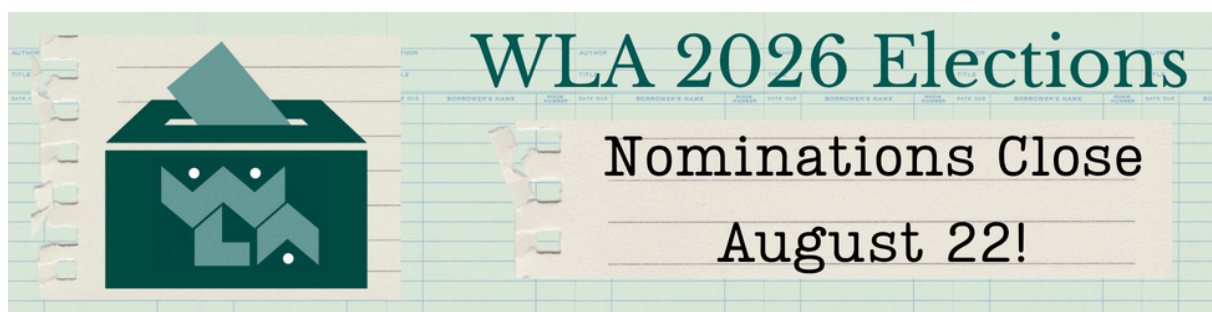


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August 13, 2025



Nominations for the 2026 Elections Now Open!

Are you looking for leadership or career experience? Want to connect with other library professionals and give back to Washington's library community? WLA invites you to run for a leadership position in 2026!

Explore the [wide range of opportunities](#) WLA has to offer. If you have any questions about a position, feel free to email the [WLA office](#) and we will be happy to connect you with more information.

[2026 Nomination Form](#)

All nominees should complete the nomination form and email their headshots to info@wla.org by **end-of-day Friday, Aug. 22**. Statements in the form should be approximately 250 words and should describe how your skills and experience will aid you in the position. Questions in the form include:

- What skills would you bring to the position?

- What qualifications make you a viable candidate for the position?
- Where would you like to see WLA and the Division/Section in the future, and what would you do to move it toward that vision?
- How do you see yourself upholding EDI values as a leader?

Terms of office begin January 1, 2026, and are one year, unless otherwise noted.

Please visit our [Elections webpage](#) for more information!



WLA Membership Meeting

We would like to invite all WLA Members to join us for an upcoming meeting where important updates about the association will be shared. This meeting will now be held **during the first few weeks of September. Please stay tuned for an exact date.**

In addition, a separate email with instructions on registering for this meeting will be sent to WLA members once the date and time is finalized.

If you have any questions, please contact the WLA office at info@wla.org.

Read the latest edition of *Alki* now!

The Washington Library
Association Journal

July 2025
Volume 41 | Number 2

Alki Building Bridges:
The Conference Issue



alki.pubpub.org/41-2

New *Alki* Issue Out Now! Building Bridges: The Conference Issue

This issue of *Alki* commemorates the 2025 WLA Conference, with the theme, "Building Bridges & Connecting Communities." Articles provide a more in-depth look at research and ideas from the conference, reflections of conference attendees, updates from the WLA Lobbyist and ALA Councilor, and award acknowledgments. A sense of camaraderie and shared values permeates the

entire issue—as it did the conference—reinforcing that library workers and library enthusiasts are doing the work of building bridges and connecting communities.

[Read the newest issue here!](#)



WLA Mentorship Program

Interested in participating in the 2025-2026 [WLA Mentorship Program](#) as a mentor or a mentee?

Are you a library worker who wants to grow your skills alongside another library professional? Do you have experience and insight to share with your peers? We invite you to join our 2025-2026 mentorship community as a mentor or mentee!

You can learn more about the mentorship program in last year's [Alki article](#). Applications will open at the end of August and will be announced in WLA Wednesday. Until then, fill out this [interest form](#) to receive more information via email!



WLA is excited to announce the launch of the [WLA Bookend Collective](#), a new opportunity for corporate and nonprofit partners to make a meaningful impact on the future of libraries across Washington State.

The Bookend Collective offers organizations a meaningful way to contribute to the strength and sustainability of libraries and the dedicated professionals who serve their communities. Through this initiative, WLA aims to foster long-term resilience, connection, and support for Washington's library ecosystem.

We thank you for sharing this with your network and communities to support the future of Washington's libraries.

Please [visit our webpage](#) for more information!



Shop New WLA Merch!

Show your Washington Library pride with our new "[Protect WA Libraries](#)" collection! Whether you're a librarian, library lover, or passionate about protecting public resources, now's the perfect time to show your support.

WLA Community Happenings

Calling All Public Library Champions!

The WLA Public Library Division (PLD) is putting together the next edition of our quarterly newsletter, and we want to spotlight *you*!

- Is your library doing something innovative?
- Launching a new service or program?
- Achieving something you're proud of?

We'd love to share your story and celebrate your success across the PLD community. Let's throw some sunlight on the incredible work happening in Washington's Public Libraries!

Ready to share? Email us at plouthan@gmail.com

Not yet a PLD member? No problem! [Add the Public Library Division to your WLA membership here](#)

Let's inspire each other—one story at a time.

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

Look Who's Hiring

Washington State

Columbia County Library is seeking a [Library Page](#).

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

King County Library System is seeking an [Adult Services Librarian](#) (Lakeview Region).

Liberty Lake Library is seeking a [Children's Librarian](#).

Library of Stevens County is seeking a [Library Manager](#) (Chewelah).

NCW Libraries is seeking a [Bilingual Branch Librarian](#) (Mattawa), a [Finance Manager](#) (Wenatchee), and a [Branch Librarian](#) (Tonasket).

North Olympic Library System is seeking an [Outreach Library Manager](#).

Seattle Public Library is seeking a [Regional Manager](#).

Sno-Isle Libraries is seeking a [Facilities Technician](#) (Marysville) and a [Library Manager III](#) (Mukilteo).

Yakima Valley Libraries is seeking an [Accounting Assistant Manager](#), a [Community Library Supervisor IV](#), and an [IT Systems Analyst](#).

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

Students for Intellectual Freedom Virtual Workshops powered by Penguin Random House

Hailie Bonz, an undergraduate student at the University of California, Irvine, is working with Penguin Random House over the summer to lead three virtual workshops. These workshops aim to train and empower student activists with advocacy tools and create a network for us to communicate with one another.

The workshops will provide high school and college students with a deeper understanding of legislative processes surrounding censorship bills and an overall

public speaking training. The workshops will be free for participating students, and an author whose books have been banned will be featured as a speaker (author TBD).

If any students are interested and would like to attend, have them fill out the [programming survey](#) with their name and email address to ensure they receive the meeting invites.

Dates for Teams Invite:

Workshop 3: August 15th at 1pm ET

ThriveLib 2025 Conference

August 12-14 | Virtual

ThriveLib: Reclaiming Joy, Balance, and Boundaries in Libraries is a virtual conference August 12-14 dedicated to the well-being of library workers. Designed for librarians, library staff, and information professionals across all types of libraries, this multi-day event focuses on the emotional and psychological well-being of those who keep libraries running.

For more information, visit: <https://thrivelib.heysummit.com/>

The Collaborative Summer Library Program: [Building Community-Based Summers](#)

Traditionally libraries plan summer library programming from the inside out, with staff hoping for community participation. Building Community Based Summers (BCBS) flips this script by starting with community input first!

BCBS is designed to help member libraries build strategies to engage community voices and provide summer services for all members of their communities. The discussions and activities will focus on how to connect with communities experiencing marginalization to design and implement summer library services. Selected participants will have the opportunity to engage with a nationwide cohort of library staff to dig deeply into inclusive summer services.

Participation

Libraries are encouraged to send staff from across departments and can include youth services and/or adult services staff, programming coordinators, summer library program coordinators, outreach staff, and administrators. Participation in the BCBS initiative will require, of all team members:

- Active attendance and participation using cameras, shared whiteboards, and breakout rooms.
- Participation in an introductory orientation before the learning sessions begin.
- Additional work will be required within your library and community to begin to consider and assess your existing and planned summer programs and services through an equity lens. Expect to spend approximately 2 hours/week doing this work, in addition to the virtual sessions.

Learn More and Apply

CSLP member libraries are invited to [learn more](#) about the upcoming CSLP/BCBS cohort and [apply by 8:00 am ET on Monday, August 25, 2025](#), to be considered for the Fall cohort. Accepted participants will be notified the first week of September.

Questions?

Contact bcbs@cslpreads.org

Leap Into the Future of School Libraries

October 15 | St. Louis, MI

In the spirit of the former Treasure Mountain Research Retreats, this new series, [*Leap into the Future of School Libraries*](#), seeks to build a shared research agenda and promote initiatives, best practices, action proposals, and resilience among professionals who are determined to move our field forward.

Register here to think, present, create, invent, and build the future: [Leap into the Future of School Libraries No. 2 Registration Form](#)

Core Forum Registration is now open! Register today!

Join your colleagues at [Core Forum 2025](#), November 12-14, in Denver, CO, at the [Hilton Denver City Center](#)! Gather with old friends and make new connections while celebrating the intersection and overlap of the core work we do. Learn more about Forum and register for the main event and preconferences at www.coreforum.org.

Two full days of presentations, interactive panel discussions, and activities are guaranteed to be both thought-provoking and highly relevant to participants' current and future career paths. Forum engages the collective expertise of presenters and participants, facilitates enriching conversations, and offers unique learning opportunities. Everyone, including non-Core members, are encouraged

to register, bring real-life questions, share experiences, and network to learn new perspectives.

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

5 Preconferences & Public/Academic Library Tour
Evening Welcome Reception

Thursday, November 13 & Friday, November 14, 2025

Event Features:

2 Keynote Presentations* 45+ education programs *30 + Poster sessions
Exhibitor Tabletop Displays Dine-arounds

6 Concurrent Program Tracks:

- * Access & Equity
- * Buildings & Operations
- * Leadership & Management
- * Metadata & Collections
- * Preservation
- * Technology

[2025 Core Forum Schedule](#)

Core members can save \$150 by taking advantage of the Early Bird discount that's available through October 5. Advance registration ends November 12. Tickets to [preconference sessions and tours](#) are available for an additional charge - Space is limited.

Core has secured a room block at the Hilton Denver City Center hotel for registered Core Forum attendees. [Housing reservations](#) must be made prior to October 21.

For more information about other Core events and programs, contact the Core office at corece@ala.org, or visit www.ala.org/core.

Washington State Library's [Community Book Project](#)

Did you know that at the Washington State Library, they have a collection of books that have been shared with them from libraries (mostly from Community/One Book programs) to share back out to the Washington Library community?

They have books for all ages, and the only requirement is that books are requested by libraries (for library use), and that you request at least five books at

a time. Books must be sent to a library address (please no personal addresses or PO boxes). Feel free to share out with your colleagues who serve all ages, as there are many adult books as well as some youth-focused titles!

An exciting addition in this update -- games! The State Library has received some game donations, and they are available first-come-first-serve to libraries via the Community Book Project.

For more information and to see what books are available, check out the website here: <https://www.communitybookshare.com/>. Click on “bookstore” at the top right to see all available titles. Happy (free) shopping!

EveryLibrary Survey: Financial Costs of Book Challenges to Public Libraries

[EveryLibrary](#), together with Heather Libby, an Adult Services Librarian at the Knoxville Public Library in Iowa, is researching the financial costs of book challenges to public libraries and the taxpayers. Any time a book is challenged, it obviously results in a great many costs—emotional, cultural, intellectual, etc. For the purposes of this study, the focus is on the specific question of what defending libraries and protecting patrons’ freedom to read is costing the taxpayers in dollars.

Researchers at UCLA recently published a comprehensive report: [Cost of Conflicts Report](#). This survey would gather similar data from public libraries.

If you would like to preview the questions asked in this survey, you may view them here: [Preview Survey Questions Here](#).

Here is a direct link to the survey: [EveryLibrary Survey on the Financial Costs of Book Challenges to Public Libraries](#)

ALA Policy Perspectives: Investing in Prison Libraries Report

A new report released by the American Library Association explores the essential role of prison libraries in lowering recidivism by better preparing incarcerated people for their release and why further investments in prison libraries are essential to reducing the social and economic impacts of incarceration. [Investing in Prison Libraries: A Cost-Effective Path to Safer Communities and Second Chances](#), part of the ALA Policy Perspectives series, is co-authored by Erin Boyington, Amelia Bryne and Emily Durkin.

[Read the full article here.](#)



Authors Against Book Bans is Here for Washington

A new state law prohibits schools from banning books used in curriculums solely because they were written by or about members of marginalized groups. Even so, book challenges continue to be a reality and dealing with one can be stressful. Authors Against Book Bans (AABB) in Washington State is dedicated to protecting the intellectual freedom to read and the availability of diverse voices on library shelves.

Comprised of a coalition of writers, illustrators, anthology editors and contributors, AABB offers support to librarians, teachers, and others involved in book challenges. Some of the ways members can help include:

- Writing emails and letters, sending recorded videos, and/or making phone calls to curriculum committees, school boards, and other decision-makers
- Sharing personal experiences demonstrating the importance of diverse books
- Appearing before public meetings in support of diverse books
- Sending personal messages of support (e.g., email or postcards) to individuals embroiled in challenges

For support or more information find AABB at authorsagainstbookbans.com.

Study Abroad Opportunity: Indigenous Librarianship & Youth Literature

Dr. Michelle H. Martin, Beverly Cleary Professor for Children & Youth Services at the University of Washington in Seattle (USA) and Doctoral Candidate Mandi Harris are planning a 10-week study abroad to Aotearoa/New Zealand for Winter Quarter 2026, from **January 5 to March 13**. They are recruiting students who are interested in studying Māori children's literature and librarianship, spending time in gardens, on and around water, and being a part of a diverse learning community.

Please follow the [link to the flier](#) and see the QR code on the flier for more information and to apply. For questions, please email Dr. Martin at mhmarti@uw.edu.



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

July 4, 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.

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 your contact information.

Washington Library Association
PO Box 33808 Seattle, WA 98133
(206) 923-1138
the Washington Library Association. [Join](#) or [Renew](#) your membership today.



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Instagram

LinkedIn