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WELCOME TO  
**WLA WEDNESDAY**

January 3, 2024



### **2024 WLA Conference Early Bird Registration is Open!**

[Registration](#) is open for [#WLA2024](#)! Register by Jan. 19 to secure the early-bird rate. We can't wait to see you at the WLA Conference March 1-3 at the Spokane Convention Center and online!

Registration rates are available for individuals, both in-person and online. There are also in-person registration rates available for groups associated with a single organization. View the [2024 registration page](#) for rates and additional details.

Planning on staying in Spokane? [Book your room](#) at the conference hotel by Jan. 31 to receive the discounted rate.

The 2024 conference theme is *We All Belong*. Inspired by the newly adopted motto of our host city, "In Spokane, We All Belong," our theme will encourage attendees to consider what it means to belong in a community, a library, and a professional ecosystem.

Our Conference Committee is approaching the planning process with the idea of belonging at every step of the way, and we hope to create an environment for you to build community, grow as professionals, and bring innovative ideas back to your libraries to show we all belong.

Register Now!



The Washington Library Association is pleased to offer the **Primary Source Scholarship for Small & Rural Libraries** and a **VIRCO Scholarship** to attend the 2024 WLA Conference, March 1-3 at the Spokane Convention Center.

The applications for these two scholarships are **now open!**

#### **To be eligible for the Primary Source Scholarship:**

- Applicants must be current WLA members who work in a **public small and/or rural library**. *According to the Institute of Museum & Library Services, small libraries have a service population of 25,000 or fewer. Rural libraries are located 5 or more miles from the nearest town of 25,000 or more.*
- Scholarship funds must be used to attend the in-person 2024 WLA Conference.
- Applicants must have financial need (e.g., no employer assistance, underemployed, enrolled student).

The scholarship recipient will be awarded up to \$1,200 to cover the costs of full conference registration, attendance at up to two preconference workshops, up to three nights of lodging, and travel reimbursement.

#### **To be eligible for the VIRCO Scholarship:**

- Applicants must be current WLA members
- Scholarship funds must be used to attend the in-person 2024 WLA Conference.
- Applicants must have financial need (e.g., no employer assistance, underemployed, enrolled student).

The scholarship recipient will be awarded up to \$1,200 to cover the costs of full conference registration, attendance at up to two preconference workshops, up to three nights of lodging, and travel reimbursement.

### Timeline

- **Monday, Dec. 18:** Applications Open
- **Monday, Jan. 8 by 11:59 p.m.:** Application Deadline
- **Thursday, Jan. 18:** Applicants Notified of Application Status
- **Wednesday, Jan. 24:** Winner Announced

If scholarship status notifications are delayed for any reason until after January 19, 2024, the date when conference Early Bird registration closes, all applicants will be notified and will receive a registration form code to retroactively receive Early Bird pricing on their registration fees.

[Apply Here!](#)



### Last Week to Submit WLA 2024 Merit Awards Nominations

With [#WLA2024](#) approaching, the WLA Merit Awards are back again! We look forward to hearing about accomplishments in the past year by library professionals from around the state!

The WLA Merit Awards offer the opportunity to recognize and highlight the outstanding work that has been ongoing in Washington libraries. To nominate an outstanding individual or group for an award, please complete the [WLA 2024 Merit Award Nomination Form](#) by **Wednesday, Jan. 10**.

What library achievement did you see in your community or workplace that you'd like to see celebrated? Examples can include, but aren't limited to, outstanding service in the areas of:

- Programming (virtual, educational, community building)
- Outreach to users
- Services
- Access to technology

- Access to collections
- Serving the needs of people who were vulnerable, underserved
- Providing innovative ways to deliver services, materials

Library workers at all levels and in all types of libraries are eligible! Nominees do not need to be WLA members (with the exception of the Emeritus Award and the WALE Award). Additionally, nominators do not have to be WLA members. Award winners will receive a complimentary year of WLA membership!

Winners will be notified by Feb. 5, announced in WLA Wednesday on Feb. 7, and celebrated on March 2 at the WLA 2024 Conference in Spokane.

If you have questions or wish to discuss eligibility requirements, please contact the WLA Office at [info@wla.org](mailto:info@wla.org) or (206) 823-1138.



### **WLA Pawsident Nominations Close Friday!**

Do you have a pet who loves watching you read? Do they try to attend your online library-related meetings? Do they inspect your tote bag after every library trip you make? If so, your pet probably loves libraries! This alone is wonderful, and you should give yourself a pat on the back (or theirs!). Additionally, WLA is holding a [“Pawsidental” election fundraiser](#), and we’d love if you nominated your friend!

You can [nominate your pet](#) for a \$10 donation fee. **Nominations will close this Friday, Jan. 5.** Elections to vote on the Pawsident will be open Jan. 8-Jan. 31. Donations for nominations and voting will go towards our #SupportWALibraries campaign which funds WLA scholarships, member services, and more.

The pet that raises the most funds will be declared [2024 WLA Pawsident!](#) Check out some of our current [pawsidental candidates!](#) The winner will be recognized at the 2024 conference, will become an unofficial non-voting member of the WLA Board, and will have their picture available on merchandise in the WLA Store for the next year!

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The Washington Library  
Association Journal

December 2023  
Volume 39 | Number 3

# Alki

## Read *Alki's* December Issue Now!

This issue's theme was decided by you and readers like you, dear Reader. We asked what you wanted to see from us and you spoke loudly and clearly. Disruptions are a daily occurrence and take infinite shapes in the library world: tech malfunctions, book challenges, even our own mental health can shake things up. In this issue, our authors discuss all of these topics and more, including Stephanie Wilson's story about surviving an entire library rebuild while still serving patrons, and Christina-Marie Wright's experience with finding sanctuary in a neurodiversity library. As you hear these tales of disruption and chaos, I encourage you to do as author Jennifer Sturge recommends and remember Mr. Rogers' advice: find the helpers.

Immerse yourself in the latest issue of *Alki* [here!](#)



## *Alki* wants to hear from YOU!

### Call for Papers: *The Library is a Growing Organism*

#### ***Alki's* Spring issue submission window is open!**

Almost all librarians are familiar with the Five Rules of Library Science: Books are for use, every book its reader, every reader their book, save the reader time, and *The Library is a Growing Organism*. Let's start the year off talking about that last rule. Our libraries grow and change over time, whether due to changing patron bases, new technologies, or new needs in our communities. *Alki* wants to know all the ways in which your library is alive. Refer to the following ideas and questions as you write your article:

- How has your library grown or evolved?

- How have you grown your patron base? Tell us stories!
- How has working in a library helped you develop as a professional and as a person?
- How do you nourish, sustain, and tend to your organization as the cultures around and within it change?
- If you work in an institutional library, tell us how your library has provided fertile ground for personal growth in your patrons?

Creative pieces, art, and photos are always encouraged.

**Sign up for your spot today** by emailing your name, a working title of your proposed piece, your bio, and a headshot to [alkieditor@wla.org](mailto:alkieditor@wla.org).

Do you have an article ready? Email your submissions as a .doc, .docx, or Google Doc to [alkieditor@wla.org](mailto:alkieditor@wla.org) **before Tuesday, Feb. 6**. For inspiration, [check out past issues of Alki](#). Before submitting a piece, please visit [alki.pubpub.org/guidelines](http://alki.pubpub.org/guidelines) for submission requirements.

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### **WLA Peer-to-Peer Book Challenge Support Group**

The WLA Peer-to-Peer Book Challenge Support Group has new meeting dates! The next **upcoming meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 8, from 7-8 pm**. The WLA Peer-to-Peer Book Challenge Support Group offers Zoom gatherings for WLA members to share their experiences with book challenges, library challenges, and other issues encountered that relate to intellectual freedom.

The WLA [Member Services Committee](#) and [Intellectual Freedom Section](#) saw a need for these meetings, and the Member Services Committee will minimally facilitate them. The meetings are a member benefit, so there is no cost to attend. Upcoming meetings will be held at the following dates and times:

- Monday, Jan. 8 | 7-8 pm
- Saturday, Jan. 20 | 2-3 pm
- Monday, Feb. 5 | Noon-1 pm
- Monday, Feb. 12 | 7-8 pm
- Saturday, Feb. 17 | 2-3 pm

**This group is not professionally facilitated or meant to replace professional resources.** It is intended for peer-to-peer support only. This group will not be about legislative or activist work. [Registration](#) to attend meetings is required. You must be logged into your WLA account to register. Attendees will receive Zoom access information the day before each meeting they sign up to attend. Attendees will be asked to read and agree to the [WLA Code of Conduct](#) as well as Support Group [Ground Rules](#) during registration.

Please contact the WLA Office at [info@wla.org](mailto:info@wla.org) or call/text (206) 823-1138 if you have any questions.

## Look Who's Hiring

Asotin County Library is seeking [Youth Services Librarian](#).

Cornish College of the Arts is seeking a [Library Cataloger](#).

Dayton Memorial Library is seeking a [Library Assistant](#).

Jefferson County Library is seeking an [Information Services/Cataloging Librarian](#).

Lower Columbia College is seeking a [Library & Archives Paraprofessional 1](#).

NCW Libraries is seeking a [Branch Librarian](#) at multiple locations and an [Area Manager](#).

NNLM Region 5 is seeking an [Executive Director](#).

North Olympic Library System is seeking a [Youth Services Librarian](#).

Olympic College is seeking a [Library & Archives Paraprofessional 3](#).

San Juan Island Library is seeking a [Circulation Assistant and an Outreach Coordinator](#).

Seattle Public Library is seeking an [Adult Services Librarian Business, Science and Technology](#), an [Adult Services Librarian Humanities](#), and a [Regional Manager](#).

UW Tacoma Library is seeking a [Science and Engineering Librarian](#).

Washington State Library is seeking a [Branch Librarian \(Prison Libraries\)](#).

Yakima Valley Libraries is seeking a [Community Library Supervisor IV – Yakima Central](#).

*If your institution has a posting for libraries in the WLA community you would like to submit, please email [newsletter@wla.org](mailto:newsletter@wla.org) and indicate "Look Who's Hiring" in the subject line.*



Beginning Fall 2024, grants of \$1,200 are available to libraries and other public institutions for programs exploring Latino poetry and its ongoing relevance to American national life. Presented by Library of America with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), these grants will fund scholar-moderated discussions and other programs in communities across the nation from September 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025.

Grants may be used for: honoraria for local poets and scholars; travel expenses; actor/performer fees; publicity and promotion; refreshments; or other costs associated with programs.

Applications are open to all public, academic, and community college libraries, museums, and nonprofit community organizations. Each applying institution must designate a project coordinator who will oversee the administration of the grant. Partial or incomplete applications will not be considered.

**Application deadline:** February 15, 2024

**Notification:** March 1, 2024

Visit <https://www.latinopoetry.org/> for more information and to apply!



**The Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) [Region 5](#)** has two open funding opportunities. Funded projects improve access to health information, [furthering the mission of the NNLM](#). Pending budget availability, funding opportunities include:

- [Technology Improvement Award](#), to increase access to technology
  - 4 awards, \$5,000 each



- [Outreach & Engagement Award](#), for programming or special projects



### The 9th Annual Washington State Zine Contest Now Open!

- Participants must be Washington State residents.
- Zines must be created in 2023 or 2024 and be at least 8 pages long.
- Submissions will be read by people of all ages; please only non-offensive content in your zine.
- Make at least 7 copies of your zine. Submit 5 and keep the others for yourself. Sharing and trading is a traditional aspect of zine culture! Entries will not be returned and may be added to a library's collection or used in promotional materials.

Find more submission guidelines and view the winners of the 8th Annual Washington State Zine Contest [here](#).

For more information email [sara.pete@sos.wa.gov](mailto:sara.pete@sos.wa.gov).

## Conference Bulletin



## Become a 2024 WLA Sponsor or Exhibitor!

[Registration](#) is NOW OPEN for #WLA2024 Sponsors and Exhibitors! Thank you for considering a partnership with the Washington Library Association for its 2024 Conference, March 1-3 at the Spokane Convention Center.

View the [2024 Sponsor & Exhibitor Prospectus](#) for registration rates and more details.

Register Now!

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### TechAccess Foundation: "The Convening: Journey Towards Liberation"

tl:dr: BIPOC Educators, Librarians, Activists, & Co-Conspirators, this professional development is to help you build the skills and community to sustain you in a time of unprecedented political pressure aimed at education and related fields. Clock Hours are available for educators. Reach out to [nwew@techaccess.org](mailto:nwew@techaccess.org) for any questions.

[The Convening: Journey Towards Liberation](#) on **Feb. 23-24** is two full days to imagine, connect, heal, and build.

TechAccess Foundation aims to have all the session content (24 sessions!) up on the website below by the end of the year. In the meantime, check out the hot-off-the-presses keynote title and description for Ruha Benjamin on the event website.

Content will be wide-ranging across headwork, heartwork, and community. Sneak peek on some session titles:

"Working With the Live Wire of Oppression"  
"Nourishing Black Bodies in Colonial Spaces"  
"Healing Ourselves Deep: Tools for Rest & Liberation"

What else to know:

- BIPOC Educators and ALL leaders in education and related fields are welcome to register
- Please share with any educators of color in your circles
- Early registration costs \$150 (by Dec 8, 2023)
- Use the ambassador toolkit to put out the news on your social networks, please!

Please reach out to [nwew@techaccess.org](mailto:nwew@techaccess.org) for any questions.

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## Call for Proposals for AkLA + PNLA Joint Conference

In 2024, AkLA and PNLA will hold a joint conference in Juneau, AK from August 1-4. The conference committee is putting out the call for proposals early so that presenters and attendees can make travel arrangements and reserve hotel rooms before everything gets filled up for the very busy summer tourist season. The conference theme is "Stronger Together: Amplifying Voices, Strengthening Communities". Please consider submitting a [proposal here](#).

Proposals are due by January 15, 2024, and the program committee plans to notify proposers by mid-February. Please contact program committee co-chairs Sara Saxton ([ssaxton@cityofwasilla.gov](mailto:ssaxton@cityofwasilla.gov)) and Claire Imamura ([claire.imamura@sos.wa.gov](mailto:claire.imamura@sos.wa.gov)) with questions.

### The Learning Curve

## OCLC: "Libraries Foster Social Connection: Responding to the Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation"

Thursday, Jan. 4 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM PT

Libraries can play a vital role in building social cohesion and promoting community resilience, especially in challenging times. The [Surgeon General's 2023 Advisory on Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation](#) brings even greater urgency to the need for us to connect. This engaging session will explore ways to intentionally design for social connection in library services and programs, from passive to hosted. These innovative and practical strategies can deepen engagement with staff, trustees, local officials, volunteers, and community members of all ages and backgrounds. Through the lens of "social connector," this webinar will explore how libraries can invite the community in with intention, build relationships that enhance social infrastructure, put community at the center of the library, and demonstrate the library's impact.

Strengthening social cohesion can be accomplished in ways that adapt to libraries of all sizes and budgets. Engagement strategies can support many facets of library work, from strategic planning and community assessment to programming and partnerships. The strategies are highly scalable – you can start small, build skills, and maintain flexibility.

Presented by: **Brooke Doyle**, Senior Project Coordinator, OCLC; and **Jennifer Peterson**, WebJunction Community Manager, OCLC

[Register here](#) to attend.

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**Save the Date for NNLM's Social Determinants of Environmental Health  
Webinar Series, March 5-April 2, 2024!**

This series will feature experts in social determinants of environmental health, who will present on environmental health disparities and populations disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards, share informative resources, and discuss interventions to reduce environmental health disparities.

Mark your calendars and follow us for more information as we get closer to the date! #SDOEH24

[Learn more about the webinar series here.](#)

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**Free Workshop Series from OSPI:  
Tools for Aligning Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship Instruction  
to School & District Goals**

This series of six interrelated Zoom sessions is open to all Washington State K-12 educators interested in integrating Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship (ML&DC) instruction into school or district curriculum. Administrators, curriculum developers, and other decision-makers are encouraged to attend, ideally with at least one "buddy" who can be part of a team of brainstormers and implementers.

The series will feature nationally-recognized educators and leaders in the field, as well as breakout rooms with colleagues from across the state. Special focus will be on implementing ML&DC beyond a single lesson or classroom, and on aligning to existing standards, instruction, and inclusive practices.

This interrelated series will be held on the following Thursdays **from 5-6:30 pm, PT:**

- Dec. 7, 2023
- Jan. 11 2024
- Feb. 8, 2024
- March 7, 2024
- March 28, 2024
- May 2, 2024

Learn more and register for the series [here](#). For questions, please contact Lesley James at [lesley.james@k12.wa.us](mailto:lesley.james@k12.wa.us).

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Have news to share? Please send it to the WLA office at [newsletter@wla.org](mailto:newsletter@wla.org) by Monday to be included in that week's digest.

It's a great time to become a member of the Washington Library Association. [Join](#) or [Renew](#) your membership today!



### Contact Info:

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(206) 823-1138

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