

Nominations Accepted
May 1, 2026 - July 31, 2026



Wisconsin Library Association Awards

We believe our Wisconsin library colleagues deserve recognition for all of their amazing work, and we know you do, too. Help us by nominating them (or yourself!) for one of the Association's awards.

Changes launched in 2024:

- We have re-launched the WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Award!
- The SSCS Paralibrarian of the Year Award is now part of the awards managed by the WLA Awards & Honors Committee.
- Nominations are no longer being accepted for the Muriel Fuller Award. Instead, this award may be conferred to a WLA member within the current pool of award nominees at the discretion of the Awards & Honors Committee.

Awards

Nominations for the awards below are for accomplishments **during the year preceding the award**. Nominations not chosen during the previous year can be updated for reconsideration for the current year. The awards below are conferred by WLA's Awards & Honors Committee.

WLA/DEMCO Librarian of the Year

In recognition of a librarian's outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. The librarian must be currently employed, at the time of selection, in any field of librarianship in Wisconsin and must be a current member of the WLA.

Library of the Year

Presented to any type of Wisconsin library, library system or library network for distinguished achievement in service. The staff, library board or administering body, and the community or people served shall all be involved in the work for which recognition is sought.

Programming Innovation Award

Presented in recognition of programming leadership in providing innovative and excellent library programming in Wisconsin libraries. Nominated programs may be stand-alone programs, series, passive or cooperative. Programs for all age groups are eligible.

SSCS Paralibrarian Award

Recognizes the essential role of paralibrarians, including all library support staff who do not currently have an MLIS, in providing excellent library service in Wisconsin.

Special Service Award

Presented to a group of people or an individual for noteworthy achievement as evidenced by substantial activities and exceptional service to the library profession. The Wisconsin recipient or recipients shall have influence and reputation beyond the local community.

Trustee of the Year Award

Conferred upon an outstanding Wisconsin library trustee. The trustee must be in actual service during all or part of the year in which they are honored.

Citation of Merit

Conferred upon Wisconsin citizens who are neither librarians nor library trustees, who have made outstanding contributions to quality library services. This award may be given to a group of people or an individual.

Icon Key



An award for an individual person



An award for a group of people



An award for a program



An award for a library
Requires WLA membership



Cash prize



For more information:

wisconsinlibraries.org/awards-honors

heritage.wisconsinlibraries.org

wisconsinlibraries.org/intellectual-freedom-award

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Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame

Induction into the Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame is granted to individuals who have made an **exceptional contribution to the statewide improvement of library service in Wisconsin over a sustained period of time**. Individuals who have worked in and/or advocated for Wisconsin libraries will be considered. Both living and deceased individuals are eligible for selection.

Examples of exceptional contributions and factors taken into consideration in the nomination and selection of members of the Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame include:

- An individual's record of leadership in the Wisconsin Library Association and/or other statewide library organizations/institutions.
- The overall importance and impact of an individual's contribution to the improvement of library service in Wisconsin.
- An individual's contributions to the improvement of library service at the national level.

Selection of inductees into the Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame is made by the Wisconsin Library Heritage Center Steering Committee.

WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Award

Recognizes the contribution of an individual or group who has actively promoted intellectual freedom in Wisconsin. Up to two WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Awards may be administered each year: one to a recipient whose work and advocacy encompasses the school setting and one recipient whose work and advocacy encompasses public, academic, or special libraries. **Activities within the past five years are eligible for consideration.**

The WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Award is administered jointly by the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) through its Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA) through its Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Award Timelines

The timeline below is the same for the Awards & Honors Committee awards, the Library Hall of Fame induction, and the WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Award.

Nominations open: May 1
Nominations due by: July 31
Notification of winners: mid September

Icon Key



An award for an individual person



An award for a group of people



An award for a program



An award for a library



Cash prize



Requires WLA membership

For more information:

wisconsinlibraries.org/awards-honors

heritage.wisconsinlibraries.org

wisconsinlibraries.org/intellectual-freedom-award