library of Congress. Their behind-the-scenes tour included engaging with an early copy of *The Virginian* and Wyoming Poet Laureate Peggy Simpson Curry's poetry, finding the *Annals of Wyoming* in the stacks, learning various bits of trivia from their knowledgeable tour guide, and finding the Wyoming Great Seal. Read more in the [full blog post](#).



School Libraries

SCHOOL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT-SHELLEY HUNSAKER



Shelley and her grandchild

The Wyoming State Library is delighted to feature Shelley Hunsaker of the Lincoln County School District #2 in Afton, Wyoming, in this month's School Library Spotlight. Shelley has been a dedicated leader, and she has brought immense passion, boundless energy, and a deep love for literacy to a role that spans eight different buildings across a large rural district ecosystem. This month's spotlight also serves as a grateful farewell, as Shelley retired at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

The Wyoming library community will miss her and wishes her the best in this new chapter! Thank you, Shelley, for all you have done for our students and Wyoming's libraries!

The Path to the Library

Shelley has been a school librarian for 24 years, but her training truly began when she was just ten years old! On Saturdays, she would drag her friends to the neighborhood library, where the encouraging local librarians let her perform flannel board stories for them. That early support set her on a lifelong path. She served as the school librarian at Osmond Elementary School for 17 years while earning her K-6 library endorsement online through Black Hills State University, later expanding it to include secondary library education. A past recipient of the Wyoming Librarian of the Year award, Shelley quickly credits the incredible librarians she works alongside for everything they achieve as a team.

A Fun Fact: The Ultimate Room Swap

Shelley's husband once had a beautiful home office, complete with stunning oak finishes and large windows. Today, it has been completely converted into Shelley's personal quilting room. Her husband had wanted to build a brand-new house, but because Shelley loved their current home so much, he agreed to let her use the office for her creative space and library!

Insights from the Library—The “Why” Behind the Work

For Shelley, the absolute best part of the profession is the literacy component and the deep connections she gets to build.

1. The Reach: In her district role, she saw and interacted with over 2,000 students in the course of a single week.
2. The Impact: Shelley loved watching students grow over time and getting to share the magic of stories with them every single day.

What Parents & Students Should Know

Shelley wishes everyone knew that librarians are family members who work tirelessly to support children.

Shelley has two distinct messages she wishes she could share with the community:

- To Students-Every librarian in the state works incredibly hard to create a warm, welcoming environment. The library is a place where you always belong.
- To Parents-There is a profound urgency to understand how carefully librarians vet materials. “We are parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents ourselves,” Shelley notes. “Librarians work super hard to find good materials because they know the massive, lifelong impact the right book can have on a student.”

Success in the Stacks: Building from the Ground Up

Having managed libraries in eight different buildings spanning an 80-mile radius, Shelley was constantly rolling between libraries, but that didn’t stop her from creating incredible spaces:

- The Alternative High School Transformation: Three years ago, Shelley discovered the alternative high school’s “library” consisted of just one small shelf. Operating with no initial budget, she wrote a small grant. Now, four years into the project, the space has over 700 books, expanded shelving, and a dedicated teacher facilitating checkouts.
- Glow Parties & Incentives: To keep reading fun, Shelley’s libraries host vibrant reading incentive programs—including a massively successful “Glow Party” at one of the high schools!
- State Book Awards: Shelley has loved serving on the Soaring Eagle Book Award Committee for the past couple of years. It provided a wonderful transition out of her elementary comfort zone into K-12 literature. She highly recommends committee work to her peers and currently champions powerful reads like *Uprising* by Jennifer A. Nielsen and *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow* by Zoulfa Katouh.

Closing Thoughts

Emphasizing that none of this would be possible without the incredible culture of her district, Shelley said, “We have one of the most supportive administrative teams. Their structural and emotional support directly helps every single student that walks through our library doors.”

Wyoming Library Association

STAY CONNECTED WITH LEAD

Leadership happens at every level, and LEAD is here to help Wyoming library staff connect, learn, and grow together!

LEAD, which stands for Leadership Excellence and Development, is a Wyoming Library Association (WLA) interest group that promotes and supports leadership throughout the WLA by engaging in leadership-oriented training, mentorship, and professional development.



Connect. Learn. Lead.

Over the coming months, you'll see more from LEAD as they share leadership resources, mentorship opportunities, member spotlights, and ways to connect with colleagues from across the state.

You can look forward to leadership resources, professional development, mentorship opportunities, leadership tips, ideas you can use in your library, member spotlights celebrating library professionals across Wyoming, and conference and networking opportunities.

LEAD is building a stronger community of library leaders across Wyoming!



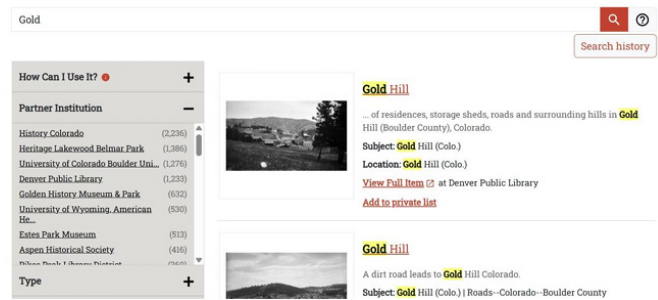
LEAD also invites you to connect with them on social media for updates, conversations, and inspiration.

Electronic Resources

THE PLAINS TO PEAKS COLLECTIVE LAUNCHES A NEW DISCOVERY PLATFORM

(continued from page 1)

Developed by Veridian—the experts behind the Colorado and Wyoming newspaper Collections—the new PPC portal serves as a powerful search tool. By bringing together disparate collections that are frequently hidden within websites into a single, efficient search, the platform saves researchers and frontline staff significant amounts of time.



The PPC collection grows and updates regularly to ensure there is always fresh content to discover.

Beyond its core functionality, the platform introduces several key features designed to deepen visitor engagement with the shared history of both states, including streamlined collection accessibility, a browse by topic tool, technical improvements, and enhanced user functionality.

- **Collection Highlights:** Accessible via the homepage, this feature provides an in-depth exploration of PPC special collections, the collecting and preservation efforts of our partner institutions, and digital initiatives across Colorado and Wyoming.
- **Browse by Topic:** This tool allows users to seamlessly explore the collection, with categories spanning from Mining to Social Protest Movements. Future enhancements will include educational histories curated and written by PPC staff and partners.
- **Technical Improvements:** The platform features enhanced indexing by Google and other search engines, refined analytics, and improved adherence to accessibility standards.
- **Enhanced User Functionality:** Visitors can register for a complimentary account to manage their research by saving and emailing searches, tracking their viewing history, and accessing citations in MLA, APA, and Chicago formats. Additionally, the platform invites direct user feedback to help continually improve the accuracy and representation of collection items.
- **Robust Collection Security:** To safeguard against for-profit data scraping, Veridian employs advanced protective measures that evolve alongside changing scraper tactics. To further defend against increasing AI bot activity, the system utilizes CloudFlare, ensuring the long-term integrity of the collections.



Researchers can easily cite their findings in MLA, ALA, Chicago formats.

Participation in the Plains to Peaks Collective offers numerous advantages for partner organizations, including the ability to:

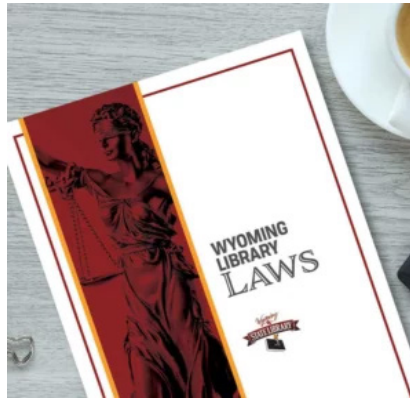
- Expand your professional network and community.
- Drive more traffic to your specific collections and your institution as a whole.
- Foster deeper engagement with users and grow your patron base.
- Enhance the visibility and scope of your digital materials.
- Create new opportunities to share and promote your unique local history and community.
- Encourage the organic finding of historic materials and increase public interaction.

We look forward to further growing this resource and welcome interest from potential new partners. To learn more about the PPC, or if you would like to share your unique historic digital collections with us, please contact Leigh Jeremias at ljeremias@coloradovirtuallibrary.org. There is no cost to share collections with the PPC. Information about participation and other program resources can be found at: <https://resources.plains2peaks.org>

The future is bright and exciting for cultural heritage organizations in Colorado and Wyoming. We are currently planning for new program resources, additional opportunities for visitor engagement with the PPC collections and new partnerships. If you would like to remain abreast of future initiatives, please consider joining the [PPC mailing list](#). (We promise not to spam you!).

2026 WYOMING LIBRARY LAWS NOW AVAILABLE

The 2026 edition of Wyoming Library Laws, a ready reference of extracted statutes affecting Wyoming libraries, has been posted on the [Wyoming State Library website](#). The WSL recommends that libraries consult the full text of Wyoming Statutes and visit with their legal counsel when faced with difficult issues.



Grant Opportunities

[Doris Ann Norris We Love Libraries Prize](#)

Deadline: Ongoing

This \$500 grant is funded by the Sisters in Crime writing network.

[The Freedom to Learn Foundation Grant](#)

Deadline: Ongoing

This grant provides direct support to libraries serving rural and historically marginalized communities that have experienced a loss of or threat to public funding.

[National Leadership Grants for Libraries](#)

Deadline: Ongoing

This program supports projects that develop, enhance, or disseminate replicable practices, programs, models, or tools to strengthen library and archival services for the American public.

[The Community Heart & Soul Grant Program](#)

Deadline: Ongoing

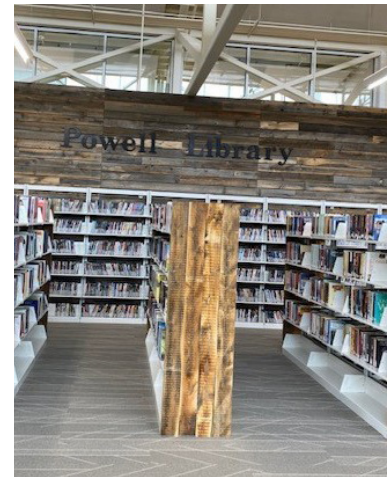
The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 (\$10,000 match required) for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns.

[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.

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words



Park County has a brand new library in Powell, Wyoming! Stay tuned for more photos and info in our next issue.



Angela Jackson, Teton County Library's Adult Services Manager, and Conrado Salvador, Natrona County Library's Tech Services Manager in the Big Chair at the 2026 ALA Conference in Chicago, Illinois in June.

News in Brief

[More Than Numbers: Turning Reflection into Action with Library](#)

Data—Data is more than a reporting requirement. It is a tool for listening, learning, advocating, and improving. What is your library's data telling you to do next?

[Start Slow, Build Trust: Eight Practical Tips for New Teen Librarians—](#)

These eight tips can offer a road map to build confidence, strengthen key skills, and begin to establish trust with teens that will be the foundation for success.

[Transcription Can Bring People Together—](#)

Over two centuries after the country's founding documents were written, and at a time when fewer people can read cursive, making historic records accessible feels imperative. This blog post from the Library of Congress discusses transcription, cursive clubs, and more.

What's Up?

Has your library recently hosted a unique event of program? Send news to Christi Weinzierl at christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov

[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.

[Wish You Well Foundation](#)

Deadline: Ongoing

The Wish You Well Foundation supports adult and family literacy in the U.S. by fostering the development and expansion of new and existing adult literacy and educational programs.

[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.

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

Deadline: Ongoing

This program provides free books on contemporary art to public institutions nationwide, including public libraries, public schools, prisons, and reading centers that self-define as under-served.

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

DEADLINE: Rolling

This grant provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public libraries that contribute \$200-\$400 through a local sponsors for the purchase of up to \$1,200 worth of new, quality, hardcover children's books.

[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.