

OUTRIDER



CASPER MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS GATHER TO CELEBRATE THEIR LOVE OF READING



Middle-schoolers from across Casper joined together to celebrate books and reading.

On May 6th, a shared love of reading brought over seventy middle school students from several different schools throughout Casper together for a special event.

The first-ever Middle School Book Club Meetup was held at the Casper College Goodstein Foundation Library, where the middle schoolers

from Casper Classical Academy, Centennial Middle School, CY Middle School, Dean Morgan Middle School, and Woods Learning Center gathered to discuss their favorite books, participate in fun activities, and make new friends. The event highlighted how books can serve as a bridge between different groups, encouraging empathy, creativity, and friendship among middle schoolers.

“The Middle School Book Club Meetup was a wonderful way to get all of the middle school book club students together,” said Lorene Heinzen, Youth/Teen Specialist for the Natrona County Library. “They will eventually be in high school, and other than sports, rarely interact with one another. These students often keep to themselves, and this is a great opportunity for them to make connections with students from other schools.”

Let's Ride!



The Wyoming State Library provides all Wyomingites **access to free resources*** that support research, business development, lifelong learning, personal enrichment, and more.

*A [library card](#) may be required.

Let's Ride!

GET EXPERT ASSISTANCE WITH WSL'S REFERENCE SERVICES

Have a research or reference question about the WYLDcat library catalog, GoWYLD research tools, finding library materials, or requesting interlibrary loans? Need a specific book or other media for work? [Contact our expert librarians](#) here at the Wyoming State Library for help!

Our WSL staff is ready at the reference desk during our business hours of Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to answer general reference questions.

Sometimes, an interlibrary loan is necessary to get the right materials to the patron who needs them. Thankfully, the WSL has two members of our staff who specialize in this very service!

WYLD support is available via email, phone, or the WYLD Support Portal, which includes articles on a variety of helpful topics that can help you quickly find the solution to your problem or the answer to your question.

DISCOVER FREE BUSINESS RESOURCES TO SUCCEED AT EVERY STAGE!

Are you a current or prospective small business owner looking for free resources to [start, pivot, or grow your small business?](#) The WSL has you covered!

The WSL partners with Wyoming Library to Business (WL2B), which is a grant-funded, business-focused, community driven and completely free resource, based in your local library. As a Wyoming library patron, many pieces of equipment and resources are available for your use, completely free of charge, through your Wyoming library.

[Check out our collection](#) and see how our free business resources can help you ride to success!

WSL News

AI SUMMIT HOSTED BY UW LIBRARIES, WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES, AND THE WSL



Keynote speaker Dr. Daniel A. Reed presents at the AI Summit.

On May 30, a partnership among the University of Wyoming Libraries (UWL), the Wyoming State Archives (WSA), and the Wyoming State Libraries (WSL) hosted the 2025 AI Summit, which provided a day of insight, conversation, and learning for nearly one hundred Wyoming library and archive professionals about the impact of AI on their work and lives.

A thoughtful lineup of speakers and presenters explored the implications and applications of AI to library and archive work. Keynote speaker, Dr. Daniel A. Reed, provided insight on the definition and capabilities of AI, as well as its history, possible implications to culture, the economy, technology, and the legal world, and

speculations comparing and contrasting AI to natural intelligence.

Anne Kuipers, WSL State Publications Librarian, presented on Trademarks and AI, and Joanne Pruitt, WSL Youth Services Consultant, gave a presentation focused on applying AI to genealogy. Other presentations by librarians, archivists, and business people included Collaborating with AI to Complete a Compassion Audit, Archives & AI, Basics of AI, and Archives & AI. A lightning round of quick AI-related presentations by attendees, including WSL Research and Statistics Consultant, Jessica Otto, added additional insight and variety to the event.

Along with the informative sessions, breakfast, lunch, round table discussions, and a social gathering allowed attendees to have conversations to process their new knowledge, share ideas, ask and answer lingering questions, and network with like-minded professionals. The event was coordinated by a committee of UWL, WSA, and WSL staff, including Abby Beaver, Wyoming State Librarian; Travis Pollok, WSL Information Services Manager; Paige Bredenkamp, WSL eResources and School Library Consultant; and Katelyn Wittenborn, WSL Digital Initiatives Librarian.

In all, seventy-four participants attended the 2025 AI Summit in person, and twenty-four attended the event virtually. Attendees described the event as an informative, enjoyable, and most of all, thought-provoking experience.

WSL STAFF MEMBERS ATTEND A & I PICNIC



WSL staff enjoying the annual A & I picnic (L to R-Paige Bredenkamp, Christi Weinzierl, Joanne Pruitt, Shaylee Krueger, Abby Beaver, K.J. Hillgren, and Shantry Miller)

On Friday, June 6, several members of the Wyoming State Library (WSL) staff enjoyed delicious tacos, desserts, and soda, and mingled with the members of the other divisions of the State of Wyoming's Administration and Information Department (A&I) at A&I's annual picnic at Lion's Park in Cheyenne.

Divisions represented included, along with the WSL, the A&I Director's Office, Economic Analysis, General Services, and Human Services. The annual award for A&I Employee of the Year was awarded by Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon and Wyoming First Lady Jennie Gordon, and many drawings were held for gift baskets, time off, and other prizes.

Despite the rainy weather, the picnic was a great time to celebrate A&I's hard work and dedication to the state of Wyoming.

Around the State

CASPER MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS GATHER TO CELEBRATE THEIR LOVE OF READING



Attendees proudly display their door prizes won during the inaugural Middle School Book Club Meetup in Casper.

(continued from p. 1) The Middle School Book Club Meetup was organized by the middle school librarians from Natrona County School District #1, the teen specialists from Natrona County Library, and the librarians from Casper College Goodstein Foundation Library.

During the event, students had the opportunity to not only make new friends, but connect with old friends, as well.

"One of my students from Centennial ran into an elementary school friend from four years prior, and they got to catch up! It was such a great time!" said Lorene.

The festivities kicked off with book trivia followed by a book swap. Students were asked to

bring a book club book to exchange with students from other schools. Everyone left with a new-to-them book. After the book swap, students went on a tour of the college library and had a pizza lunch. They showed off their skills with more book trivia, and the winners received some pretty cool swag and treats. The event ended with a summer reading promotion and scratch art bookmark craft.

“The Middle School Book Club Meetup was a huge success,” said Chelsie Troutman, Youth/Teen Specialist for the Natrona County Library. “We hope this will become an annual tradition, fostering a community where young readers from different schools can connect, learn, and grow together.”

Youth Services

REGISTER FOR WLA SLIG'S 2025 SCHOOL LIBRARY SUMMER SUMMIT



You still have time to register for the 2025 School Library Summer Summit, sponsored by the Wyoming Library Association (WLA), WLA’s

School Library Interest Group (SLIG), and the Wyoming State Library, which will be held **Sunday, July 20 through Tuesday, July 22** in **Saratoga, Wyoming**, at the Platte Valley Community Center.

The event’s featured speaker will be Sylvia Knight Norton, former Executive Director of the American Association of School Libraries.

PTSB credits will be available for attendees.

Registration rates are \$250 for certified teachers and \$50 for paraprofessionals. Shared room hotel lodging is \$107; single room lodging is \$214. Some meals will be provided while others will be self-paid.

Register by June 27 using the [link](#) on WLA’s [website](#). Don’t miss this great opportunity for school library professionals!



Training and Professional Opportunities

NEW WSL WEBINAR SERIES-PB & J



On July 18, **Paige Bredenkamp** and **Joanne Pruitt** (PB & J) will be kicking off a new monthly webinar series! They will spotlight one awesome database from [GoWYLD.net](https://www.gowylld.net) each month and show you exactly how to use it in **your** library.

Join PB & J as they walk through the database jungle together and bring the learning to YOU—one database at a time! **Paige** brings the eResources expertise. **Joanne** adds a youth services twist. Together, they're your **PB & J Dream Team!**

The first webinar in this new series will cover **Mometrix**. Participants will learn how to navigate this powerhouse of test prep and skill-building. Whether you're helping teens prep for tests or building stronger digital access for all ages, this series has something for everyone! Email [Joanne](mailto:Joanne@wyo.gov) your questions now, and PB & J will tailor the session to what you want to know. They can only make this webinar work with your questions, so don't be shy—send them in! Look for the ZOOM link for the webinar soon on the [WSL webinar page](#).

In August's webinar, PB & J will prepare you take your patrons on a global adventure with no passport required. The second webinar in the PB & J series will teach participants about **CultureGrams**, your new favorite tool for bringing the world into your library! (The date for this webinar will be announced soon, so stay tuned!)

Library Jobs

The Wyoming State Library maintains a job board for library positions around the state. These are the latest opportunities. Contact Christi Weinzierl at christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov to post jobs.

[Website Coordinator](#)

Laramie County Library System

Cheyenne, WY

Closes July 9, 2025

Posted June 24, 2025

[Vacancy Announcement](#)

Federal Documents Librarian

Wyoming State Library
 Cheyenne, WY
 Open until filled
 Posted June 24, 2025
[Vacancy Announcement](#)

Library Assistant-Children's Department

Park County Library System
 Cody, WY
 Closes June 30, 2025
 Posted June 16, 2025
[Vacancy Announcement](#)

Library Assistant-Circulation Desk

Park County Library System
 Cody, WY
 Closes June 30, 2025
 Posted June 16, 2025
[Vacancy Announcement](#)

Assistant or Associate Librarian – Chair, Public Services/Public Services Librarian

University of Wyoming-Public Services
 Department
 Laramie, WY
 Open Until Filled
 Posted June 1, 2025
[Vacancy Announcement](#)

Assistant Librarian

University of Wyoming-George W. Hopper Law
 Library
 Laramie, WY
 Open Until Filled
 Posted May 24, 2025
[Vacancy Announcement](#)

Library Assistant (part-time)

Sublette County Library System
 Big Piney, WY
 Open until filled
 Posted May 8, 2025
[Vacancy Announcement](#)

Assistant Librarian-Undergraduate Research Librarian

University of Wyoming-Research & Instruction
 Department
 Laramie, WY
 Open Until Filled
 Posted April 11, 2025
[Vacancy Announcement](#)

Grants & Awards

FLIGHT PATH-An Initiative of Spark of Science @ My Library**Deadline-July 10, 2025**

HHMI Tangled Bank Studios and STAR Net invite libraries to swoop into an engaging and educational suite of free materials with FLIGHT PATH, the first campaign in the Spark of Science@ My Library initiative that focuses on the science of birds and bird migration. With more than one billion birds killed by window strikes each year in the United States alone, FLIGHT PATH taps into the popularity of bird watching and provides local communities with fun activities to get to know their local birds and promote bird health and safety. Two hundred chosen libraries will each receive bird-safe materials including a \$500 honorarium to help

cover the cost of events and program outreach, bird friendly tape, regional bird ID cards, bird watching kit, “Lights Out” stickers that glow in dark, bookmarks with bird-friendly tips/facts, and informal activity guides created by *STAR Net* including curated materials provided by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

[PBS’s “The American Revolution” Library Microgrant](#)

Deadline: July 7, 2025

This microgrant opportunity offers libraries \$750 in funding to support community programming and engagement tied to the themes of the series and is a great opportunity to connect with your community around the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Project activities could include film screenings, history discussions, exhibits, book clubs, speaker events, youth projects, or other innovative ideas that bring local communities into conversation about the American Revolution and its enduring legacy. For this project, activities should emphasize civic engagement, conversations, and storytelling initiatives that provide a deeper understanding of our shared history. These engagement activities will focus around themes of liberty, freedom, independence, and democracy - ideals embedded in the Revolution and inherent in our Constitution.

[Yiddish Book Center’s Reading Group Grants](#)

Deadline: July 14, 2025

The Yiddish Book Center is accepting applications from public libraries to host

“Between Two Worlds,” a three-part reading group series focused on Yiddish literature in translation. Forty selected libraries will receive a \$2,000 grant for events, speakers, or enhancing library programming related to the titles, travel, lodging, and meal expenses for a reading group facilitator to attend a three-day workshop at the Yiddish Book Center, copies of three Yiddish literature titles (17 copies each) in translation for book club discussion, funding for a fourth book, eligibility to host a small, specially curated traveling exhibit on the history of Yiddish and its role in Jewish life, religion, and culture, reading guides, and other educational materials related to the Yiddish titles, and access to virtual programs and an online community of fellow librarians and facilitation for discussion, connection, advice, and collaboration. The theme, “Between Two Worlds,” explores questions of identity, displacement, and belonging through the lens of modern Yiddish literature—works that reflect the experience of navigating between cultures, generations, and geographies. The series is designed to spark deep conversations and introduce readers to vibrant literary voices they may not have encountered before. Programs will run January-June 2026.

[Nora Roberts Foundation Literacy Grant](#)

Deadline: September 1, 2025

The Nora Roberts Foundation’s mission is to create a beautiful, equitable, and safe world and pursues this goal by supporting literacy organizations, as well as organizations focused on the arts, children, social justice, and the environment. Although priority is given to organizations surrounding the

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

The Courage Project: Celebrating Everyday Courage in America

Deadline: Ongoing

The Courage Project seeks to recognize individuals and organizations that embody the foundational values of our nation through acts of courage that strengthen our communities, our democracy, and our shared future. The Courage Project distributes awards to organizations and honors everyday people for acts of courage and compassion that demonstrate bravery in their communities. For organizational awards, local nonprofit organizations will receive recognition for specific actions, whether that's supporting free speech, championing equality, or building community. For individual recognition, recipients may recommend donations to values-aligned American non-profit organizations, seeding civic engagement in their communities and strengthening our democracy. By allowing recipients to "pay it forward," the project gives Americans the chance to seed lasting change in their own communities. The award amounts will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Whether it's a librarian defending free speech, a teacher

protecting vulnerable students, or a local leader bridging divides, these recipients embody core national values: kindness, empathy, and community. For individual honorees, The Courage Project also provides an opportunity to "pay it forward" by directing funds to nonprofit organizations aligned with their values – helping to foster long-term impact at the grassroots level.

The Community Heart & Soul Grant Program

Deadline: Ongoing

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

Believe in Reading – Grants for Literacy Program

Deadline: Ongoing

Grants are made to organizations with 501(c)(3) status or its equivalent for educational institutions, including public libraries. Believe in Reading will consider funding programs that serve any age or aspect of supporting reading and literacy, including adult literacy, English as a second language projects, or Braille projects for the blind or visually impaired. Believe in Reading will supply funds only if they are earmarked for literacy, not just a general campaign. Reading must be the prime activity. Because addressing literacy is not a short-term process, Believe in Reading's grants are renewable for up to a maximum of three years, but a first-year award

does not guarantee any subsequent awards. Currently, the maximum grant amount is \$10,000; however, the vast majority of grants are for \$3,000 or less. First-time applicants will not be funded for more than \$3,000.

[Rural Technology Education & Assistive Technology \(AT\) Grants](#)

Deadline: Ongoing

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

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

Deadline: Ongoing

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

[Wish You Well Foundation](#)

Deadline: Ongoing

The Wish You Well Foundation supports adult and family literacy in the United States by

fostering the development and expansion of new and existing adult literacy and educational programs. The focus is on supporting nonprofit organizations that teach adults the literacy skills they need to communicate, grow, and thrive within their communities. Grants amounts range from \$200 to \$10,000.

Scholastic Possible Fund

Deadline: Ongoing

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

Jan Stauber-Sherlock Holmes

Literacy Grant

Deadline: Ongoing

The mission of this grant is to provide needed financial assistance to persons and organizations developing literacy programs and other educational experiences that will introduce

young people to Sherlock Holmes. Educators or librarians can be awarded up to \$1,000 for a project that encourages young people to read and introduces them to Sherlock Holmes.

Art Resources Transfer's Library Program

Deadline: Ongoing

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

The Pilcrow Foundations Children's Book Project Program Grant

DEADLINE: Rolling

The Pilcrow Foundation, a national non-profit public charity, provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public libraries that receive a grant through its Children's Book Project and contribute \$200-\$400 through a local sponsors for the purchase of up to \$1,200 worth (at retail value) of new, quality, hardcover children's books. 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 is limited to Black Hills Energy service areas.

[BNSF Railway Foundation Grants](#)

DEADLINE: Ongoing

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

[T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program](#)

DEADLINE: Ongoing

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

News in Brief

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

[Teaching Students to Identify and Attack Misinformation](#)-An interdisciplinary course at the University of Southern California teaches engineering students research skills and information literacy.

[Code Breakers Club!: A STEM Program for Children](#)-This post highlights a fun, educational, and low-stress STEM program,

[Seeing Beyond the Spectrum](#)-This article tells the story of a how library in Massachusetts has used grant money to expand their library's accessibility to children and adults with autism.