



OUTRIDER



WYOMING STATE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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Wyoming State Librarian Appointed UW Adjunct Faculty Member



Abby Beaver, Wyoming State Librarian

The University of Wyoming recently appointed Abby Beaver, Wyoming State Librarian, as an adjunct faculty member. This appointment recognizes the many important roles Abby and the Wyoming State Library perform not only for the state in general but also for the university.

When asked how she felt about the appointment, Abby responded, “The University of Wyoming holds special meaning for me as both my alma mater and where I began my library career. I’m elated and deeply honored to have been named UW Adjunct Faculty. UW Dean of Libraries, Cass Kvenild, and I have already had some great discussions about opportunities for Wyoming libraries and residents.”

According to the University of Wyoming, Adjunct Faculty, “...make available to the University, on a limited or part-time basis, the services of persons who have attained recognition in their professional fields of scholarship, creativity, or other distinguished accomplishments relevant to University programs.”

This description fits State Librarian Abby Beaver perfectly, and the Wyoming State Library congratulates Abby on this honor and achievement.

Around the State

GLENROCK HOSTS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Many festive trees were displayed at the Glenrock Library.

The Converse County Library in Glenrock, Wyoming, hosted their third annual Christmas Tree Festival this year. Their kickoff event was held on December 7.

“The Christmas Tree Festival is an annual event that connects our community and gives organizations, businesses, churches, and families a chance to decorate a Christmas tree together,” said Jennifer Kofoed, Glenrock Library’s branch manager.

This year, 40 entries were submitted, ranging from table top trees to ones that are eight feet tall. Realizing that not everyone has a tree available to decorate, the library loans a variety of trees for the event.

“The availability of trees to borrow has been greatly appreciated and has also led to donations of trees for future years,” said Jennifer.

The Christmas Tree Festival benefits everyone involved, including the library patrons that get to see the amazing variety of beautifully decorated trees and have opportunities to help those in need, as well as the organizations who submit entries.

In addition to a People’s Choice competition, in which library patrons stop in and vote for their favorites, the library provides a scavenger hunt listing specific items included on the various trees in order to encourage everyone to look at all of the entries.

Businesses and organizations who participate benefit by getting the word out about their services. This year the local veterinary clinic requested their patients’ animal photos to be submitted on Facebook, which they printed for the ornaments for their tree. Within 24 hours, they had over 200 photo submissions, giving them a personalized way to connect with the families they serve. A local gas station does a drawing to win their tree each year. They run the drawing at their business, so anyone interested in winning is encouraged to visit their location in person. This year, Glenrock’s local sheepherders have ventured beyond a tree and have set up an entry decorated as a sheepherding wagon. The local Police Department and Fire Department challenge each other each year to try to have the best tree.

“It has been great seeing organizations and families come together for some friendly competition,” said Jennifer.

Patrons also gave back to the community through some of the entries. The tree from the Humane Society had a dropbox for donations. The Silver Bells tree, hosted by a youth group, provided lists of personalized gift ideas for local seniors who could use some holiday cheer, and they had a dropbox to leave gifts to be delivered to the seniors.

Besides tree decorating as a holiday event, the Glenrock library also does a book sale, a daily Elf on the Shelf finding contest, and a gift-wrapping station with free Christmas paper, bags, bows, and ribbons.

“We love being able to offer this event and we have a lot of people in our community who are excited to participate each year, whether they are registering to decorate a tree, are stopping by to look at all the creative entries, or are taking advantage of the free gift-wrapping supplies,” said Jennifer. “It’s become a great tradition in our library and also brings folks from neighboring towns to see all the festivities.”

Is your library doing something amazing in the near future? Contact the Wyoming State Library’s Communication and Grants Specialist, Christi Weinzierl, at christi.weinzierl@wyo.gov or (307) 777-5919 to share your great news. The WSL loves to share all the great things Wyoming libraries are doing!

THREE WYOMING LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE GRANTS



Three Wyoming library organizations applied for and were awarded grants during one of Rocky Mountain Power’s recent grant cycles which ended June 15 and focused on community enhancement.

The three organizations receiving awards are: Albany County Library Public Library Foundation, Big Horn County Library System, and Natrona County Public Library Foundation.

Each organization will be using the awarded funds to address needs specific to their library.

Albany County Public Library Foundation was awarded a \$4,000 grant to support community engagement through outreach for the Albany County Public Library (ACPL). Funding will be used for library outreach and the ACPL bookmobile. Specifically, this grant will help ensure the ACPL can reach its rural communities in Centennial and Rock River, support homebound and older adult library deliveries, and focus on taking services out of the library and into the community, and expand services to more people in Albany County by offering programs and materials, visiting various locations, and being a visible presence in the community.

“Rocky Mountain Power Foundation has been a generous partner to the ACPL Foundation,” Caitlin White, executive director of the ACPL Foundation said. “We greatly appreciate their continued support, as we strive to make a great library even better.”

Big Horn County Library System (BHCLS) will be using the grant money to update some of their furniture, including some new computer chairs for the public computers at one branch and some new furniture in the children’s section of the library in another branch.

“It’s a really easy grant to write and the final report is pain free,” said Tina Ely, BHCLS’s director. “I would encourage everyone to apply for it.”

Natrona County Public Library Foundation was also awarded grant money from the program. The awarded money will fund library programs such as story times, book clubs, workshops, and literary events, and other programming for patrons of all ages to promote literacy skills, lifelong learning, creative thinking, and problem solving; reinforce technology skills; and foster social connections; combat loneliness and depression; and build a sense of community.

“County funds do not pay for any programs at NCL; instead, we rely on our Foundation and Friends of the Library to foot the costs,” said Lisa Scroggins, Natrona County Library’s executive director. “This grant will allow us to continue to offer this valuable programming to the Natrona County community in FY 2025.”

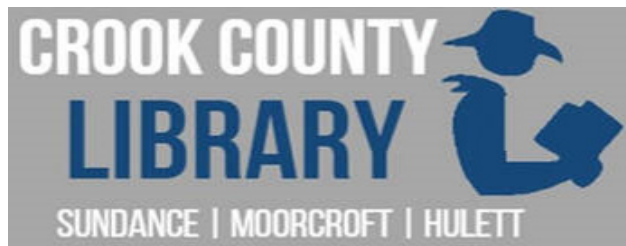
Congratulations to these grant recipients, and best wishes to them as they use their awards to provide the best possible resources and services to their patrons!

Rocky Mountain Power’s next grant cycle focuses on safety and wellness including, but not limited to, grant proposals addressing addiction, disability resources, disaster relief, domestic violence, first responders, food insecurity, healthcare accessibility, homeless support, mental health, public safety initiatives, veteran organizations, and/or wellness and preventative care. The next grant cycle focuses on education and STEM, and the application deadline is **March 15**. More information on this grant can be found on the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation [website](#).

Find information regarding other grants applicable to libraries in this month’s Grants and Award Opportunities blog post. An updated grants post is published monthly on the [Wyoming State Library blog](#).



CROOK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM AWARDED DIGITAL LITERACY GRANT



Crook County Library System was recently among over 100 public libraries nationwide who were awarded funding by the Public Library Association (PLA) to increase digital literacy using [DigitalLearn.org](https://www.digitallearn.org) resources, powered by a generous \$2.7 million contribution from AT&T. The PLA Digital Literacy Workshop Incentive and the new PLA Digital Navigator Workshop Incentive support public libraries in their work of improving basic digital skills among families and communities. The workshops will utilize DigitalLearn training materials, created in collaboration with AT&T, that are freely available to anyone through DigitalLearn.org and AT&T ScreenReady.

“We have a very diverse population within Crook County and each of the three towns. Our three branches, their patrons, and programming are very different,” said Moorcroft Branch Manager, Serena Buckner. “One thing we all have in common is patrons that visit the library for help with digital tasks.”

The libraries in Crook County have noticed an increase in patrons needing help scanning documents and emailing information due to various entities switching to digital submissions for paperwork and patrons aren’t familiar with the format. Crook County Library System staff members also get many requests from patrons needing help with setting up and using cell phones, signing documents digitally, printing photos, finding forms online, and many other digital tasks.

“We are not aware of any programs in our area that offer basic digital literacy classes or training, and we have been discussing the need for basic digital courses within our community for some time. We have struggled with where to start and how to get the information and training needed to best serve our communities,” said Serena. “This program gives us that starting point we were missing. Our focus will be on our older patrons who struggle with basic digital skills.”

Congratulations to the Crook County Library System, and best wishes on your exciting digital literacy project!

What’s Up? If you have great happenings at your library, we’d like to know! Send news to Christi Weinzierl at christi.weinzierl1@wyo.gov.

Youth Services

CRAYOLA CREATIVITY WEEK

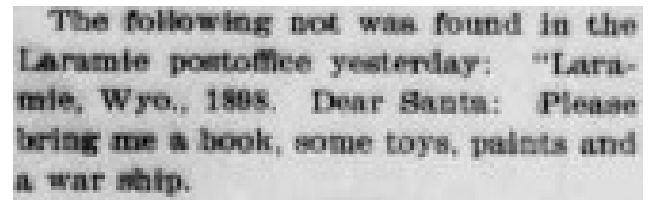


Crayola, along with other sponsors, is celebrating the natural curiosity and creativity of children with Crayola Creativity Week in early 2025. During the week of January 27-February 2,

they are inviting schools, libraries, and homes to participate in their free program to “help children create the future.” Those who sign up will gain access to free downloadable resources, celebrity activity videos, giveaways, and more. Interested libraries can sign up on the Crayola's Creativity Week [website](#).

Celebrations, Databases, & Electronic Resources

SANTA LETTERS IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE WINDOWS TO THE PAST



The Laramie Republican published a letter found in the Laramie post office on December 17, 1898.

The holiday season is upon us, so let's take a look back at Wyoming's holiday history! The earliest mention of the jolly man in red appeared in the Christmas Eve issue of *The Cheyenne Leader* back in 1868 in a poem entitled *Owed to Christmas* by A Young Lady, which advertises products available in a local store. Since then, Santa has continued to be used in marketing and advertising for Wyoming businesses of all kinds during the holiday season for the past over century and a half. These advertisements give us a peek at what was being bought and sold back in the 1800s and 1900s, but another type of column gives us a window to the past from another perspective—letters to Santa Claus published in the newspaper.



Calendar

- Jan 1 | [New Year's Day/Public Domain Day](#)
- Jan 19-22 | [LibLearnX Conference](#)
- Jan 1-30 | [National Braille Literacy Month](#)

Writing a letter to Santa Claus is a time-honored tradition that dates back over more than a hundred years. In fact, “Dear Santa” letters from over 125 years ago appear in the [Wyoming Newspaper Collection](#)! On December 17, 1898, *Laramie Republican* published a letter to Santa found in the Laramie post office in which the author requested “a book, some toys, paints, and a warship.” The same day, *The Wyoming Press* published a letter written by eight-year-old Annie Hoyt of Evanston, Wyoming, who listed her holiday requests, wished Santa a merry Christmas, and reminded him to bring her sister presents, adding a postscript assuring Santa she was a good girl.

Publishing a “Dear Santa” column featuring children’s letters to Santa had become an annual custom by the early twentieth century. Most letters requested fairly commonplace items such as dolls, rocking horses, and candy, while others included more unusual requests including “a pumpkin with two holes,” with one letter even inviting Santa to “walk right in” to the sender’s home to deliver presents. One memorable letter written to Santa by Ralph Piper of Cheyenne, Wyoming, was published in the *Wyoming Tribune* in 1903, requesting a pair of skates, a train set, nuts, and candy. In his letter, Ralph let Santa know that although he had been quarantined for smallpox for the past six weeks, “Dick Murray has fumigated,” and it was safe for Santa to leave something at his door. (There was indeed a smallpox outbreak during this time.)

The tradition continued throughout the first couple of decades of the 1900s. Children

sometimes completed this fun writing exercise as a school assignment, listing their teacher’s name along with theirs in the signature of their letter. One particularly poignant epistle was written by nine-year-old Esther Camery of Hat Creek, Wyoming, and published in *The Lusk Standard* on December 12, 1919. With World War One having ended only one year before, Esther was thoughtful enough to petition Santa to “not forget the little boys and girls of Europe” and ask him to bring them “food and good, warm clothes”. She made a specific supplication on behalf of the “little German boys and girls” and beseeched Santa to not punish them for the “unkind” actions of their rulers.

Humorous letters from college students were published in University of Wyoming’s publication, *The Branding Iron*, starting in the mid-1920s and continued until the last part of the twentieth century. Cheeky correspondents asked Santa for dates, dresses, money for room and board, good grades, and loads of essays for their professors to grade over the holiday break, in addition to more serious requests including world peace. One brazen student in 1960 asked Santa to bring various political figures of the time razors, trips to Disneyland, and “first place in the unemployment line” for Christmas, as well as requesting a winning upcoming football season for the Wyoming Cowboys, or at least victory over Colorado State University. A student in 1988 asked Santa to benefit the whole world by eliminating certain talk shows and game shows. This thoughtful student’s letter was published in the *Branding Iron* on December 7, 1988.

With the advent of email and text messaging, the frequency of handwritten letters to Santa may have decreased, but it's fascinating to look back on the annals of yesteryear to remember, laugh, cry, and learn.

The [Wyoming Newspaper Collection](#) is an amazing resource for anyone seeking a new perspective on Wyoming history with primary sources. Check out our collection of nearly 5,000,000 pages of past issues of Wyoming newspapers.

The Wyoming State Library wishes you all happy and safe holiday season, a great end to the old year, and a fantastic start to the new year!

WORLD COMPUTER LITERACY DAY



December 2 this year just happened to be both Cyber Monday and World Computer Literacy Day!

While the focus of Cyber Monday is mainly to get the best prices for your holiday shopping,

the purposes of World Computer Literacy Day are to promote computer literacy to everyone, as well as encourage everyone to increase their computer literacy.

[GoWYLD](#) has a great resource for upskilling yourself on computer literacy in addition to many other skills. [LinkedIn Learning](#) (formerly Lynda.com) is a database of e-learning courses on everything from specific software titles to soft skills. You can even print out a certificate after you finish a course to add to your portfolio and provide evidence for your development as a professional.

All you need to access Linked In Learning on GoWYLD is a Wyoming library card. Need a library card? [Visit your nearest Wyoming library.](#)

NATIONAL MAKE A GIFT DAY



December 3 was [National Make Gift Day](#). With so many gift-giving holidays in the near future,

making a gift with your own two hands can be a way to both save money and to give a gift that is truly personalized and from the heart.

If you are looking for some great ideas for DIY gifts to make for friends and family this holiday season, look no further than [GoWYLD's Digital Library!](#) Find cookbooks, craft books, DIY

magazines, and more on [Libby](#) to read on your digital device and create amazing things to keep and give away. While you're at it, find the perfect recipe for green bean casserole, since December 3 was also [National Green Bean Casserole Day!](#)

Happy holidays from the [Wyoming State Library](#) and happy reading, eating, and creating!

LEARN ABOUT LIONS, TIGERS, AND BEARS (AND CHEETAHS!) WITH GOWYLD



National Cheetah Day was December 4. Did you know [GoWYLD](#) has information

databases designed especially for students Pre-K and up to learn about their favorite animals, including cheetahs?

One such resource is [Britannica School](#), which includes Fundamentals! for PreK through second grade. Once inside the database, you can choose to search for resources for elementary, middle, or high school students. Each level includes articles, photos, and informational videos on a variety of topics. Choose elementary resources and scroll down, and you can also access Britannica Fundamentals! These resources are perfect for kids to learn, read, explore, play, and create with independently or with a parent.

Whether the student in your life needs info on cheetahs or any other topic, GoWYLD Britannica School has you covered!

DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM DAY



December 10 was Dewey Decimal System Day!

The Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system is one of several

library classification systems used today to allow library professionals and patrons to find books quickly and efficiently.

Melvil Dewey devised the Dewey Decimal System while working at the Amherst College library at the age of 21. He published the system in the 1870s, and it's now used by thousands of libraries in hundreds of countries to organize nonfiction resources.

If you are unfamiliar with the how the Dewey Decimal System, here's a crash course. Books are assigned into 10 classes, which are divided into divisions, which are each divided into 10 sections. The assigned number denotes the class, division, and section and organizes the thousands of books libraries house. As complicated as it may seem to those outside of the library profession, the system is fairly user-friendly and has made books and other resources much easier to find. Can you imagine trying to find what you need if everything was just thrown on the shelf without any rhyme or reason?

The 10 main classes within the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system are: 000–099 General Works and Computer Science, 100–199 Philosophy and Psychology, 200–299 Religion, 300–399 Social Sciences, 400–499 Language,

500–599 Natural Sciences and Mathematics, 600–699 Technology, 700–799 The Arts and Recreation, 800–899 Literature and Rhetoric, and 900–999 History, Biography, and Geography.

Most libraries have these posted somewhere along with labeled sections for each class, which makes it easier for patrons to locate the resources they need once they've obtained the DDC number using [WYLDcat](#), Wyoming's online library cataloging system. Patrons can also browse the shelves for useful books in the section related to their topic of study or interest.

Whether you are an expert on library science, or a patron seeking reliable resources at your local Wyoming library, you have the Dewey Decimal System to thank for keeping our libraries organized and easier to use.

The library professionals at each of our Wyoming libraries are glad to help you find the books, resources, and services you need. To locate your nearest Wyoming library, use the Wyoming State Library's online [Wyoming Libraries Directory](#).

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THE SHORTEST DAY OF THE YEAR



On Saturday, December 21, the elapsed time between the sunrise and sunset was shorter than any other day of the year, otherwise known as Winter Solstice. The time of year surrounding the shortest day of the year is known for being cold, dark, and snowy.

With school out for winter break, now is the perfect time to find engaging resources for kids and youth on [GoWYLD.net](#) about snow, winter, and all the celebrations that take place during this season!

Tumblebooks has a Winter Wonders playlist, as well as many other winter holiday-themed e-books for kids to read along to. Bookflix also has two paired-text sets about winter and snow including *The Snowy Day/Snowy Weather Days* and *Snowflake Bentley/Snow*. Additionally, NoveList K-8 Plus has recommendations for students from kindergarten to teen with links to help you find books that are sure to please any young reader's appetite for knowledge, entertainment, or both.

Of course, for adults, GoWYLD has Libby that allows Wyoming library cardholders to digitally check out e-books and e-audiobooks.

Happy Winter Solstice and happy reading; be sure to check out GoWYLD's amazing resources for everyone!

WRITE THE PERFECT THANK YOU CARD WITH LINKEDIN LEARNING



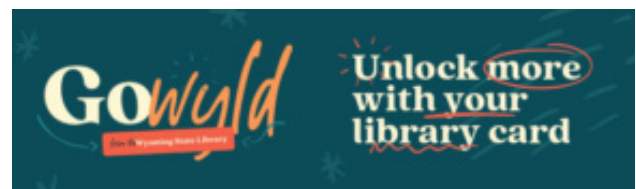
December 26 was National Thank You Card Day, a holiday of which the official origin is unknown, but fairly easy to infer. Being the day after Christmas, we can safely assume it has something to do with social conventions dictating that we should send a thank you card to everyone who was kind and thoughtful enough to give us a holiday gift.

Feeling a bit rusty with your thank you note writing skills? No problem! LinkedIn Learning has e-courses and short videos that can help you learn how to write a thoughtful thank you card, as well as more than 5,000 on-demand courses on other business, creative, and technology skills.

The last week of 2024 is the perfect time to check out LinkedIn Learning on [GoWYLD](#) to help yourself upskill on something you've been

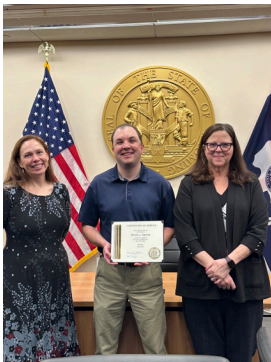
meaning to learn all year, but haven't yet. All you need is a Wyoming library card to login, and you're good to go! Happy thank you card writing and happy learning!

SET A GOAL FOR THE NEW YEAR TO LEARN MORE WITH GOWYLD!



With 2024 ending and 2025 beginning this week, many folks are contemplating changes they would like to make in the new year or setting goals they would like to achieve by this time next year. Why not make a resolution to learn something new with [GoWYLD](#)? With subject guides with links to databases and resources on a variety of topics ranging from biographies and culture to DIY and business, GoWYLD has something for everyone. In addition to our subject guides, GoWYLD also has e-learning platforms, digital library databases, and so many resources for kids, students, and patrons of all ages. All you need to access this treasure trove of knowledge and wealth of resources is a Wyoming library card and PIN which can be obtained at [your nearest local Wyoming library](#). Set a goal to choose a topic and learn everything you can about it this year using the Wyoming State Library's GoWYLD portal!

People News



Left to Right-Abby Beaver, Wyoming State Librarian; Travis Pollok; and Patricia Bach, Wyoming A & I Director

Travis Pollok recently celebrated his tenth anniversary with the Wyoming State Library and the State of Wyoming’s Administration and Information agency.

“I feel incredibly fortunate to work with such a great team at the State Library, I can’t believe it has been 10 years!” said Travis. “I

truly enjoy working with such a talented and dedicated staff.”

Travis became the Information Services Manager for the WSL a year ago after previously holding the position of Legislative Librarian. He also has previously served as the Digital Initiatives Librarian and Library Assistant for Access Services.



Conrado Saldivar, Tech Services Manager at the Natrona County Library, is running for ALA Councilor at Large after being

nominated by the ALA Nominating Committee.

“During my time as President of the Wyoming Library Association, I learned the importance of connections and collaborating to better the

communities our libraries serve every single day,” said Saldivar. “If elected, I look forward to continuing this at the national level.”

Prior to serving as the Tech Services Manager at NCL, Conrado also held the positions of Adult Services Librarian at NCL and Outreach and Development Librarian at the Wyoming State Library.

Training

UPCOMING WEBINARS: RESOURCES FROM THE WYOMING STATE LIBRARY



The Wyoming State Library has some exciting webinars coming up in 2025!

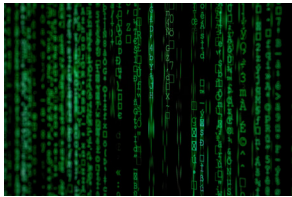
Join Paige Bredenkamp, EResources & School Library Consultant, on **January 10**

at 10:30 a.m. (MT) to find out more about the resources available at the Wyoming State Library that could help you with your next project!

On **February 13 at 2:00 p.m. (MT)**, join Anne Kuipers, WSL State Publications Librarian, for Wyoming’s Historic Patents: Exploring the Wyoming Inventors Digital Collection. Participants will learn how to navigate the Inventors collection, while also getting a tour of Wyoming’s early patents. Register [here](#).

Did you miss our recent webinar, Exploring Government Records? Access the recording on the WSL YouTube channel anytime or with [this link](#).

FREE LIBRARY DATA WEBINAR



Registration is now open for the January webinar in a yearlong Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL) series,

“Library Customer Data: Privacy vs. Personalization,” on **Thursday, January 9, 2025, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. MST**, [here](#).

This webinar is part of the “12 Months to Better Library Data” series, made possible by funding from the Mellon Foundation. Find more information about the series and to access the recordings of previous webinars [here](#).

Library Jobs

[Assistant Librarian-Collection Management Librarian](#)

University of Wyoming-Resource Discovery and Management Division

Laramie, WY

Open until filled

Posted October 17, 2024

[Vacancy Announcement](#)

[Library Branch Manager](#)

Fremont County Library System

Riverton, WY

Open until filled

Posted October 7, 2024

[Vacancy Announcement](#)

[Library Director](#)

Converse County Library System

Douglas, WY

Open until filled

Posted May 2, 2024

[Vacancy Announcement](#)

[Adult Services Librarian](#)

Laramie County Library System

Cheyenne, WY

Posted December 30, 2024

Closes January 19, 2025

[Vacancy Announcement](#)

Grant and Award Opportunities

[The Music Man Foundation: National Meredith Willson Awards](#)

Deadline: January 24, 2025

The Music Man Foundation seeks to empower organizations using music to catalyze enduring change. The Foundation is currently accepting applications for the National Meredith Willson Awards, which provide multi-year, general operating support to national programs and organizations using music to achieve systemic change. For 2025, the Foundation anticipates awarding grants to three to eight organizations. Successful submissions will clearly identify the primary system the organization is impacting, articulate how and why music plays a key role in advancing this system change, and demonstrate why the organization is well-positioned to take on this system change. Nonprofit organizations with three years of experience

conducting programming with a national focus and an intentional presence in at least three U.S. states or territories are eligible to apply. Grant award amounts will range from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 over a two-year period.

Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant

Deadline: February 3, 2025

The Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant is an annual grant to recognize, promote, and support innovative and meaningful community engagement efforts in libraries. Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members – be they library patrons, residents, faculty, students, or local organizations – to address issues for the betterment of the community.

The Peggy Barber Tribute

Deadline: February 3, 2025

The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant is an annual grant that recognizes, promotes, and supports meaningful programs in libraries that have limited and/or no access to budgetary support for programming. This grant aims to help ease budget challenges by annually awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort. Applications for the award will be accepted from December 3, 2024, to February 3, 2025. Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a specific type of library programming. For the 2024–2025 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications for programming related to combatting isolation

for older adults. Example proposals can include a program to teach seniors how to use technology so that they can stay connected online or a social club to bring adults together around an activity like crafting or gardening.

EBSCO ALA Annual Conference Sponsorship

Deadline: February 3, 2025

This scholarship from EBSCO Information Services and the American Library Association. This annual award consisting of \$1,000 for actual reimbursed expenses is designed to allow librarians to attend the ALA's Annual Conference. These scholarships allow recipients to learn more about digital content, innovation and leadership and expand their professional development while networking with fellow library professionals.

Penguin Random House & United for Libraries Grants to Rural and Small Libraries

Application Dates: February 3-17, 2025

Penguin Random House, in partnership with United for Libraries, is offering grants to support rural and small U.S. libraries. Grants of \$500 and \$1,000 will be awarded, from a total grant pool of \$25,000. In-kind book donation grants of \$500 will also be awarded to 20 libraries to purchase Penguin Random House titles. Recipients will also receive free eLearning from United for Libraries, including monthly webinars on leveraging grant funds to support libraries. Free sessions will help libraries prepare for the application process and strengthen their grant-writing skills. For more details and to register, visit this [United for Libraries form](#).

[STARS Virginia Boucher Distinguished ILL Librarian Award](#)

Deadline: February 21, 2025

This is an award from Reference and User Services Association and the American Library Association. The STARS Virginia Boucher Distinguished ILL (Interlibrary Loan) Librarian Award is an annual award consisting of \$2,000, sponsored by OCLC, and a citation. It recognizes an individual for outstanding professional achievement, leadership, and contributions to interlibrary loan and document delivery through recent publication of significant professional literature, participation in professional associations, and/or innovative approaches to practice in individual libraries. The candidate must have been employed in a library and held some responsibility for his or her institution's ILL, document delivery, or resource sharing services at the time the contributions to be honored were made.

[BRASS Excellence in Business Librarianship Award](#)

Deadline: February 21, 2025

BRASS Excellence in Business Librarianship Award from Reference and User Services Association and the American Library Association. This award is available to a librarian that has distinguished themselves in the field of Business Librarianship. This award is sponsored by Mergent by FTSE Russell. The recipient's contribution may lie in a variety of endeavors, such as authoring a seminal book or articles in business librarianship, the development of an imaginative and successful program centered around business within a library, the teaching

of business librarianship in a particularly creative manner, the display of unusually strong leadership in a professional association geared to business librarianship, or other activities that encourage librarians to excel in business librarianship.

[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 Honoraria (a "thank you" for the Indigenous Knowledge Keeper's time and energy) 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 the fund have demonstrated the ability to effectively educate children and families in diverse communities about the importance of books and reading from birth through adulthood.

Jan Stauber-Sherlock Holmes

Literacy Grant

Deadline: Ongoing

The mission of the Jan Stauber Grants 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.

Books Save Lives Grant

Deadline: Ongoing

Each Books Save Lives Grant will provide up to \$5,000 per school library. The grant money must be used toward purchasing diverse books and the books must remain on the shelves for a minimum of three years. Applicants must nominate a school library within the United States to receive a Books Save Lives Grant. Applications may be completed anonymously. The grant must be used to purchase diverse books for school libraries. Winning libraries may select titles and quantities based on provided book lists, and books will be shipped directly to the school. *Note: They will continue adding books to the lists.* Winning schools must provide a signed written agreement that the books they receive via the grant will remain on shelves for a minimum of three years.

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

Supports organizations and programs that support and improve the general welfare and quality of life in the communities in which BNSF Railway Company operates. Generally, they will consider requests for funding that clearly fall within one or more of the following categories: 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

Books and Barks: Library Pet Programs for Everyone

Libraries are going all out to celebrate their furry friends. From therapy dogs that help kids build reading confidence to cat-themed storytimes and library pet spotlights, these creative programs are warming hearts and sparking inspiration.

Winter Reading Challenge-Winter is a great time to offer a reading challenge. The rush of summer reading has finally ended and you are no longer suffering those anxiety dreams of forgotten programs or mis-booked performers, right? It's almost the time to start thinking of next year, and this is the perfect way to remind patrons of how much fun reading programs can be at the library. Winter Reading is also a good time to test out some different methods of reading challenges.

Native American Languages, Alive at the Library

Two important collections of Native American heritage have been digitized and placed on the Library of Congress' website, enabling readers and researchers to dig into histories that are not widely known.