



January 15, 2025

We apologize for the earlier email—our message center experienced a glitch and mistakenly sent out an incorrect message. Thank you for your understanding!

WLA Executive Director Search

The Washington Library Association is seeking a [full-time Executive Director](#). WLA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a state chapter of the American Library Association. With a membership of over 1,200 individuals and 40 institutions, WLA provides the leadership needed to develop, improve, and promote library services to all Washington residents.

The position is employed through [Primary Source](#), an agency that works for libraries and library support organizations to provide training, events, strategic planning, operational management, and other projects and consultation. **The deadline for priority consideration is 1/31/25.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
2025 PAWSIDENT WINNER, MYLO!**



Announcing the 2025 WLA Pawsident!

The results are in! Mylo has been elected as the [2025 WLA Pawsident](#). It was an exciting race with bark-to bark donations at the last moment, but Mylo secured the lead with a total of \$260 raised.

Give all of our nominees and generous donors a round of a-paws for the success they fetched in this fundraiser — you all raised the woof with a total of \$1586 for our ongoing #SupportWALibraries fundraising, which assists with WLA scholarships, member services, and more.

2025 WLA Pawsident merchandise is NOW AVAILABLE in the [WLA store](#)! We hope you'll join us in Tacoma as we recognize Mylo at [#WLA2025](#).



WLA 2025 Merit Awards Nomination Due THIS Friday!

The [WLA Merit Awards](#) offer the opportunity to recognize and highlight the outstanding work that has been ongoing in Washington libraries.

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). Additionally, nominators do not have to be WLA members. Award winners will receive a complimentary year of WLA membership and will be invited to be recognized during the Merit Awards lunch at the 2025 WLA Conference!

Please visit our [webpage](#) for more information and to nominate! **Nominations are due this Friday, Jan. 17.**



Registration is Open for WA Library Legislative Day 2025!

The annual WA Library Legislative Day will take place on **Wednesday, Feb. 5**. Join this free event to become involved in library advocacy and help WLA push its legislative goals over the finish line!

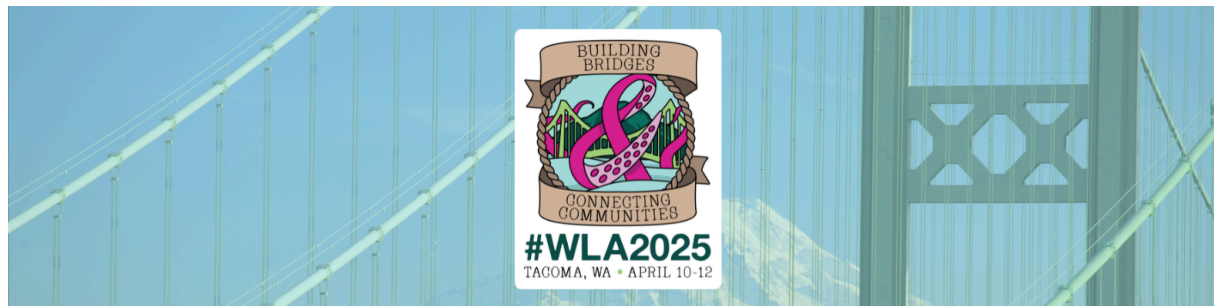
[Click here to register!](#)

We are excited to host WA Library Legislative Day this year in the [Irving Newhouse Building 140](#) of the Washington Capitol campus in Olympia.

By attending WA Library Legislative Day, you can expect to:

- Connect with library supporters from all types of libraries around the state.
- Hear from special guests
- Attend sessions and hear testimony from fellow library professionals along with WLA lobbyist Carolyn Logue.
- Meet with State legislators and their staff to discuss the value of libraries and the impact laws have on them.
- Understand how to give effective testimony and advocate for libraries, to better support them in years to come!

If you have any questions, please reach out to info@wla.org. We look forward to seeing you in Olympia!



Registration for #WLA2025 Opens Soon!

We're excited to announce that [Early-Bird Registration](#) opens on **Wednesday, Feb. 5**! Register early to take advantage of discounted rates and be among the first to confirm your attendance at the WLA Conference.

Don't forget to book at our [conference hotel](#) by **March 9** to lock in a special discounted rate!

Start planning your conference experience today—we can't wait to see you there!

Become an Exhibitor or Sponsor at #WLA2025!

Vendor registration is open for the 2025 Washington Library Association Conference! Don't miss your chance to engage with WLA attendees as they gather this spring in Tacoma. The conference will bring together library professionals from academic, public, school, and special libraries!

When: April 11-12

Where: Greater Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma, WA.

Why sponsor/exhibit at the 2025 WLA Conference?

- **Meet many new prospects** from all around Washington's academic, public, school, and special libraries.
- **Talk to buyers.** Many attendees control buying or influence purchasing decisions.
- **Find new customers** who do not attend national conferences.
- **Enjoy an active show schedule** with at least 15 hours of exhibit time – with refreshments, receptions, and raffles.
- **Connect with virtual attendees** and generate leads through our conference app.

You can [download our prospectus here](#) and visit the conference site for information on pricing and opportunities for engagement. The registration deadline to be recognized in the printed program is **Wednesday, March 12.**

[Register here](#) to join us in Tacoma as an exhibitor, sponsor, or advertiser.



Take Advantage of NEW WLA Individual Member Rates!

Consider joining WLA in the new year! We're happy to announce the rollout of [updated member rates](#) just in time for [#WLA2025](#)!

WLA members gain access to our [Divisions](#) and interest-based [Sections](#), are eligible for leadership opportunities and involvement, **receive members-only discounts for Annual Conference** and events, and much more!

If you have any questions about determining your individual member rate, please reach out to info@wla.org.

***Alki* Call for Papers: "Rooted"**

Alki is seeking submissions for our spring issue on the theme of "Rooted." Roots are deep and entangled; they speak to underground histories, foundational supports, and deep-seated potentials promising future growth. They tell us about origins, resources, survival strategies. We want to know: how is your library rooted? What is your library's history or what important history does it contain? What is it rooted in—what communities, visions, practices? What future growth is your library patiently building toward?

Possible topics might include:

- Library histories or origin stories
- Foundational practices or core competencies
- Library support systems
- Community and communication networks
- Deep-seated missions and values
- Long-term programs and strategic planning
- Distant future projects
- Intentional practice in your library
- Experiences of trial and error in library programs or practices

As always, creative pieces, art, and photos are always encouraged!

Sign up for your spot today or work through a potential article concept by emailing your name and a working title of your proposed piece to alkieditor@wla.org.

Do you have an article ready? View our newly updated [submission guidelines here](#) and email your submissions as a .doc, .docx, or Google Doc to alkieditor@wla.org by **Friday, Feb. 7**.

For inspiration, [check out past issues of Alki](#).

Read the latest edition of *Alki* now!

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Alki Library in Community 

alki.pubpub.org/40-2

***Alki* Publication "Library in Community"**

This issue of *Alki* addresses the vital roles libraries play in the communities and networks that exist beyond their doors. From institutions like schools and hospitals to local and national publics, this issue captures the entanglements, challenges, and aspirations of libraries’ work engaging their communities writ large.

Inside this issue, you’ll see the breadth of those roles and networks. From broader school funding to library politics to the role of the librarian-advocate, this issue covers a variety of perspectives on how libraries go above and beyond to meet their communities. You’ll also read about under-utilized library networks, like Washington’s Network of Health Information Ambassadors, and how readers’ broader networks, such as social media and culturally inclusive calendars, can make for great recommendations. Our cover photo, capturing the 1915 librarian founders of the Spokane Mountaineers club, also invites the big questions, such as: “what’s in that bucket, anyway?”

WLA Community Happenings

[Read the next issue of Alki Here!](#)

Please check back later for community updates!

All WLA Meeting Zoom links are available on the [WLA Member calendar](#).

Look Who's Hiring

Central Skagit Library District is seeking a [Library Director](#).

Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries is seeking a [Public Services Librarian](#).

Highline College Library is seeking a [Reference and Instruction Librarian](#).

Jefferson County Library District is seeking a [Library Director](#).

King County Library Systems is seeking a [Children’s Services Coordinator](#).

NCW Libraries is seeking a [Bilingual Branch Librarian](#) and a [Library Assistant](#).

Seattle Public Library is seeking an [Adult Services Librarian](#).

Tigard Public Library is seeking [On Call Librarians](#).

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

Whitman County Rural Library District is seeking an [Executive Director](#).

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

News & Notes



Teen Internship Grant Program

The Washington State Library (WSL) is offering a limited number of grants to public and tribal libraries in Washington State to hire and mentor a teen intern during summer 2025. This grant opportunity is inspired by [PLA's Inclusive Internship Initiative](#) and the [State Library of Oregon's Teen Internship Grant](#) program.

Libraries may request up to \$5,000 to fund the salary, benefits, and accompanying project costs for one teen intern during summer 2025. The intern will be mentored by a designated library staff person, and over the course of their internship they will plan and implement an interest-driven Connected Learning project. Library mentors will receive training and support, and teens will have opportunities to connect with other teen interns and participate in virtual learning activities, facilitated by the Washington State Library.

During the course of their internship, teens will learn about what it's like to work in a library, plan and implement an interest-driven [Connected Learning](#) project with support from their mentor, and gain skills and connections to further their learning and goals.

Library mentors will receive mentorship and Connected Learning training, participate in a community of practice with other mentors, develop supervisory

skills, and more.

Grant applications are now open through **Friday, Jan. 31**. [Click here to apply!](#)

Supported by funding provided by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Library Services and Technology Act, through the Washington State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

2025 ALA LIRT Awards

The ALA Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT) welcomes your submissions for two awards created to recognize excellence in information literacy and instruction.

- The **LIRT Librarian Recognition Award** honors a practicing librarian for their contributions to information literacy and instruction.
- The **LIRT Innovation in Instruction Award** honors a library for their innovative approach to information literacy and instruction.

Submissions from all types of libraries (public, school, special, academic) are encouraged. Winners will receive a \$1,000 award, a plaque, and a \$500 stipend to be used to attend the 2025 ALA Annual Conference.

Submissions will be accepted until **Jan. 15**. For full details on how to apply for these awards or to nominate someone to receive them, please see the LIRT Awards site (<http://www.ala.org/rt/lirt/awards>).

Author Talk
Jan. 16, 7 p.m.

Sonora Jha
The Laughter
in conversation with
WSBA judge Jennie Diaz.

In person at the Hugo House
and online via Zoom.

Washington State Book Awards

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
CENTER FOR THE BOOK
WASHINGTON

The graphic features a red background on the left with white text. On the right, there is a circular portrait of Sonora Jha, a book cover for 'The Laughter' by Sonora Jha, and a yellow circular seal with the Washington State Book Awards logo. At the bottom right, the Library of Congress Center for the Book logo is visible.

2024 WSBA Winner Sonora Jha in conversation with Jennie Diaz

Winner of the 2024 Washington State Book Award for Fiction [The Laughter](#) by Sonora Jha is an explosive, tense, and illuminating work of fiction... a fascinating portrait of privilege, radicalization, class, and modern academia that forces us to confront the assumptions we make, as both readers and as citizens. [Sonora Jha](#) will be in conversation with librarian and Washington State Book Award Judge Jennie Diaz.

This event will be on **Jan. 16 at 7 p.m.**, in person at the Hugo House and online. [Registration for the online event is required.](#)

Call for Proposals for the PNLA Virtual Conference

The Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) conference will be taking place online **Aug. 7-9, 2025** through Zoom Workplace. The theme for this year's conference is **Reach Further: Connecting Libraries Beyond the Screen.**

As libraries continue to evolve in a digital-first world, we want to explore innovative ways to bridge the gap between virtual and physical spaces, enhancing connections with patrons, communities, and colleagues — both online and off!

Presentations can address a wide range of topics, including, but not limited to:

- Digital Literacy, Library Education
- Virtual Programming, Outreach Innovation
- Online Engagement, Inclusive Communities
- Social Media, Online Tools
- Hybrid Collaboration

Submission Guidelines

Email the attached form in **Word** format to Debbi Kramer at debkramerpnla@gmail.com.

Proposals will be accepted until **Thursday, Jan. 30**. Incomplete forms will not be considered. The Conference Selection Committee will evaluate and select programs.

Speaker Contracts for selected conference programs will be emailed by March 7, 2025. Conference programs not selected will be notified by email no later than March 14, 2025.



Washington State Library's First Tuesdays – Back in 2025!

The Washington State Library is excited to bring back the popular First Tuesdays Webinar series! Register today for February's Webinar:

Doing Less with Less: The Case for Scaling Services to Your Budget

Date and Time: Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Library staff have a hard time saying no to their communities, and the thought of ending programs or services can be terrifying when usage stats rule. In this session, Mandy will detail the merits of doing an excellent job with the funds allocated but no more and, in turn, making the case to the community that more funds equal more services. Scaling back can also be a morale builder for staff, decreasing burnout and turnover. Attendees will leave with the communication tools necessary to justify doing less to their Boards, communities, and other stakeholders and to advocate regarding what they could do with more resources. Presented By: Mandy Walters, Director, Pend Oreille County Library District

Registration: <https://washstatelib.libcal.com/event/13352465>

Call for the SustainRT Citation for Wellness in the Workplace Nominations

To acknowledge the fact that library staff are our greatest asset in building and supporting sustainable libraries and communities, the **ALA Sustainability Roundtable (SustainRT)** is recognizing libraries that go above and beyond in meeting the wellness needs of their staff with the [SustainRT Citation for Wellness in the Workplace](#). All ALA members are invited to nominate any library who has made efforts to meet the needs of their staff in the areas of continuing education, wellness, positive work environment, unions, salaries, gender equity, pay equity initiatives, and other activities designed to improve the salaries and status of librarians and other library workers.

The [call for nominations](#) is open now through **March 17**.

For more information, visit the [SustainRT Citation for Wellness in the Workplace](#) page.

SustainRT also offers a [New Voices in Sustainability Conference Stipend](#). The stipend recognizes the importance of social equity to SustainRT and ALA, and works to support new and diverse members to overcome barriers to participating in the professional development and networking opportunities presented by ALA conferences and events. The [Sustainability Round Table](#) will offer a \$250 conference stipend in addition to paying the full registration cost to a SustainRT member attending the [2025 ALA Annual Conference](#). Applicants should be new and diverse voices in library sustainability or first-time attendees. The Awards Committee will arrange for disbursement of funds with the recipient ahead of the conference. These can be used for reimbursement of fees associated with housing, meals, travel, or any other costs incurred as a result of attending the conference.

Please contact Awards Co-Chairs [Tera Ray](#) or [Lynne Lambdin](#) with any questions.

Funding available from NNLM Region 5

Pending budget availability, Region 5 is offering three types of awards for the May 2025 - April 2026 funding period:

- [Technology Improvement Awards](#), 2 awards for \$5,000 each
- [Collection Improvement Awards](#), 4 awards for \$1,500 each
- Professional Development Awards, RFA will be posted in Spring 2025

Check out the [Region 5 blog](#) and register for our [Funding Opportunities webinar](#) on Feb. 6 to learn more.

"Hispanic Americans" Library of Congress Subject Headings Questionnaire

The LAIPA (Latin American and Indigenous Peoples of the Americas) funnel is working on how people of Latin American descent and Spanish speakers are represented in the Library of Congress subject headings (LCSH) and would like your help.

Your responses will be kept confidential. It shouldn't take longer than 5-10 minutes to fill out. You can complete the survey by clicking on the link below. Thank you! Your feedback is much appreciated!

<https://forms.gle/ewZD5aTQ9EVTmo6X7>



America's Field Trip Contest

America's Field Trip is back, as a program of America250! Students in grades 3-12 are invited to participate in this year's contest by sharing their perspective about what America's means to them.

Winners will receive an unforgettable field trip experience to one of our nation's most iconic historic or cultural sites. Written or original artwork answering the question **"What does America mean to you"** are now being accepted; the deadline for submissions is 2 p.m. PT on April 16.

For more information, please visit [America's Field Trip - America250](#)



Save the Date: America's 250th Anniversary in 2026

Plans are already underway for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Washington State has established an official state committee to plan events and activities, and recently launched the official America250 WA website.

Libraries are encouraged to partner with America250 WA to help educate and promote semiquincentennial activities. Join the list of partners to help promote activities in your community at this [link](#).

Lorraine Ralston, the state America 250 coordinator, will be working with partners to help ensure this commemoration is a statewide observance. Please feel free to contact her with questions at info@america250wa.org.

For more information about Washington State plans, visit America250WA.org.



[The 10th Annual Washington State Zine Contest is now open!](#)

You can find downloadable posters and double-sided entry forms and submission guidelines to share with your community at the [Washington Center for the Book website](#).

Have news to share? Please send information to the WLA office at newsletter@wla.org by Monday to be included in that week's digest. Please include any relevant graphics, as well as the blurb you would like posted in our newsletter.

If you have questions or want to share zine programming you are doing in your library, please email Sara Peté at sara.pete@sos.wa.gov.

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

Thank you to Tien Triggs, WLA's Special Library Division Vice Chair and Advocacy Committee Chair, for this year's beautiful poster design!



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