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April 23, 2025



WLA 2025 Spring Fundraiser

Online Silent Auction | May 6-31

We are excited to announce the [WLA Silent Auction](#), our 2025 Spring Fundraiser event, will be returning for its second year! The online auction will be open May 6-31 and offer everyone the chance to participate in bidding on specially curated items.

We are putting out a call to all members and partners to consider soliciting or making donations to this annual fundraiser. Items that can be sent digitally or are easily mailed are preferable, but also welcome are highly desirable items that are "worth the trip," like the card catalog again donated this year by Primary Source. Restaurant, lodging, bookstores and other retail gift certificates are always popular, and businesses are often delighted to show this support for WA libraries. [You may view item ideas in our document here!](#) 100% of auction proceeds will help fund WLA's programs and services, and as a 501(c)3 non-profit, all donations are tax deductible.

If you, your library, or anyone in your network have unique items or experiences to donate, please fill out our [donation form](#). Thank you for your support in making this annual event a success!

Questions? Contact info@wla.org.



Apply to be on a WLA Book Award Committee!

Applications are now open to apply to be on a 2025-2026 WLA Book Award Committee.

Committee members should:

- **Be a WLA Member** — Be sure to [sign up for](#) or [renew your](#) WLA membership, if needed.
- Participate in the meetings and activities of the committee.
- Have an interest in the work of the committee.

Please [fill out this form](#) if you are interested. Responses are due by **Wednesday, April 30**.



Apply for a WLA Conference Committee!

Looking for an opportunity to get involved? WLA invites you to apply to be on one of our conference committees:

2025 ALD/ACRL-WA & ACRL-OR Academic Conference

We are currently and urgently seeking volunteers to help plan this conference, held in the fall. Please note that if we do not receive enough committee members, the conference may not take place this year.

2026 WLA Conference

We are also looking for volunteers for the next annual WLA Conference, to be held April 2026 in Yakima!

Please find all details and apply to either committee [using this form](#). Questions? Email us at info@wla.org.

We thank you for your continued support in helping make these conferences a success!



Spring Issue of *Alki*, "Rooted," Out Now!

In this issue, the word, "rooted," is shown in its many meanings. Writings about the history of libraries, the history that led to the development of the modern-day audiobook, and the U.S. Postal Service's history in a community, demonstrate important roots. Articles and field notes on roaming reference and programs geared toward first-generation students and teens offer insight into the important underlying services that library workers provide patrons. Others write about foundational programs and policies that allow libraries to grow in positive, respectful, and, sometimes, necessarily cautious ways. What underlies all of this is the essential care that each contributor brings to their writing and their work in library spaces.

[Read the Spring Issue of *Alki* Here!](#)

Look for information about the summer issue of *Alki* in next week's WLA Wednesday. This issue will focus on work and ideas that come out of the annual conference and is themed "Building Bridges."

Alki* Call for Papers: Summer Issue - *Building Bridges

Did you participate in the [WLA Conference, Building Bridges & Connecting Communities](#)? The summer issue of *Alki* will focus on work and ideas that come

out of the annual conference. If you presented, moderated, held a workshop, did a pop-up or exhibit, or anything else related to the conference, this is an opportunity to give a more permanent form to your work by having it published. Maybe you didn't present, but you attended? We also hope the conference itself inspired commentary or maybe an unexpected article.

Possible topics might include:

- Reflections on a conference workshop or program
- A field note about a book award—the process, the candidates, and the winners
- An article encapsulating a presentation
- Art submissions of your exhibit or table with a brief description
- Milestones—program launches, space updates, award winners
- A field note reflecting on your conference experience

Sign up for your spot today or get help working through a potential article concept by emailing your name and the topic of your proposed piece to Editor-in-Chief, Traci Timmons, at alkieditor@wla.org. General submission guidelines can be found [here](#). The deadline for completed work is **June 7, 2025**.

For inspiration, check out [past issues of *Alki*](#), especially the summer issues devoted to the conference.



Share Your Story Today!

The National Museum & Library Services Board is pushing back against Executive Order 14238, warning that it endangers vital programs supporting libraries and museums nationwide. [Read the letter here](#).

[Share your story](#) on how your library, community, school, or other organization has been impacted by IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) and/or State Library funding. These testimonials will be used to raise awareness of the work being done by these vital institutions through social media, campaigns, and more. Thank you for sharing your story with us and our community.



Vote for Your Favorite 2025 Book Award Nominees!

Please click on the following book award to view the 2025 nominees and to vote!
Votes from students are due Friday, May 23.

- [OTTER Award](#)
- [Sasquatch Award](#)
- [Towner Award](#)
- [WCCPBA](#) (Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award)

WLA Community Happenings

Please check back next week for more community happenings!

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

Look Who's Hiring

Washington State

NCW Libraries is seeking a [Bilingual Branch Librarian](#) (Mattawa).

Neill Public Library is seeking a [Library Services Director](#) (Pullman).

Pierce County Library System is seeking an [Adult & a Teen Services Librarian](#) (Lakewood).

Seattle University is seeking a [Metadata Strategist Librarian](#).

Sno-Isle Libraries is seeking a [Library Associate](#) (Everett, Edmonds) and a [Public Services Associate I](#) (Stanwood).

The Washington State Library (Clallam Bay, WA) is seeking a [Branch Librarian](#) ([Prison Libraries](#)).

Outside of Washington State

Tigard Public Library (Tigard, OR) is seeking an [Acquisitions Supervisor](#).

Portland-Metro Library at Oregon Tech (Klamath Falls, OR) is seeking a [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

Clock Hours Available: Researching Current Trends in Media Literacy and AI Education

Independent Work Time | March - June

Develop a research plan on current trends in media literacy education, conduct research using a time log, create a bibliography, and write a reflective summary.

Hosted By: [Action 4 Media Education](#)

Total Clock Hours Available: 3-10

[Register at this link.](#)

The Humanities Washington Award

The Humanities Washington Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the public humanities—people and organizations who bring new stories to light, connect their communities, and encourage us all to think, reflect, and learn.

Anyone can nominate, and nominations are due May 31. Those chosen for this honor will receive \$1,000 and the opportunity for public recognition at one of our 50th anniversary regional events.

Ten awards will be given in five geographic regions across Washington State (Central, Central Puget Sound, Eastern, Northwestern/Islands, and Southwestern/Coast).

Please [visit here](#) for more details and to submit a nomination.

Applying Strategic Foresight toward Future-Ready Libraries, Archives, and Museums in Washington State

In this time of rapid change, we must explore and chart new pathways toward future success, and foster mindsets and skills to help us discover untapped

possibilities. Strategic foresight is a framework to help us create multiple future scenarios, envision outcomes and evaluate current and pending strategies to support decision making and action in the present against a suite of possible futures.

Building on four years of the IMLS-supported [Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School](#), the Connecticut State Library and partner TFSX (formerly Kedge: The Futures School) are now training organizational cohorts—including library systems, archives, museums, associations, and partner networks—across the United States. The initiative is taking a systems perspective, to integrate strategic foresight into operations and infuse futures thinking into institutional capacity, cultural shifts, technological innovation, model processes, and succession planning. Each cohort member works with a team of their colleagues to apply foresight tools to lead their organization to the future.

[Apply Now!](#)

The June 3-5 cohort is eligible only to individuals working in a library, archive, museum or LAM-related organization within Washington State. When completing the application form, be sure to select the **Washington State cohort**. Applications are due **April 29**.

Present at the PLA 2026 Conference!

The Public Library Association (PLA) invites passionate library professionals, advocates, and thought leaders like you to participate in its conference programming! The [PLA 2026 Conference](#) will be held April 1–3, 2026, in Minneapolis, MN, and offer more than 100 educational sessions. PLA is looking for program submissions that address timely, relevant topics impacting the evolving landscape of public libraries, focused on new ideas, diverse perspectives, and actionable, scalable solutions for libraries of all shapes and sizes.

Program Categories

- In-person programs can be 60-minute Panel, Peer Sharing, or Case Study educational sessions; or (new to PLA 2026) 120-minute Deep Dive educational sessions.
- Virtual programs will be delivered from your home or office, available exclusively to the PLA 2026 Virtual Conference audience, and can be 60-minute Panel or Case Study educational sessions.

The deadline for submitting a program proposal is **May 5** at 8:59 p.m. Pacific. Please visit the [conference proposal homepage](#) for more information.



Facing the Change: What the Loss of Federal Funding Means for Washington's Libraries

May 6 | 9:00am

Join us for a vital session introducing the staff of the Washington State Library and exploring the significant changes ahead following the potential permanent loss of \$3.9 million in annual federal funding. This funding has supported essential statewide services—including shared eBook collections, research databases, training, rural broadband support, and institutional libraries—which will now face severe reductions or elimination.

We'll share what we know about the evolving landscape, highlight the work of our team members, and offer space for questions. While many details are still unfolding, we are committed to transparency and collaboration as we navigate this transition together.

This program was originally presented at the 2025 WLA Conference in Tacoma, WA on Friday, April 11, 2025.

Presented By: Washington State Library Staff

Registration: <https://washstatelib.libcal.com/event/14368824>



May 10 | 7:30pm

Original music inspired by *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

[The Bushwick Book Club Seattle](#) presents a concert of Original music inspired by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds' *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism*. Performers include [Nick Droz](#), [Tara Chugh](#), [Nyce & Wyld](#), [Kate Berreth](#), [Townsend's Solitaire](#), [Bjørn Watkins](#), [Brittany Danielle](#), [Karen Miller](#), [Owl Scarey](#), [Arami Walker](#), [Quantum Eraser](#), and [Can Tang](#).

Advance tickets [HERE](#). More info [HERE](#).

Perhaps no single author has generated more controversy in recent years than Ibram X. Kendi, whose *Stamped from the Beginning*—published in versions for both adults and youth—outlines the history of racist ideas in America with devastating clarity. In 2020, *Stamped* itself was stamped as the second-most challenged book in America.



Association of Bookmobile & Outreach Services

Present at the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Conference

Apply now to present at the fall ABOS (Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services) conference. Share the amazing work you are doing in outreach with other ABOS members at the annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri this October.

Presenters receive a reduced rate for attending the conference. Hope to see your application soon!

The date to apply has been extended to May 15. Please visit this link to apply:

<https://abos-outreach.com/Presentation-Proposals>

Survey: Instructional Programming for Adults in Public Libraries

Laura Saunders, Professor at the Simmons University School of Library and Information Science and Don Simmons Jr, Associate Professor at Simmons University School of Library and Information Science invite you to take a survey that they are conducting on instructional programming for adults in public libraries.

They are interested in learning about the extent and types of instructional programs offered to adults through public libraries in the United States, as well as the factors that might enable or hinder such programming. The study received approval from the Simmons University Institutional Review Board (IRB 25-233).

Please answer as many of the following questions as you wish based on your own experience. Your participation is voluntary. You may decline to participate or discontinue your participation at any time. If there are any questions you do not feel comfortable answering, you may skip them. Your decision to participate, not participate, or to withdraw at any time from this study will in no way affect your standing with your library.

The survey should take you about 20 minutes to complete. All of your responses will be recorded anonymously.

You can access the survey using this

[link](https://simmons.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5vwIP4AVjd3C2we) (https://simmons.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5vwIP4AVjd3C2we)

If you have questions about the research, please contact Laura Saunders at laura.saunders@simmons.edu and/or Don Simmons at don.simmons@simmons.edu.

ALA: Support IMLS by Sharing Your Library Story with Congress

Since ALA announced the Show Up For Our Libraries campaign after the Inauguration, we've seen a barrage of attacks on a wide array of federal agencies, programs, and policies. Unfortunately, in the year ahead, we expect continued efforts to slash the federal budget. ALA, like many of you, is concerned about the broad-reaching effects of these efforts and other newly implemented policies and decisions.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the only source of federal funding dedicated to libraries. Every member of Congress needs to know why libraries are not just a "nice to have," but a necessity. Tell Congress your library story:

bit.ly/4iqzFqk



Registration Open: ACL Annual Conference

June 1-4 | Nampa, ID

The librarians at Northwest Nazarene University (Nampa, ID) and [The Association of Christian Librarians](#) cordially invite you to participate in the 2025 ACL Annual Conference, **June 1-4** for a week of learning, encouragement, and connections as we explore this year's theme: **Libraries: Gems of the Community**. This conference is ACL's annual keystone event, and YOUR opportunity to engage in

professional development, network with colleagues, and explore a variety of topics relevant to librarianship.

[Registration is now open!](#) Review the conference registration site for information related to the presentation/conference schedule and more!



Reach Further

Connecting Libraries
Beyond the Screen

PNLA
Virtual Conference

August 7-9, 2025

Registration Open: 2025 PNLA Virtual Conference

August 7-9 | Virtual

The Pacific Northwest Library Association is excited to invite you to the PNLA Virtual Conference. Early Bird Pricing is open until **July 3**.

This year's theme, *Reach Further: Connecting Libraries Beyond the Screen*, celebrates the power of libraries across the Pacific Northwest coming together online in meaningful and transformative ways.

PNLA represents library professionals from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and beyond. What better way to connect than through virtual spaces? This conference is an opportunity to forge connections beyond physical borders, expand access to knowledge, and collaborate in ways that transcend distance.

Register at this link: <https://pnla.org/event-5940839>

A THREE PART SERIES

BURNOUT IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES



sonya schryer norris
ann marie sanders

PLUM LIBRARIAN LLC

Burnout in Public Libraries: A Three-Part Series

Brought to you by the Washington State Library and Available on Niche Academy

Library work is rewarding—but it can also be exhausting. This three-part series explores the realities of burnout in public libraries through first-person narratives, research-backed insights, and expert strategies for resilience

- [Part 1: Burnout & Materials Challenges](#) – Understand how moral panics and book challenges contribute to burnout.
- [Part 2: Burnout & Workplace Wellness](#) – Discover how workplace culture, vocational awe, and emotional labor impact well-being.
- [Part 3: Burnout & a Trauma-Informed Approach](#) – Learn how to manage patron-related stress and apply trauma-informed service models.

Includes interactive self-assessments:

- Life Enjoyment Inventory
- Copenhagen Burnout Inventory
- Best Possible Future Exercise

Gain valuable perspectives from library professionals, social workers, and researchers to help you navigate burnout and reclaim your passion for library service.

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.



Teacher Librarian of the Year

Award Sponsored by:



Rachel Peters

Library Information Specialist
Hutton Elementary School
Spokane Public Schools



Congratulations to WLA member Rachel Peters for receiving NCCE's (Northwest Council for Computer Education) first ever Teacher Librarian of the year award!

Our members consistently go above and beyond—a true testament to their dedication and passion!



We're thrilled to congratulate the WLA School Library Division on being selected as the recipient of AASL's 2025 ABC-CLIO Leadership Grant! This award will help support the Olympic Library Leadership Incubator (OLLI), fostering growth and innovation in school librarianship.

If you are interested in learning more about OLLI, check out their website:



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

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.

- Appearing before public meetings in support of diverse books
- Sending personal messages of support (e.g., email or postcards) to individuals embroiled in challenges

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

For support or more information find AABB at authorsagainstabookbans.com. Be sure to look for the AABB exhibitors booth at the WLA Conference in April!



Contact Info:

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(206) 823-1138

info@wla.org

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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.