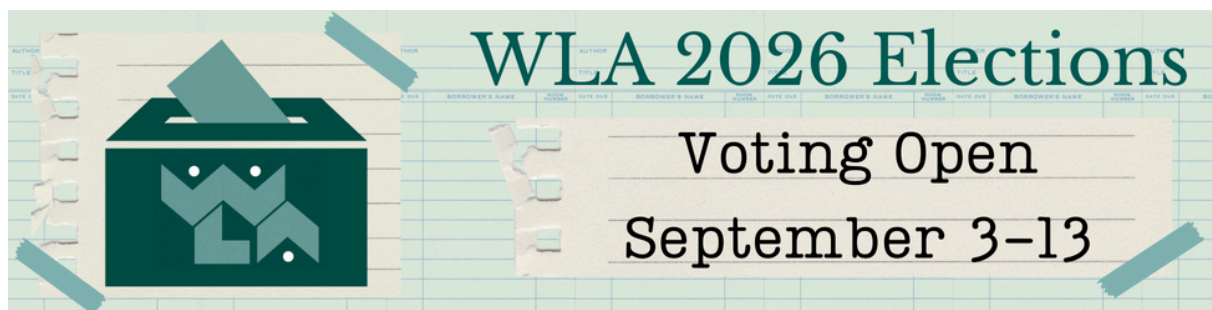


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September 3, 2025



2026 Elections Voting Now Open!

Online voting is open for the 2026 WLA Elections cycle! Visit the [elections homepage](#) to view [candidate statements](#) and to vote. Please note that voting is limited to WLA members, and you may only cast your vote for candidates within your own division/section.

[Cast Your Votes Here!](#)

2025 Elections Timeline:

- ~~Friday, Aug. 29 — Nominations due date~~
- [Wednesday, Sept. 3 — Online voting opens](#)
- Friday, Sept. 17 — Online voting closes
- Wednesday, Sept. 24 — Election winners announced

Thank you for participating in this important process! If you have any questions, please contact the WLA Office at info@wla.org.



WLA Membership Meeting Postponed

The WLA Membership Meeting has been **postponed to late September** as we continue work on the association's long-term sustainability plan. This additional time will allow us to share more meaningful updates with members.

A new date and registration details will be shared soon. The meeting will be recorded and made available to all members. You'll also have the opportunity to submit questions in advance through a Google Form, and an FAQ will be provided.

For any questions, contact the WLA office at info@wla.org.



ALD/ACRL-WA & OR Conference Registration Now Open!

Register today for the 2026 Academic Libraries Conference, held on October 17 at Lower Columbia College in Longview, WA. **Early-bird pricing runs from September 3-24**, so make sure to register now to receive a lower rate!

Please [visit our website](#) for our program schedule, pricing information, and to register.



***Alki* Call for Papers: Winter Issue - "Resiliency"**

Libraries large and small continue to face threats to services and programs, attempts to ban books, and the loss of autonomy. Libraries are facing reduced workforces and, in some cases, threats to their very existence. Library workers are confronting exceptional challenges by modeling resourcefulness and resilience. The winter issue of *Alki* focuses on "resiliency," a theme this journal has revisited on several occasions. Consider this theme broadly. **Deadline is Friday, November 14th!**

Possible topics might include:

- How your library has adapted to the current social/political climate
- Responses to vocational awe, burnout, and your own mental health
- Your own activism
- How you deal with pressures and responsibilities in this ever-evolving profession
- Programs you've created to address tough issues
- Ways you've cared for or supported your community; or ways you've been supported
- Art that responds to or shines a light on the reality of our time

We're also doing a special section on what gives you strength: We are asking library workers to share what keeps you going, what gives you hope or strength right now? **Share a brief paragraph and we'll compile these together.** Include your name, pronouns, position title, organization, and put "resiliency paragraph" in the subject line. Send these to Traci Timmons, Editor-in-Chief, at alkieditor@wla.org by **November 14, 2025**.

Need help working through a potential article concept? Reach out to alkieditor@wla.org.

WLA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

***Applications Open
Aug. 27 - Sept. 26 !***



WLA Mentorship Program- Applications Now Open!

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 are now open until **Friday, September 26**. Visit our [mentorship program page](#) for more information and to apply!

2026 Towner Award Choice Boards Now Available!

View the 2026 choice boards and updated teaching resources on their [webpage](#).

You can also follow them on Instagram [@TownerAward](#)



**A YEAR-ROUND
SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITY**

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.

WLA Community Happenings

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.

CAYAS Monthly Meeting

We thank you for sharing this with your network and communities to support the future of Washington's libraries. Join CAYAS (Children & Young Adult Services) for their next meeting on Monday, September 8 from 1-2pm. Please [visit our webpage](#) for more information!

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

King County Library System is seeking an [Assistant Operations Manager](#) (Cedar Region).

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

Library of Stevens County is seeking a [Library Assistant I](#).

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 [Public Services Assistant](#) (Oak Harbor).

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

Literacy Pep Rally

September 16 | 10am | Online

Join Kwame Alexander and surprise guest authors for a Literacy Pep Rally, Sept. 16, 10 a.m., to kick off a year full of reading and writing joy. Authors will talk about great books they're reading, announce a new book-centered, year-long event, and there will be some Q&A time with Kwame and friends.

This is a free, live, virtual event where kids can interact with Kwame and other authors -- and get excited about reading and writing all year long.

[More Information Here](#)

Latinx Kidlit Book Festival

September 2025

The Latinx KidLit Book Festival (LKBF), starting Sept. 1, streams through the festival's YouTube channel. Event links can be found on the [2025 LKBF schedule site](#). Sessions can be safely streamed into the classroom and shared with students using an educator's account. Sign up for the [newsletter](#) to receive links to all the panels directly to your inbox.

[More Information Here](#)

Rural Civic Engagement Workshops

September 4 & 8 | Online

[Civics 101 in 120Seconds \(ish\)](#) is a dynamic and approachable video series designed to demystify Washington State's legislative process. These short, well-paced videos break down key concepts like how a bill becomes law, the roles of policy committees, caucuses, and decorum on the floor, and where real change happens in the legislature.

[Learn more about the Secretary of State Civic Engagement Program](#)

- **Thursday, Sept 4** – [Central Skagit Library](#), Pizza and Politics: Local-State Civics 101, 4-7 pm (registration encouraged)
- **Monday, Sept 8** – [Longview Public Library](#), State Civics 101, 6-7:30 pm

Open Books, Open Minds: A Celebration of Reading & Literacy

September 18 | Online

Open Books, Open Minds: A Celebration of Reading & Literacy, a co-production of SLJ, LJ, and The Horn Book, is a daylong event that will convene authors, teachers, librarians, literacy experts, and other education leaders as well as product and services providers to elevate the love of reading and to celebrate the process of fostering engaged reading environments.

[More Information Here](#)

Assessing the Needs of Public Libraries and Librarians

Closes September 26 | Online Survey

[Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered \(FORCE\)](#) is conducting a survey to better understand the needs and practices of public libraries and librarians related to information about hereditary breast cancer risk, screening, prevention and treatment.

FORCE is a national non-profit dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families facing hereditary cancer, and received funding from CDC to develop resources that address the unmet needs of breast cancer survivors and people at high risk.

[You can take the survey by clicking here.](#)

Please take time to respond before the survey closes on **Friday, September 26**. The survey only takes a few minutes to complete.

If you have any questions, please email: suefriedman@facingourrisk.org.



The Bushwick Book Club Seattle: A Concert of Original Music Inspired by Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights*

September 27 | 7:30-10pm | Seattle, WA

[The Bushwick Book Club Seattle](#) presents a concert of original music inspired by **Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights*** on **Saturday, September 27**, at Hugo House on Capitol Hill ([1634 11th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122](#)) and livestreaming concurrently. Performers include [Peter Donovan](#), [K Van Petten](#), [Amber Flame](#), [Mark Ippolito](#) & [J Oso Boogie](#), [Connor Cash Colbert](#), [Karen Laura Peters](#), [Where's Beth](#), [Ben Mish](#), and [Asha Neely](#).

What happens if we pay attention? That's the quiet dare at the heart of *The Book of Delights*, Ross Gay's dazzling collection of daily essays that touch on everything from palm readings to Lisa Loeb. Funny, strange, and full of questions, these kaleidoscopic observations invite you to pause and look closer: not to escape from the world, but to escape from distraction.

Advance tickets [HERE](#); more information [HERE](#).

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!

November 12-14 | Denver, CO

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.

WSL 2025 End of Summer Evaluation Survey

Let the Washington State Library know how summer went at your library! Results will be shared with libraries throughout the state.

[Fill Out Survey Here](#)

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!

Washington State Library Professional Development Grants

The state library is pleased to return to the regular process for Professional Development grants – applicants can apply when registration pricing becomes available. Maximums of \$1,000/individual and \$6,000/system per federal fiscal year (Oct. 1-Sept. 30). These grants are federally funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act and are subject to the availability of funds.

[More Information Here](#)

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](#)

How to Effectively Train Paraprofessionals in Public Libraries: Survey Results

In spring 2024 the User Services in Public Libraries Committee conducted a survey of the reference responsibilities of paraprofessional (non-MLS) workers in public libraries. Using the study's results, we created a practical tool supervisors can use to develop a data-driven training plan for paraprofessional staff. This plan prioritizes the most frequently requested topics in public libraries.

View results here: [Buelow, M, Lapinski, R, & Bounds, K. \(2025\). Ready reference: How to effectively train paraprofessionals in public libraries. *Public Libraries*, 64\(4\), 16-43.](#)

We could not have done this without help from the libraries across the country who took time to fill out our survey and share your thoughts. Thank you all so much!

The User Services in Public Libraries is a subcommittee of the Reference Services Section of RUSA. Our charge is to study, promote, and support the role of reference and user services in public libraries.

If you like asking questions, researching answers, analyzing results and creating useful tools for the library community please consider joining us! You can fill out the volunteer form at <https://www.ala.org/cfapps/committee/volunteerform> and use the pull down menu to select RUSA-RSS. Alternately, you can contact the committee at RSS.USPL@gmail.com or contact me at mbuelow@hedbergpubliclibrary.org

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

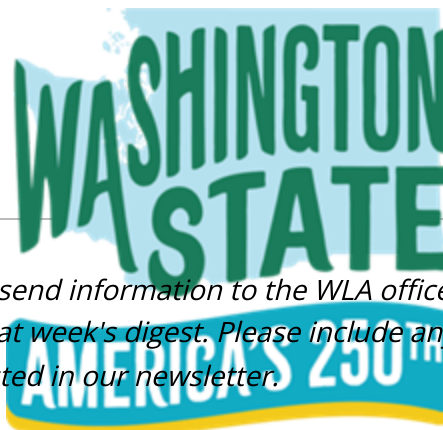
For support or more information find AABB at authorsagainstdbookbans.com.

Study Abroad Opportunity: Indigenous Librarianship & Youth Literature

January 5-March 13 | Aotearoa/New Zealand

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.



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.

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

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

July 4, 2026



Contact Info:

Commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Washington's independence in 1776. Washington State has PO Box 33808 Seattle, WA 98133
(206) 825-1138
info@wla.org
wla.org

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

Connect with Us!

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn

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.