

WELCOME TO THE 2025 WLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE!



WISCONSIN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

WLA CODE OF CONDUCT

The Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) holds professional conferences and meetings to enable its members to receive continuing education, build professional networks, and discover new products and services for professional use. To provide all participants – members and other attendees, speakers, exhibitors, staff, and volunteers – the opportunity to benefit from the event, WLA is committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, physical appearance, ethnicity, religion or other group identity.

As an association, WLA is strongly committed to diversity, equity and the free expression of ideas. Taken cumulatively, these values are based on our professional organization's (Wisconsin Library Association) firm belief in the value of civil discourse and the free exploration of competing ideas and concepts – with a fundamental respect for the rights, dignity and value of all persons.

Within the context of this WLA Code of Conduct and, more broadly, the freedom of expression, critical examination of beliefs and viewpoints does not, by itself, constitute hostile conduct or harassment. Similarly, use of sexual imagery or language in the context of a professional discussion might not constitute hostile conduct or harassment.

WLA seeks to provide a conference environment in which diverse participants may learn, network and enjoy the company of colleagues in an environment of mutual human respect. We recognize a shared responsibility to create and hold that environment for the benefit of all. Some behaviors are, therefore, specifically prohibited:

- Harassment or intimidation based on race, religion, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, appearance, or other group status.
- Sexual harassment or intimidation, including unwelcome sexual attention, stalking (physical or virtual), or unsolicited physical contact.
- Yelling at or threatening speakers or attendees (verbally or physically).
- Failure to comply with the Policies Governing Conference Registration, Conference Attendees, Speakers and Presenters, and Exhibitors.

Speakers are asked to frame discussions as openly and inclusively as possible and to be aware of how language or images may be perceived by others. Participants may at any time exercise the option of leaving a presentation or exhibit. Exhibitors must follow all WLA Exhibits rules, regulations, and policies as outlined in the Policies Governing Conference Registration, Conference Attendees, Speakers and Presenters; and Exhibitors as well as any event-specific requirements.

All participants are expected to observe these rules and behaviors in all conference venues, including online venues and conference social events. Participants asked to stop hostile or harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately. Conference participants seek to learn, network and have fun. Please do so responsibly and with respect for the right of others to do likewise.

If you believe you have been harassed or that a harassment problem exists, report the incident on WLA's website, using this link. After an online report is submitted, WLA will determine and carry out the appropriate course of action, and may engage WLA Directors, staff or legal counsel as appropriate. For more details about reporting, see WLA's Reporting Guide. Event security and/or local law enforcement may be involved, as appropriate based on the specific circumstances. A follow-up report will be made to individuals who report the harassment.

Special considerations for virtual events

The provisions of the Wisconsin Library Association Code of Conduct apply to virtual WLA events. We remind virtual event attendees to remember that threats, harassment, and intimidation are just as damaging when transmitted online as they are in person and will be not be tolerated.

Attendees are prohibited from sharing content, recordings, chat logs, comments, or screenshots from WLA virtual events on any other online platforms or in any other virtual communications. Attendees should take only the notes they need for personal use. Recording of program sessions is prohibited, except for authorized agents of WLA capturing recordings for official WLA use. Disruption of presentations during sessions or other conference events is not acceptable. Any attendees who attempt to take over screensharing or broadcast unrelated images or messages during a conference event shall be removed from the meeting. People found in violation of any part of the WLA Code of Conduct will face consequences including but not limited to: expulsion from the conference, prohibition from returning to any future virtual event, and will not receive a refund of their registration fees.

Questions/concerns about this policy should be sent to the WLA Executive Director (wla@wisconsinlibraries.org).

*Adapted from the American Library Association Code of Conduct
http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/statement_appropriate_conduct
Updated by the WLA Board of Directors 7/12/2024*

WLA POLICIES GOVERNING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION, CONFERENCE ATTENDEES, SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS, AND EXHIBITORS REGISTRATION POLICIES

Registration Policies

1. All individuals in WLA conference spaces are required to have registration credentials (a registered attendee name badge). WLA staff (and in some cases venue staff) will monitor activities to ensure that all individuals in conference spaces are registered for the event/conference. These include but are not limited to keynote speaker addresses, breakout sessions, receptions, banquet functions, exhibit hall access, and tours. a. Spouses, partners, or other non-industry guests are required to register for every WLA conference function they choose to attend. These include but are not limited to keynote speaker addresses, breakout sessions, receptions, banquet functions, exhibit hall access, and tours.
2. Registration is required for all attendees at virtual events, even if attendees plan to participate in a group setting.
3. There will be a preferential registration fee for WLA members. A preferential registration fee may be extended to other groups with the approval of the WLA Board of Directors.
4. Unless otherwise indicated, volunteers are expected to pay the regular registration fees to attend the conference.
5. Speakers are required to register for the conference if they plan to attend other conference events in addition to their individual session. Speakers do not need to register if they will only participate in/attend their individual session.
6. Individuals registering for conferences and events must be current on payments for past events. WLA reserves the right to decline registration to individuals who have outstanding invoices for past events.
7. All conference attendees are required to review and sign the WLA Code of Conduct as part of the registration process.

Speaker/Presenter Policies

1. The purpose of all keynote and breakout sessions at WLA Conferences is to provide educational content and focus. . Honoraria for keynote speakers will be negotiated by WLA staff in consultation with the conference committee.
3. WLA does not provide compensation* of any kind to breakout presenters. Breakout presenters that fall under this policy include, but are not limited to, employees and trustees of Wisconsin Libraries, library agencies or library systems; and those presenters not related to the Wisconsin library community. *Special circumstances that are individually agreed upon may apply.
4. All conference speakers and presenters are required to review and sign the WLA Code of Conduct.

Exhibit Hall Policies

1. Exhibitors must register all representatives in attendance.
2. Selling or sales presentations are limited to the tradeshow floor and only by registered exhibitors. Any individual that is not a registered exhibitor is prohibited from soliciting WLA attendees in any space at the venue during the conference.
3. Exhibitors are required to staff their booth during posted exhibit hall hours. Tear-down before the posted tear-down period is not allowed unless approved by WLA in advance.
4. No unregistered individuals will be allowed on the tradeshow floor. This includes, but is not limited to, unregistered industry or non-industry individuals, vendors, visitors, and/or guests.

Onsite Food & Beverage

1. WLA staff will do their best to accommodate individuals with food allergens and other dietary restrictions. However, we cannot guarantee that event food offerings will meet every dietary request or requirement.
2. For food safety reasons and in compliance with venue policies and/or contractual catering agreements, attendees are not permitted to carry food out from WLA conference banquet buffets or any other functions.
3. Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages may be served at WLA socials, receptions, and other networking events. Participants at WLA events are expected to drink responsibly. WLA and venue staff have the right to deny service to attendees for any reason and may require an attendee to leave the event.

Individuals who violate any of the above policies may face expulsion from the conference function or the conference overall and will not be allowed to attend in-person WLA conferences for a period as determined by the Executive Committee of the WLA Board of Directors.

Approved by the WLA Board of Directors 7/12/2024

WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

October 28–31, 2025

Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI

Theme: “Be the Change”

The WLA Annual Conference brings together hundreds of library professionals from across Wisconsin to learn, share, and connect. From inspiring keynotes to innovative breakout sessions, this is the place to be bold, be inspired, and be the change.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- 55+ breakout sessions for every type of library and role
- Networking opportunities with peers from across the state
- Vendor exhibits featuring products, services, and tools for your library
- Poster sessions showcasing innovative ideas

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Sandra Hirsh

Associate Dean, San José State University, expert on AI & the future of libraries



Michael Hall

NYT bestselling author/illustrator (My Heart Is Like a Zoo)



Jane Hamilton

Acclaimed author & library advocate



Rachel D. Williams

Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina, researcher on trauma-informed librarianship & social justice



Cassy Leeport

Director of TLAM, UW–Madison, advocate for tribal libraries and archives



MORE THAN A CONFERENCE— AN EXPERIENCE!

From inspiring keynotes and breakout sessions to tours, receptions, and unique local experiences, WLA 2025 offers opportunities to learn, connect, and celebrate beyond the conference floor.



SPECIAL EVENTS & EXTRAS

- 👑 Miss Wisconsin kicks off the Opening Session
- 🎃 Halloween-themed Opening Reception — costumes welcome!
- 🚐 Bookmobile & Bikemobile tours
- 🏢 Pre-conference tour at Epic Systems
- 🏆 Awards & Honors Banquet celebrating Wisconsin library leaders
- 🧘 Morning Yoga to recharge before sessions
- 😊 WLA Foundation Trivia Night for some friendly competition
- 🌭 Tour the National Mustard Museum — a quirky local favorite!



Miss Wisconsin 2025
Willow Newell Opening Session



Epic Systems
Campus Visit

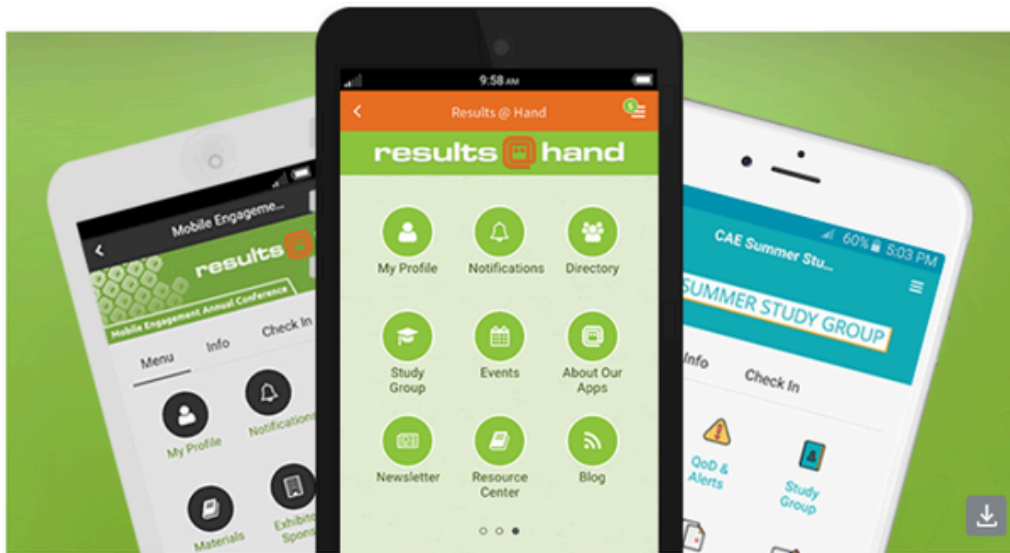


National Mustard
Museum Visit

WLA CONFERENCE APP

Don't Miss a Beat!

Download the **WLA Events App** to prepare for the **WLA Annual Fall Conference 2025**.
Resources, sessions, notifications... all at your fingertips!



Access Anytime from the Web!

You can also access the app from your web browser. Just visit the following URL to get the app on your smartphone, tablet, or PC: <https://app.resultsathand.com/wla>

Web app works on most browsers (current version), including: Google Chrome, Firefox, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge

Getting Started with the App

Sign in with the email address you used for registration. After entering your email address, create a passcode to secure your profile.

Using the App for the Conference

Members: To access the WLA Annual Fall Conference 2025 event, tap the "Events" icon on the homescreen. Locate the WLA Annual Fall Conference 2025 event from the listing and tap to open.

Non-Members: Upon login, you will access the WLA Annual Fall Conference 2025 immediately.

2025 Awards & Honors Recipients

Library of the Year

Appleton Public Library

WLA/Demco® Librarian of the Year

Alison Loewen, Youth Services Librarian, Mead Public Library

Paralibrarian of the Year

Jennifer Melchi, Adult Services Librarian, Burlington Public Library

Special Service Award

Teri DeVoe, Associate Deputy Director, IMLS

Muriel Fuller Award

Jamie Matczak, Education Consultant, Wisconsin Valley Library Service

WLA/WEMTA Intellectual Freedom Award

Jone Davis, Library Media Specialist, Northland Pines School District

2025 Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame

Steve Platteter (April 24, 1961-February 27, 2025)

Marge Loch-Wouters

Michael Gelhausen

2025 Literary Awards

Children's Book Award Committee Honors

Elizabeth Burr/Sheridan Worzalla Award

Dragonfruit
by Makiia Lucier

The list of Outstanding Books of the Year can be found at wisconsinlibraries.org.

Notable Wisconsin Author

Aaron Boyd

Literary Award Committee Honors

WLA Literary Award (Nonfiction)

Green World by Michelle Ephraim

WLA Literary Award (Fiction)

Monsters We Have Made by Lindsey Starck

WLA Literary Award (Poetry)

Architect by Alison Thumel

Notable Wisconsin Authors & Illustrators

Jacquelyn Mitchard
Patrick Rothfuss
Robin Wall Kimmerer

The list of Outstanding Achievement Awards can be found at wisconsinlibraries.org.

Exhibit Hall
Entrance

Exhibit Hall Map and Key

Registration

Stage
→

Booth	Exhibitor	Booth	Exhibitor
1	Visit Middleton Table	33	RMC Imaging Inc.
7	ISG	34	Meucci & Company
8	Wisconsin Library Association Foundation	35	Cooperative Children's Book Center & DPI
9	Library Furniture International	36	HGA
10	UW-Milwaukee School of Information Studies	39	Reader Zone
11	Wisconsin Library Association Head Table	40	Tech Logic Corporation
13	PBS Wisconsin Education	41	OverDrive
14	z Space	42	WI College Savings Program, Edvest 529
16	Engberg Anderson, Inc.	43	TLC - The Library Corporation
17	FEH Design	44	The Penworthy Company
18	WiLS	45	Ingram Library Services
20	Libraria (formerly known as Children's Plus, Inc)	46	UW-Madison Information School
21	OPN Architects	47	Focus on Energy
25	Recollection Wisconsin	48	Little Creek Press
27	Auto-Graphics, Inc., A Soutron Global Company	49	Maris Associates
28	EBSCO Information Services	50	Touch2Play/Kidzpace Interactive
29	Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance	51	ABDO Books
30	Midwest Tape/Hoopla Digital	54	ELM USA Disc Repair
31	NewsBank Inc.	55	Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library
32	Murphy Security Solutions	56	J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue
		57	Scholastic Library Publishing

2025 WLA Conference – Exhibitor Directory

This directory highlights the exhibitors for the 2025 WLA Conference. Vendors are listed alphabetically with booth numbers, contact information, and descriptions. For a full listing of exhibit categories, please refer to the official digital program.

ABDO Books

Booth: 51

8000 W. 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55439-2534

abdobooks.com

Onsite Representative: Michele Gillman

Email: mgillman@abdobooks.com

Phone: 952.234.1068

Categories: Children's Books/Materials, Online Databases for Reference, Online Encyclopedia Databases, Reference Materials

ABDO is a leader in children's PreK-12 educational publishing for school and public libraries providing the best in reading and research for children and young adults while delivering unsurpassed customer service.

Auto-Graphics, Inc., A Soutron Global Company

Booth: 27

15218 Summit Ave, Ste. 300
PO Box 240
Fontana, CA 92336

www.auto-graphics.com

Onsite Representative: Alan Mask

Email: alan.mask@soutron.com

Phone: 608.797.2284

Categories: Library Automation

Auto-Graphics, Inc. has been an industry leader in ILS and ILL software for 50 years.

Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) & the Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

Booth: 35

401 Teacher Education Building
225 N. Mills Street
Madison, WI 53706

Onsite Representative: Merri Lindgren

Email: ccbcinfo@education.wisc.edu

Phone: 608.263.3720

Categories: Education

The CCBC is a Wisconsin state library and examination center focused on children's and young adult literature. The Bureau of Libraries serves as Wisconsin's State Library Administrative Agency and works to empower Wisconsin's libraries to best serve their communities' needs

EBSCO Information Services

Booth: 28

10 Estes Street
Ipswich, MA 01938
www.ebsco.com

Onsite Representative: Mara Eggherman
Email: megherman@ebsco.com
Phone: 603-573-6313

Categories: Databases, Subscription Services

EBSCO is a leading provider of online research content and AI-enabled search technologies for libraries, healthcare, corporations and government agencies.

ELM USA Disc Repair

Booth: 54

1609 Barclay Blvd.
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
www.elm-usa.com

Onsite Representative: Gary Ingles
Email: gingles@elm-usa.com
Phone: 847-922-1797

Categories: DVDs & Videos

Introducing our New ECO-Fusion Disc Repair Machine

Engberg Anderson, Inc.

Booth: 16

320 E Buffalo Street, Ste 500
Milwaukee, WI 53202
<https://www.engberganderson.com>

Onsite Representative: Alex Ramsey
Email: alexr@engberganderson.com
Phone: 414-336-5343

Categories: Architecture & Design

Founded in 1987, Engberg Anderson is an architecture, planning, and interior design firm with offices in Milwaukee, Madison, & Chicago.

FEH Design

Booth: 17

951 Main Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
www.fehdesign.com

Onsite Representative: Christy Monk
Email: christym@fehdesign.com
Phone: 563.583.4900

Categories: Architecture & Design

FEH Design is an architecture, interior design and structural engineering firm specializing in libraries with offices in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, Dubuque, Des Moines and Sioux City Iowa.

Focus on Energy

Booth: 47

725 West Park Avenue
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

focusonenergy.com

Onsite Representative: David Voss

Email: david.voss@focusonenergy.com

Phone: 715-720-2166

Categories: Consultants

Focus on Energy is Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable resource program, helping residents and businesses save energy, reduce costs, and promote sustainability through financial and technical support.

HGA

Booth: 36

333 E. Erie Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

www.hga.com

Onsite Representative: Kim Workman

Email: kworkman@hga.com

Phone: 715-781-2382

Categories: Architecture & Design, Engineers, Interior Design

HGA is a national interdisciplinary design firm rooted in architecture and engineering.

Ingram Library Services

Booth: 45

14 Ingram Blvd
La Vergne, TN 37086

<https://www.ingramcontent.com/>

Onsite Representative: Brette Dorris

Email: brette.dorris@ingramcontent.com

Phone: 210-831-0552

Ingram Library Services empowers libraries with curated collections, cataloging, processing, and ordering tools tailored to meet diverse patron and operational needs.

ISG

Booth: 7

6465 Wayzata Blvd, Suite 970
St. Louis Park, MN 56001

<https://www.isginc.com/>

Onsite Representative: Tanya Pierce

Email: tanya.pierce@isginc.com

Phone: 952.426.0699

Categories: Architecture & Design, Engineers, Interior Design

Architecture + Engineering + Environmental + Planning

J&R Aquatic Animal Rescue

Booth: 56

976 American Drive, Ste 1

Neenah, WI 54956

www.JRAAR.org

Onsite Representative: John Moyles

Email: Adoptions@jraar.org

Phone: 920.419.8839

Categories: Children's Programs

Wisconsin's largest exotic pet rescue, rehoming unwanted animals, promoting responsible ownership, and protecting wildlife through statewide surrender events, adoptions, and educational programs.

Libraria (formerly known as Children's Plus, Inc)

Booth: 20

1387 Dutch American Way

Beecher, IL 60401

<https://www.libraria.com/>

Onsite Representative: Linda Peterson

Email: lindap@libraria.com

Phone: 708-803-6000

Categories: Book Jobber/Wholesaler, Books, Children's Books/Materials, Distributor, DVDs & Videos, Reference Materials, Video & DVD

Welcome to Libraria, the next chapter in bookselling. Formerly Children's Plus, Inc., we partner with thousands of publishers to provide the most options and highest fill rates. Experience unparalleled service and selection with Libraria.

Library Furniture International

Booth: 9

797 Glenn Ave.

Wheeling, IL 60074

<https://libraryfurnitureinternational.com/>

Onsite Representative: Henry Fairbanks

Email: henry@libraryfurniture-intl.com

Phone: 847.567.2892

Categories: Furniture, Shelving, Interior Design

Library Furniture International (LFI) partners with libraries, schools, and universities to provide custom furniture and shelving solutions. Services include design, planning, and project management through installation and post-install support.

Little Creek Press

Booth: 48

5341 Sunny Ridge Rd
Mineral Point, WI 53565-8882

www.littlecreekpress.com

Onsite Representative: Kristin Gilpatrick, KLG Marketing

Email: kristing@littlecreekpress.com

Phone: 414.755.9444

Categories: Publishers

We are a trusted independent publishing partner for passionate Wisconsin storytellers that helps a community of inspired authors bring their stories to life.

Maris Associates

Booth: 49

3175 Willowgate Pass
Colgate, WI 53017-9346

Maris Dambekaln

Onsite Representative: Maris Dambekaln

Email: dambekaln@charter.net

Phone: 262.628.1926

Categories: Audio Materials, Books, Children's Books/Materials, Databases, Publishers, Reference Materials

Books and digital resources.

Meucci & Company (for DPI information Technology Education Grant)

Booth: 34

<https://www.itedgrantwisconsin.com/>

Onsite Representative: Tyra Harris

Email: tyra@meucciandco.com

Phone: 202.203.9292

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §115.455, The Wisconsin Information Technology Education Grant, authorized by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), was established to provide opportunities for public school students in grades 6 to 12, technical college district students, and patrons of public libraries to build digital literacy, enhance foundational computer science skills and to obtain industry leading technology certifications. The recurring grant process is completed on an annual basis by DPI. Meucci & Company manages this grant for the 2025-2026 grant year.

Midwest Tape/Hoopla Digital

Booth: 30

1417 Timberwolf Drive
Holland, OH 43528

<http://midwesttape.com/?cb=aWwLvtYI0S>

Onsite Representative: Mark Hobrath

Email: mhobrath@midwesttapes.com

Phone: 419.279.9594

Categories: Audio Materials, Books, Children's Books/Materials, Distributor, DVDs & Videos, Reference Materials

We provide audio/visual materials to public libraries as well as a robust collection of audiobooks, ebooks, and more!

Murphy Security Solutions

Booth: 32

8753 W. Cermak Road
North Riverside, IL 60546

<https://www.murphysecuritysolutions.com/>

Onsite Representative: Michael Perez

Email: mperez@murphysecuritysolutions.com

Phone: 773.209.1682

Categories: RFID, Self-check

Murphy Security Solutions also offers a complete range of RFID Intelligent Library Solutions to all public and academic libraries. Murphy Security Solutions is an authorized distributor for D-Tech International RFID Library Systems. We also offer a full line of D-Tech's award winning Library RFID lending and vending unit solutions to enhance a library's day to day operations and to better serve the library's patron needs.

NewsBank inc.

Booth: 31

5801 Pelican Bay Blvd
Suite 600
Naples, FL 34108

www.newsbank.com

Onsite Representative: Kristie Glascock

Email: kglascock@newsbank.com

Phone: 843-343-6134

Categories: Online Information

NewsBank, inc. has been a premiere provider of the world's largest repository of reliable information for more than 50 years. Since October 4, 1972, NewsBank's comprehensive resources have met the diverse research needs of public libraries, colleges and universities, schools, military and government libraries, and professionals around the world.

OPN Architects

Booth: 21

301 N Broom Street, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53703

<https://www.opnarchitects.com/>

Onsite Representative: Brett Rottinghaus

Email: brottinghaus@opnarchitects.com

Phone: (608) 819-0841

Categories: Architecture & Design, Architecture & Design, Engineers, Interior Design

OPN Architects is a Madison-based architecture and interior design firm with more than 30 years of experience planning and designing libraries that elevate communities.

OverDrive

Booth: 41

One OverDrive Way
Cleveland, OH 44125
<https://company.overdrive.com>

Onsite Representative: Katie Strong
Email: kstrong@overdrive.com
Phone: 608.575.3509

Categories: Books, Distributor

OverDrive empowers libraries by expanding access for all to an industry-leading catalog of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and streaming media.

PBS Wisconsin Education

Booth: 13

975 Observatory Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

pbswisconsineducation.org

Onsite Representative: Jami Hoekstra Collins
Email: jami.hoekstra@pbswisconsin.org
Phone: 608-320-3098

Categories: Education

PBS Wisconsin Education creates and curates free-to-use, standards-aligned, Wisconsin-focused educational media for grades PreK-12. From videos to games to practical professional learning events, PBS Wisconsin Education serves adults and learners in classrooms, libraries, virtual environments, and neighborhoods. PBS Wisconsin is one of more than 330 PBS member stations, a public service touted as America's largest classroom.

Reader Zone

Booth: 39

947 E Winding Creek Dr, Ste 200
Eagle, ID 83616

ReaderZone.com

Onsite Representative: Jake Ball
Email: jake@reader.zone
Phone: 208.353.1000

Categories: Program Resources

Reader Zone helps libraries create and host high-engagement reading programs for patrons of all ages.

RMC Imaging Inc

Booth: 33

780 Creek Bluff Lane
Rockford, IL 61114

stimaging.com

Onsite Representative: Bob Czechowicz
Email: stviewscan57@gmail.com
Phone: 708-309-9597

Categories: Microform/Microform Equipment

Scholastic Library Publishing

Booth: 57

1030 O'Ryan Trail North

West Lakeland, MN 55082

scholastic.com/librarypublishing

Onsite Representative: Gabe Flynn

Email: gabeflynn@yahoo.com

Phone: 651.303.3460

Categories: Children's Books/Materials, Online Databases for Reference, Online Encyclopedia Databases, Reference Materials

Scholastic Library Publishing offers the BEST digital programming for libraries like BookFlix, TrueFlix, ScienceFlix, Watch & Learn, Teachables, and Scholastic GO!

Tech Logic Corporation

Booth: 40

835 Hale Avenue North

Oakdale, MN 55128

tech-logic.com

Onsite Representative: Tim Lawson

Email: tlawson@tech-logic.com

Phone: 651-308-5743

Categories: Automation, RFID, Self-check, Security, Library Automation, RFID, Self-check

Tech Logic provides solutions that automate workflows throughout the library. Because we focus exclusively on library technology, we bring a level of customization and service to libraries that inspires our customers to choose us year after year.

The Penworthy Company

Booth: 44

219 N. Milwaukee St

Milwaukee, WI 53202-5844

Penworthy Company

Onsite Representative: Nancy Stetzinger

Email: nancy.stetzinger@penworthy.com

Phone: 800.262.2665

Categories: Distributor

The Penworthy Company is the exclusive source of Penworthy Prebound Books, the most attractive and durable children's library books on the market, educational themes STEAM kits, and Stay Sharp kits for seniors.. At Penworthy we believe in extraordinary quality, expert selection and exceptional service.

TLC - The Library Corporation

Booth: 43

Research Park

Inwood, WV 25428

www.tlcdelivers.com

Onsite Representative: Tami Solum

Email: tsolum@tlcdelivers.com

Phone: 507-993-3732

Categories: Library Automation

The Library Corporation is a woman-owned, international technology company with industry-leading support, providing enterprise software systems, hardware solutions, and data services that are trusted by more than 5,500 libraries and media centers worldwide.

Touch2Play/Kidzpace Interactive

Booth: 50

55 Sandford Fleming Drive

Collingwood, ON L9Y 5A6

<https://touch2play.com/touch2play-libraries/>

Onsite Representative: Dave Meyer

Email: dma@chorus.net

Phone: 608-347-9184

Categories: Children's Programs, Education, Literacy

Touch2Play and Kidzpace Interactive builds a variety of activities and games for all ages for use in public spaces. Libraries are a perfect place for our systems are which are engaging, fun, durable and reliable!

UW-Madison Information School

Booth: 46

600 N Park Street

Madison, WI 53706-1403

ischool.wisc.edu

Onsite Representative: Merideth Lowe

Email: mclowe@wisc.edu

Phone: 608-890-0364

Categories: Education

Master's degree, PhD and certificate programs, and continuing education for library and information professionals. Also offering Master of Science in Information and Bachelor's in Information Science programs!

UW-Milwaukee School of Information Studies

Booth: 10

PO Box 413

Milwaukee, WI, WI 53201

ischool.uwm.edu

Onsite Representative: Julie Walker

Email: walkerjs@uwm.edu

Phone: 414.704.0175

Categories: Education

UWM's School of Information Studies is committed to shaping the future of library science & information technology through innovation and inquiry, connecting humans to the information we use daily.

WI College Savings Program, Edvest 529

Booth: 42

4822 Madison Yards Way

Madison, WI 53705

<https://dfi.wi.gov/Pages/EducationalServices/CollegeSavingsCareerPlanning/CollegeSavingsProgram.aspx>

Onsite Representative: Chelsea Wunnicke

Email: chelsea.wunnicke@dfi.wisconsin.gov

Phone: 847-533-3675

Categories: Government Information, Program Resources

Administered by the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, the Wisconsin 529 College Savings Program works to increase awareness of Wisconsin's 529 College Savings Plan Edvest 529. We partner with libraries across Wisconsin to engage youth and families to help them understand how saving even a small amount with a 529 plan can positively impact a child's higher-education aspirations and reduce their debt burden. Visit us for an outreach kit!

WiLS

Booth: 18 & 25

1360 Regent St #121

Madison, WI 53715

wils.org

Onsite Representative: Andi Coffin

Email: acoffin@wils.org

Phone: 608-218-4480

Categories: Distributor, Digital Scanning & Preservation, Databases, Genealogy/Local Histories, Consultants, Consortium

WiLS is a non-profit organization with over 700 members that facilitates collaborative services to save our community time and money and advance library service.

Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA)

Booth: 29

1414 MacArthur Rd.

Madison, WI 53714

<https://wisconsincaregiver.org/>

Onsite Representative: Byn Ceman

Email: bryn.ceman@gwaar.org

Phone: 920.290.2229

Categories: Program Resources

The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) is a grassroots coalition of family caregivers, professionals, advocates, and educators working together to strengthen support for Wisconsin families. We believe that family caregivers are the backbone of our care system, providing critical support to older adults and people of all ages with disabilities. Our Alliance brings diverse voices together to: Address the needs of family caregivers across the state. Improve coordination of resources to make caregiving easier and more sustainable. Increase access to services and supports for caregivers and their loved ones. Advance policies and partnerships that ensure families can thrive into the future. Through collaboration and advocacy, we aim to build a Wisconsin where every family caregiver has the recognition, resources, and respect they deserve.

Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library

Booth: 55

813 W Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

<http://dpi.wi.gov/talkingbooks>

Onsite Representative: Beth Voecks

Email: BCVoeck@milwaukee.gov

Phone: 414.286.3045

Categories: Audio Materials

The Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library (WTBBL) provides audiobooks and Brailled materials to persons, living in Wisconsin, who cannot read or use regular print materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations.

zSpace, Inc.

Booth: 14

2050 Gateway Place, Suite 100-302
San Jose, CA 95134

<https://zspace.com/>

Onsite Representative: Carolyn Gosz

Email: cgosz@zspace.com

Phone: 901-355-3244

Categories: Audio Visual Equipment/Systems

zSpace is a leading evidence-based augmented/virtual reality (AR/VR) platform providing innovative hands-on, experiential learning to improve achievement in STEM, CTE, and Career Readiness.

Tuesday 10/28/2025

12:00 PM 3:00 PM

SRLAAW Business Meeting

Salons F & G

1:00 PM 3:00 PM

Pre-Conference Tour of Epic Systems Software Company (pre-registration required)

3:00 PM 6:00 PM

Conference Registration Open

Conference Center Foyer

3:30 PM 4:30 PM

Exhibitor Pre-Conference Meeting

Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

4:00 PM 6:00 PM

WLA Board Dinner Meeting

Middleton Room

6:00 PM 8:00 PM

Halloween Themed Opening Reception - Costumes Welcome

Exhibit Hall - Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

Wed 10/29/2025

7:00 AM 5:00 PM

Conference Registration Open

Conference Center Foyer

7:00 AM 7:00 PM

Special Business Meetings

Middleton Board Room

7:00 AM 7:30 AM

Morning Yoga

Greenway Room

7:15 AM 8:45 AM

Past President's Breakfast

Middleton Room

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

7:30 AM 8:30 AM

Breakfast Served

Exhibit Areas

7:30 AM 8:30 AM

Exhibit Hall Open

Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

8:30 AM 4:00 PM

Poster Sessions

(complete listing of Poster Sessions can be found at the end of this agenda)

Greenway Room

8:45 AM 9:45 AM

Welcome and Keynote Speaker Dr. Sandra Hirsh - Shaping What's Next: Key Visions from Library 2035: Imagining the Next Generation of Libraries

Superior Room

Dr. Sandra Hirsh, Associate Dean, College of Information, Data and Society, and Special Advisor to the Provost on AI Curricular Initiatives, San Jose State University

What might the library of 2035 look like - and how can we start building it today? Drawing from the book *Library 2035: Imagining the Next Generation of Libraries*, this session explores the key themes and bold ideas shaping the future of our field. From ethical integration of artificial intelligence to global collaboration, climate resilience, and inclusive design, these visions offer a hopeful, practical roadmap for libraries as agents of equity, innovation, and connection. This presentation will explore scenarios, emerging practices, and opportunities that illustrate how libraries might evolve in response to changing community needs and global challenges. Whether you're just beginning your career or leading a system, this session will help you see your work as part of a shared global future.

Dr. Sandra Hirsh is Associate Dean of Academics in the College of Information, Data and Society and Special Advisor to the Provost on AI Curricular Initiatives at San Jose State University (SJSU). She previously served as professor and director of the SJSU School of Information and worked at HP Labs, Microsoft, and LinkedIn. She is a past president of the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) and the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T). She is currently serving as Chair of the International Relations Round Table in the American Library Association. She co-founded and co-chairs the global virtual Library 2.0 conference series. Her textbook *Information Services Today: An Introduction*, 3rd Edition, is used in many LIS programs. Her latest book about the future of libraries, *Library 2035: Imagining the Next Generation of Libraries*, was published by Rowman & Littlefield in March 2024. She holds a bachelor's degree and Ph.D. from UCLA and an MLIS degree from the University of Michigan.

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

10:00 AM 11:00 AM

Meet and Greet Miss Wisconsin and Visit our Exhibitors

Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

11:00 AM 12:00 PM

Unlocking the Secrets: Exploring Break in Bags and Mystery Kits

Salon A

Maura Flanagan, Amanda Hyland

Looking for fun, low-cost ways to boost library engagement for teens, adults, and families? Join us to explore two adaptable passive programs: Break In Bags/Kits and Take-Home Mystery Kits. Break In Bags/Kits offer escape room-style puzzles that promote STEAM, literacy, and problem-solving, ideal for individuals or small groups at home or in the library. Take-Home Mystery Kits let patrons become detectives, using logic to solve cases. This session will walk you through planning, creating, and promoting these kits, with examples and tips to adapt them for your library size and budget. Leave inspired and ready to create your own!

Preparing for ADA Compliance: Website Accessibility for Public Libraries and Librarians

Salon B & C

Erica Brewster

Library websites and online resources serve as our digital “buildings,” and the U.S. Department of Justice will require all these resources to be accessible to those who cannot see screens, hear audio, or use a mouse. In this session, participants will explore means of achieving full ADA website compliance. Attendees will view examples accessible versus inaccessible pages using screen readers and keyboard navigation. They will be introduced to methods of maintaining accessible website content, including creating accessible images, adding alternative text, and authoring compliant documents. Attendees will leave with guidelines and resources to enhance their library’s online accessibility.

Notable Reports Panel: Recent Library Trends, Data, and Discoveries

Salon D

Kristina Gomez, Kayla Mathson, Renee Anhalt

Each year, a number of new reports about public libraries are produced by organizations like ALA, Library Journal, various colleges and universities, and others. These reports contain valuable information that can help us do our jobs better but, unfortunately, not everyone has the time to read each one. The aim of this panel is to help attendees get an overview of a few of those reports and the implications for our work in libraries. Each panelist will share a summary of reports they believe are significant and discuss the broad and practical implications for their libraries.

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

Appy Ever After: Blending Digital and Hands-on Play

Salon E

Jami Hoekstra Collins, Carissa Christner

Ready to be the change in your library's approach to digital play? Join Carissa Christner (Madison Public Library) and Mouna Algahaihi (PBS Wisconsin) for a hands-on, app-powered adventure. Explore a curated selection of high-quality apps for children, play with them yourself (bring a smartphone or tablet!), and discover surprising and creative ways that apps can pair with hands-on activities. You'll leave with a list of recommended apps, practical strategies for blending digital and physical play - both in the library and for families to try at home, and a fresh perspective on how libraries can be leaders in early media literacy and media mentorship.

Games Are Not Optional: Addressing the Priority (and Gaps) of Games-Based Library Services

Salon F

David McHugh, Chris Baker

The economic and social impacts of games (board, video, TTRPGs, card games, and more) are hard to overestimate, with the video game industry alone accounting for more revenue than music and film combined. Despite such cultural impact and popularity, games-based library services are, unfortunately, rarely prioritized within professional library training programs (like MLIS's and MLS's) or professional development opportunities. The bottom line? Games are essential components of modern library services - not "optional extras". This session aims to help librarians bridge that gap.

Participants (gamers and non-gamers alike) will leave with practical examples and strategies for developing sustainable games collections and programming. All things considered, Wisconsin is uniquely well positioned to lead national work in the games + libraries space, allowing Wisconsin librarians to tap into both statewide and national resource networks. Join us to "Be the Change" by transforming how the field understands and supports this crucial aspect of modern librarianship.

Introducing the Intellectual Freedom Toolkit

Salon G & H

Hannah Good Zima, Chrstinna Swearingen, Rosemary Froeliger

In an era of growing challenges to library collections, programs, and policies, equipping library staff and stakeholders with the right tools is more critical than ever. This session offers an introduction to the WLA Intellectual Freedom Toolkit, a comprehensive resource developed by the Wisconsin Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee. Designed for librarians, trustees, and community members, the Toolkit provides practical guidance and curated resources to help navigate intellectual freedom issues across all types of libraries. Whether you're responding to material challenges, defending access, or fostering informed dialogue, the Toolkit supports you in upholding the core values of librarianship in your local context. Join us to learn how this essential resource can help your library not just survive - but stand strong in support of intellectual freedom.

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

The Next Chapter: A Community Conversation About Public Humanities in Wisconsin
Green Bay/Milwaukee

Laura Damon-Moore, Dena Wortzel

Join staff and board members from Wisconsin Humanities in a participatory conversation about the future of the public humanities in our state. As Wisconsin Humanities prepares to enter a period of hibernation due to funding cuts, library staff in programming, community engagement and outreach, youth services, and administration are invited to reflect on the crucial role that humanities initiatives play in Wisconsin communities and libraries, and to discuss together what the future of the public humanities could look like.

12:00 PM 1:00 PM

Non YSS Attendee Lunch

Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

12:00 PM 1:00 PM

YSS Luncheon with Author Michael Hall "NYT Best Selling Author and Illustrator (My Heart is Like a Zoo)"

Superior Room

Picture Change

You won't want to miss this exclusive session on a special picture book that is both a tribute to librarians and a celebration of democracy, as Michael Hall again seeks to advocate for change.

Michael Hall is the author/illustrator of the New York Times bestseller, *My Heart is Like a Zoo*, as well as the critically acclaimed *Perfect Square*, *It's an Orange Aardvark*, *Red: A Crayon's Story*, and *Frankencrayon*. Before becoming a children's author, Michael was an award-winning graphic designer whose work has been widely recognized for its simple and engaging approach. Michael lives with his wife, Debra Kelley, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

1:15 PM 2:15 PM

More is More: Enhancing All-Ages Programming Through Department Collaboration

Salon A

Liz Zimdars, Katie Ganser

This session explores how public libraries can design and deliver successful all-ages programs by leveraging the unique strengths of staff in all departments. Presenters will share real-world examples, practical strategies, and lessons learned from collaborative initiatives that broke down silos and boosted participation, creativity, and impact. Whether you're looking to launch your first cross-department program or improve existing efforts, you'll come away with tools to build stronger internal partnerships and create inclusive, enriching experiences for patrons of all ages.

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

Books Are Not Obsolete: Reimagining Collection Promotion to Transform Your Community Engagement

Salon B & C

Angela Hursh, Melissa Beck

As libraries face increasingly dramatic challenges, they have a unique opportunity to leverage their collections to foster deeper community connections and redefine their value. Surveys by the American Library Association reveal that access to books and reading materials remain the top reasons people obtain library cards, with U.S. public libraries circulating 1.48 billion items or more each year. This session will explore how libraries can strategically use their collections to draw users in and guide them toward other valuable services and resources, demonstrating that books are not obsolete but are central to a library's mission.

Planning for People: Renovating a Library with the Community and Staff

Salon D

Colleen Rortvedt, Tasha Saecker, Jason Fisher

The Appleton Public Library recently undertook a transformative renovation of its 1981 structure after 17 years of failed attempts. This program features Lead Architect Jason Fisher, of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Library Assistant Director Tasha Saecker, and Library Director Colleen Rortvedt to share their insights on:

- Adapting to obstacles and developing alignment with the local municipality, trustees, friends, and stakeholders, which resulted in a successful project.
- Maintaining operational continuity while downsizing and moving to two temporary libraries.
- Balancing a big picture vision and adhering to institutional values while balancing workflow, staff needs, and furnishings.
- Finding solutions to design challenges that result in a beautiful and functional space.

Better Together: Real-World Collaborations That Lighten the Load

Salon E

Abby Armour, Peter Blenski

"Collaboration" is more than a buzzword - it's a practical strategy that enhances library services while reducing budget constraints and improving community engagement. Drawing from their experiences at Mukwonago Community Library and Pewaukee Public Library, presenters Abby Armour and Peter Blenski will demonstrate how shared programming distributes costs while expanding reach. Examples include collaborative storytimes, Mukwonago's educational rain garden project with local government, and Pewaukee's creation of a Village anniversary Facebook page that became the municipality's permanent social media presence. This session inspires attendees with diverse partnership examples and sparks ideas for collaborations adaptable to each library's unique needs and resources.

Embracing Change: Rethinking Public Library Standards for the Future

Salon F

Jeni Schomber, Teresa Schmidt

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

At the 2025 WAPL conference we reviewed the current Public Library Standards, and reflected on how they fit into the changing ways libraries evaluate their services. Recognizing that the standards may not fit every library's needs, DPI is undertaking a process to update the current standards and integrate modern data and planning tools. Join Wisconsin Library Services Team staff in this interactive discussion to discover how you can play a vital role in helping address what is missing from the standards, including youth and inclusive services, and develop additional resources that support libraries as they plan for the future.

Notable Books (and More) Marathon

Salon G & H

Jean Anderson, Sara Gold, Amy Lutzke, Sarah Read

The Notable Books panel is expanding our reach beyond the ALA Notable List. The four librarian panel will highlight titles from the current WLA Literary Award Committee's Outstanding List, the ALA Notable List, or an Award list of their choosing. Come and hear about award winning books to add to your library's collection and your TBR.

Building Strong Library Boards: Appointments & Composition

Green Bay/Milwaukee

Tracy Vreeke, Bradley Shipps

This session offers a practical overview of the library board's responsibilities related to personnel, with a focus on supporting the library director while respecting operational boundaries. Topics include the board's role in hiring, evaluating, and working with the director, guidance on disciplinary matters, the development of personnel policies, and appropriate interactions with library staff. Ideal for trustees and library leaders seeking to strengthen their understanding of governance and leadership in a collaborative environment.

2:15 PM 3:30 PM

Refreshment Break

Exhibit Areas and Outside of Salon D

3:30 PM 4:30 PM

Not Just Other Duties as Assigned: Lessons Learned in Mid-Career Librarian Leadership

Salon A

Alissa Fial

As the library profession continues to face the Great Resignation, libraries are undergoing an infusion of early-career librarians, and librarians may be placed in leadership positions, earlier than they expected. This research poster will focus on dos and don'ts on the lessons learned by a mid-career librarian being a newly appointed department head and managing the onboarding and development of several early-career librarians.

Key lessons to be shared:

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

Do: Seek guidance and external support.
Do: Learn to trust your instincts.
Do: Do the work to build trust.
Do: Model good communication practices.
Do not: Think you have all the answers.
Do not: Try to solve every problem.
Do not: Be afraid of making mistakes.

Library Hacks for (and from) the 'Tween Crowd

Salon B & C

Katie Ganser

Ready to level up your tween programming? Looking to bring more joy to your work with the middle grades? Just trying to figure out how to manage a room full of 9 to 12 year-olds? You're in the right place!

This session will bring practical strategies for working with the unique group that is; tween library patrons. We'll explore our goals for tween programming, share creative program ideas that work along with some cautionary tales, and discuss techniques for guiding the chaotic energy that tweens bring. Best of all, you'll hear from some of the kids themselves, who will share their experience in library programs. You'll leave this session motivated, empowered, and excited about diving deeper into the fun that is tween services!

At the Movies with Librarians

Salon D

Rachel Arndt, Erin Foley, Kim Dearth

A conference tradition! The panel will discuss books being made into movies slated for release in 2025 and early 2026. After enjoying exciting trailers, panelists will analyze how well (or poorly) these books may translate to the screen. Panelists will also rate films previewed at previous conferences.

Better Than "Normal": Assessing and Adapting to Changing Programming Needs in Youth Services

Salon E

Jennifer Wharton Wharton, Jessica Dowling Dowling

Are you struggling to get your storytimes back to normal? Are you frustrated by ever increasing demands for programming accompanied by lower attendance numbers and shrinking budgets? In this presentation, Youth Services Librarian Jennifer Wharton will explore how the Matheson Memorial Library has assessed its resources and the needs of the community, both before and after COVID, and moved to a new programming model that can be adapted to different communities.

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

From Initial Budget to Final Prizes: Transform Your Summer Library Program

Salon F

Alex LeClair

Since starting his position in 2019, registrations for the Summer Library Program in Lodi have increased 377%. Event participation has increased over 200% and the library routinely hands out over 100 final prizes in addition to the reading prizes. Discover how the pandemic set the stage for an ambitious new approach. Learn what has worked really well during this rise, what has not worked so well, and--perhaps most importantly--how the library pays for all of this.

Care Less: Change the Way You Work, Not the Work You Love

Salon G & H

Clairellyn Sommersmith, Angela Schneider, Nancy Bell

In the age where most people are aware of the damaging effects of stress, can feel burnout creeping in, and have been told too many times about self-care, comes a program that attempts to stop the problems before they exist. The panelists will come with real-world library-specific insights and experiences that encourage staff to “do less,” “care less,” “say no,” and “let it go.” It will offer resources to steal from and suggest opportunities to delegate. How do we create welcoming, caring libraries that do not fall victim to vocational awe and unsustainability.

Fighting for the Future: Libraries, Democracy, and Hope in a Politicized Landscape

Green Bay/Milwaukee

Nerissa Nelson

As libraries face intensifying political pressures from legislative threats to shifting public perception, how can library workers respond with integrity, courage, and vision? This session offers a space for reflection, dialogue, and action. We'll examine the current political landscape and explore realistic strategies for navigating it from any position within the library.

Participants will take part in a hands-on exercise, mapping where they have power, who they can collaborate with, and how they can push back against politicization in meaningful ways. Whether you're on the front lines or behind the scenes, this session will help you identify practical steps to rebuild trust, center library values, and be the change in your own context.

4:30 PM 5:30 PM

Visit With Exhibitors

Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

6:00 PM 8:00 PM

UW Madison iSchool Alumni Reception

Green Bay Room

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

7:00 PM 9:00 PM

WLA Foundation Trivia Contest

Michigan Room

The Popular WLA Foundation Fundraiser Trivia Contest hosted by Kris Turner.

Nacho buffet and cash bar.

Thursday 10/30/2025

7:00 AM 4:00 PM

Registration Opens

Conference Center Foyer

7:00 AM 6:00 PM

Special Business Meetings

Middleton Room

7:00 AM 7:30 AM

Morning Yoga

Greenway Room

7:30 AM 8:30 AM

YSS Breakfast Board Meeting

Middleton Room

7:30 AM 8:30 AM

Exhibit Hall Open

Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

7:30 AM 8:30 AM

Breakfast Served

Exhibit Areas

8:30 AM 4:00 PM

Poster Sessions

(complete listing of Poster Sessions can be found at the end of this agenda)

Greenway Room

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

8:45 AM 9:30 AM

Keynote Speaker: Rachel Williams: Transforming Libraries Through Trauma Informed Practices

Superior Room

Rachel Williams, Assistant Professor, School of Information Science University of South Carolina

Discover how trauma-informed librarianship can transform your library into a space of healing, support, and connection. Grounded in principles of safety, trust, and empowerment, trauma-informed librarianship reimagines the library as a space of care and connection. The session will define what it means to be trauma-informed, examine its implications for individual and organizational well-being, and offer evidence-based recommendations for fostering more responsive and resilient library environments.

Rachel D. Williams is an assistant professor in the School of Information Science at the University of South Carolina. Her research examines public library services for people in crisis. Williams' work addresses boundary work/boundary management, professionalization, social work skills, trauma-informed librarianship, and social justice. She also leverages virtual reality for understanding and developing training for communication skill development between library workers and patrons.

9:30 AM 10:00 AM

Annual Membership Meeting

Superior Room

9:45 AM 10:45 AM

Visit With Exhibitors

Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

10:45 AM 11:45 AM

Navigating Intellectual Freedom Challenges Together

Salon A

Christinna Swearingen, Sara Gold

Join the WLA Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group for an in-depth, collaborative discussion on the current intellectual freedom challenges facing Wisconsin communities. As intellectual freedom issues continue to evolve, finding the right response can be complex - shaped by community dynamics, local policies, and broader societal trends.

This interactive session will provide a supportive space for participants to learn from each other by sharing their experiences and engaging in meaningful dialogue. Together, participants will address pressing questions, reflect on challenges, and develop actionable strategies to protect and promote intellectual freedom within our communities. Whether

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

you're new to these issues or looking to deepen your approach, this session will offer valuable insights for all.

Indigenous Collection Stewardship for Libraries: Discovery to Repatriation

Salon B & C

Abby Armour

What happens when you discover Native American cultural items in your library's collection? Library Director Abby Armour shares Mukwonago Community Library's experience as one of only three public libraries nationally to repatriate Belongings under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)--and the first to do so more than once. Learn practical strategies for applying NAGPR in library settings, including understanding the law's scope, developing appropriate language, engaging boards, and addressing sensitive materials. Gain actionable strategies from one library's journey to honor cultural stewardship responsibilities while creating meaningful Tribal partnerships and strengthening community connections.

Policy of the Month Club

Salon D

Kristie Hauer, Clairellyn Sommersmith, Emily Rogers, Teresa Schmidt, Chris Baker

Keeping library policies updated is important for ensuring equitable and effective service - but with everything on a director's plate, it's easy for policy revisions to fall behind. Policy of the Month Club offers a structured, accessible way for library directors and policy writers to maintain strong, modernized policies without feeling overwhelmed.

Each month, participants receive a focused email covering a key policy topic, including background information, review tips, and practical guidance for revisions. A shared discussion platform allows library professionals to exchange examples, insights, and best practices, ensuring policies remain relevant and aligned with evolving library needs.

Join this session to learn how Policy of the Month Club can simplify policy maintenance and strengthen your library's foundation one month at a time. Let's make policy updates approachable, efficient, and impactful!

Rally the Resilience! Compassion Resilience for Wisconsin Libraries

Salon E

Jeni Schomber, Tracy Vreeke

What is Compassion Resilience and why is it so important for librarians and the communities they serve during times of uncertainty or distress? Compassion Resilience is the ability to maintain emotional, mental, and physical well-being while compassionately supporting others through the challenges of daily life. This interactive session will give an overview of the Compassion Resilience toolkit and provide resources for leadership and staff to understand, recognize, and minimize the experience of compassion fatigue. Increasing your compassion resilience builds joy and sustainability for the work of librarianship.

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

Ctrl+Alt+Library: Rethinking Tech Help as a Core Service - Melissa Donaldson

Salon F

Melissa Donaldson

Discover how Racine Public Library identified a growing community need and transformed basic tech help into a core library service. This presentation will explore the evolution from modes beginnings to the establishment of a dedicated department offering digital literacy classes, one-on-one tech appointments, and innovative programming. Learn how libraries can reimagine their role in bridging the digital divide and empowering patrons through accessible technology support.

Mapping Children's Play in Museums and Libraries

Salon G & H

Rebekah Willett, Carissa Christner, Ann Cooksey, Kia Karlen, Lynn Montague

This panel will focus on an IMLS project called Mapping Children's Play in Museums and Libraries, which is investigating different forms, purposes, materials and theoretical underpinnings of play that are supported in museums and libraries, specifically play offerings for children ages 0-12. This investigation is informing the development of a Diversity Audit Tool for practitioners to examine their play programs and spaces for Inclusion and Belonging considerations. The project has involved convening three Wisconsin-based Communities of Practice (CoPs) that include museums, libraries, and educators located in the same cities. The CoPs have been engaging in reflective practice to better understand and make decisions about supporting play in their institutions. The panel will be moderated by one of the project researchers and will consist of members of the CoP sharing reflections about their play programs; ways the CoP has supported reflecting about play programs, services, and approaches in their communities; and piloting the Diversity Audit Tool.

Let's Roll! Supporting Outreach and Engagement Through Mobile Services

Green Bay/Milwaukee

Jocelyne Sansing, Amy Perry

Join Jocelyne and Amy for a behind-the-scenes look at how the Middleton Public Library hit the road with its new bookmobile! Designed with librarians in mind, this session explores how we transformed big dreams and community needs into a fully operational mobile library that's delivering books, services, and smiles all over town. We'll share practical insights on planning, partnerships, funding, collection development, and outreach strategies - plus real stories from our first miles on the road. Whether you're bookmobile-curious or ready to start your own mobile journey, you'll leave inspired, informed, and ready to roll!

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

12:00 PM 1:00 PM

Lunch with Keynote Jane Hamilton "Award Winning Novelist and Former Library Board President"

Superior Room

Jane Hamilton: A Short History of a Small Library From A Novelist's Perspective

In 1980 I was appointed to the library board for our very small library which had no plumbing. The staff included a fierce ex-nun, a big hearted children's librarian who was under the impression that Beatrice Potter was still living, and an employee that did not want books in the library that had bad words such as damn. I was the board president for 25 years, my term ending when we at last read the by-laws, which said a board member could only have three consecutive 3 year terms. I'll talk about how trying to move the library into the 21st century dovetailed with my writing life, each feeding the other, and the various cast of characters that have informed my real and my writing life.

1:00 PM 2:30 PM

BookMobiles Tour

Onsite, in roped off area outside the Conference Center Entrance Doors

Has your library been considering taking the show on the road? To see what other libraries are doing, stop by the Thursday Tour of the Middleton and Madison Bookmobiles and 2 BikeMobiles. Pre-registration is required – This tour is now full. There is no cost for this event.

1:15 PM 2:15 PM

The Power of Small Libraries

Salon A

Nick Andrews

The presenter will highlight examples of small libraries partnering with nonprofit and community organizations in ways that enhance the reach and services provided by both. Both quantitative and qualitative examples of small libraries impact on their communities will be presented.

What do YOU Think? : Empowering your team to think and to act

Salon B & C

Michelle Dennis

Lots of management training resources say we need to "empower our staff." But what does that really mean? How do you really do it? From hiring the right people for the right job, to teaching, coaching, supporting, and correcting, Michelle will share experiences from her more than 40 years of leading people and building teams, and lead a discussion to help you discover *and share* your own power in management.

Overdue Wisdom: Library Leaders Share Their Best Advice and Hardest Lessons

Salon D

Laura Gest, Eric Robinson, Joy Schnupp, Betsy Bleck, Elizabeth Timmins

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

Join us for an engaging and heartfelt conversation with a panel of seasoned library professionals who've seen it all - from the quiet triumphs to the toughest challenges. In this candid session, these experienced leaders will share the management advice that guided them, the best wisdom they have ever received, and the hard-earned lessons that shaped their journeys. Whether you're just starting out or looking to grow as a library leader, you'll leave with insights, encouragement, and a few laughs along the way. Come for the stories and stay for the inspiration. Have questions or issues you need advice on? Email your questions in advance to Laura Gest LGest@hedbergpubliclibrary.org

Cultural Connections and Digital Collections: Engaging Patrons with Local History

Salon E

Shawn Brommer, Tamara Ramski

Digitized collections shed light on our past, connect us to the present, and provide inspiration for the future. Wisconsin library history is a rich one and in this presentation the speakers will highlight resources from Recollection Wisconsin and other statewide, regional, and national archives that help tell the library story and point the profession toward future possibilities. Presenters will highlight specific items of interest and provide examples of ways digitized materials can be used to enhance library programs, displays, and services.

Early Literacy Outreach Initiative at Waukesha Public Library

Salon F

Alyssa Pisarski

Staff at Waukesha Public Library partnered with laundromats to better serve families with children ages 0-5 who experience barriers visiting the library and began an innovative Early Literacy Outreach Initiative. With the help of system grant funding, library staff began an Early Literacy Outreach Initiative to reduce barriers to accessing early literacy programs and resources. Attendees at this program will learn about developing community partnerships, pursuing funding opportunities, learning from failure, and growing sustainably.

Level Up Your Adult Programming: Fresh Ideas for Your Library

Salon G & H

Jennie Bahnman, Khorye Huffman, Gloria Makris

Join Adult Services Librarians from the Bridges Library System as they share their most successful and community-building adult programs. From a lively After-Hours Book Mixer to a relaxing Houseplant Swap, a reflective Silent Book Club, and even a spicy Hot Talks with City Administrators, you'll leave with fresh ideas and proven strategies to energize your library's adult offerings and more!

Digital Friendship Bracelets: Putting the Social Back in Social Media

Green Bay/Milwaukee

Amber DeRuyter

This session will highlight how a non-profit, specifically a library, can create engaging content to draw in users both in person and online by highlighting their best assets,

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

themselves. We will explore the evolving role of libraries as digital facilitators in the modern world. Attendees will gain insights into the tools, techniques, and best practices for fostering online engagement and build a social media picture of who and what their library represents for their accounts.

Examples from the West Bend Community Memorial Library will be used to show how a social media account can become the most engaging protagonist.

2:30 PM 3:45 PM

Exhibitor Appreciation Wrap Up and Vendor Trivia Event with Prizes - Refreshment Break Provided

Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

3:45 PM 4:00 PM

WLA Foundation Raffle

Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

4:00 PM 5:00 PM

Small Town Cheap & Easy: 5 Programs Under \$10

Salon A

Kari Preuss

Small town librarians do not have the time or budget for lavish events. Imagine programs that cost you close to nothing? Unique and multi-generational, most of our programs have been running for years with minimal planning/effort from the staff. Kari will share her ideas for 25 minutes then put you in small groups to discuss your ideas/successes for additional programs. Together we can all be Small Town Cheap & Easy!

Navigating the World of Bilingual Children's Books

Salon B & C

Alex Schwier

Discuss evaluating multilingual children's books including current issues, identifying them, and tools to improve multilingual collections. Many children's libraries have a World Languages (or equivalent) section. While this is well-intended and bilingual books can provide value to multilingual families and language learners, there are common issues that reduce their effectiveness and can contribute to the perception of English as dominant or superior. These include but are not limited to poor quality translations, lack of cultural relevance (ex: translating popular European fairy tales instead of folk tales from the community who speaks the language), and positioning and sizing/text in each language. My presentation will summarize common challenges, using academic studies and community commentary, and provide suggestions for evaluating these books and improving multilingual collections. Key factors include supporting native-speaker and cultural insider voices, selecting books that treat languages equally, finding publishers dedicated to quality bilingual content, and reviewing community resources.

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

Stronger Together: Building Connections Among Friends of the Library Groups

Salon D

Kristen Mildenhall, Ken Martin, Cynthia Estelle, Liz Fayram

This panel will feature four members from area Friends of the Libraries groups who have actively participated in our regional Friends of the Library consortium. Ken Martin will discuss the impetus behind the formation of the consortium and how he successfully took it from that idea to the organization of the first gathering. Each panelist will then share how the consortium meetings have inspired new ideas, fostered organizational growth, highlighted areas for improvement, and provided opportunities to exchange both successes and challenges with peers. They will also discuss how collaboration through the consortium has strengthened relationships among supporting organizations and enhanced their collective impact. Specific examples of actionable ideas that emerged from the meetings, as well as adjustments made in both fundraising strategies and organizational administration, will be shared. The panel will conclude with an open Q&A session, allowing attendees to ask questions and explore how similar collaborations might benefit their own organizations.

Navigating the Legal Landscape: Records Retention, Open Records, and Open Meetings Laws

Salon E

Bradley Shipps, Teresa Schmidt

Understanding and adhering to records retention, open records requests, and open meetings laws is essential for library governance and transparency. This session will provide an overview of these legal requirements and offer practical guidance on how libraries can manage records effectively, respond to open records requests, and comply with open meetings laws. Whether you're a library director, staff member, or trustee, you'll gain the tools to ensure your library stays in compliance while promoting public trust and accountability.

Gaming Basics for Non-Gamer Librarians: How to Run Tabletop RPG Games

Salon F

Shannon Stoner

Learn the basics of running a Tabletop Role-Playing Game (Dungeons and Dragons, Pathfinder, etc). Learn what makes your character SPECIAL, how to handle combat, and how to make the world come alive.

Library Data Classroom: Taking Data Learning into the Real World

Salon G & H

Kim Kiesewetter, Joleen Sterk, Karen Hansen, Monica LaVold

Have you ever looked at data you found interesting and were unsure how to actually use it? Drawing from the experiences of two cohorts of WiLS Data Classroom experience, this presentation will focus on how to bridge the gap between data learning and data-driven decision-making in library contexts. The session will cover the concepts of data literacy, fluency, and confidence and ways that formal learning opportunities can facilitate their

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

development, especially when paired with opportunities for real world learning and practice. Panelists for this session have all participated in Data Classroom and carried out a variety of real world library data projects as part of their experiences.

Be the Change, Tell the Story: Empowering Libraries Through LGBTQ+ History Exhibits

Green Bay/Milwaukee

Vince Tripi

In a time when libraries are facing increasing scrutiny over inclusive content, Expanding Horizons offers a powerful way to uphold your library's mission while sparking authentic community engagement. This session explores how traveling LGBTQ+ history exhibits can act as accessible entry points for connection, learning, and resilience - particularly in public and academic settings. Attendees will gain insight into the practical and political context of implementing LGBTQ+ programming, including current legal trends, emerging community needs, and subtle ways to show solidarity even amid censorship attempts. We'll discuss how to leverage community partnerships, Friends of the Library groups, and quiet storytelling formats to support and defend access to diverse histories. Discover how to use exhibits to meet your patrons where they are and invite them into a broader story of equity, pride, and public purpose.

5:00 PM 6:00 PM

AWSL Social Event

Middleton Room

6:30 PM 8:30 PM

Awards and Honors Banquet

Superior & Michigan Rooms

Diner included; cash bar

Pre-registration required - \$45

Friday 10/31/2025

7:00 AM 7:30 AM

Morning Yoga

Greenway Room

7:00 AM 12:00 PM

Special Business Meetings

Middleton Room

7:30 AM 1:00 PM

Registration Opens

Conference Center Foyer

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

8:00 AM 12:00 PM

Poster Sessions

(complete listing of Poster Sessions can be found at the end of this agenda)

Greenway Room

8:00 AM 9:00 AM

WAPL Breakfast Business Meeting

Middleton Room

8:00 AM 9:00 AM

Breakfast with Keynote Cassy Leeport "Director of TLAM and UW Madison and Advocate for Tribal Libraries and Archives"

Superior Room

Cassy Leeport, Director of Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums (TLAM) Program at UW-Madison iSchool

Past, Present, and Sovereign: Tribal Libraries in (What We Now Call) Wisconsin

This presentation will explore the rich history of tribal libraries across the region now known as Wisconsin. In addition to tracing their origins and evolution, the presentation will highlight the impact of recent federal funding cuts, showcase innovative and community-centered programming, and examine the use of culturally relevant classification systems. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how tribal libraries serve as powerful hubs of cultural preservation, education, and community.

Cassy Leeport began her role as the Director of the TLAM (Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums) Program at UW-Madison in July 2023. Cassy holds a BA in Creative Writing from UW-Madison, a Masters in Library & Information Science from UW-Madison, and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. Before returning to Wisconsin, Cassy served as the Director of Library Services and Tribal Archives for Red Lake Nation College, Circulation Manager for Bemidji State University's Library, and Library Services Program Specialist for Minnesota Department of Education. Cassy is also a proud direct-descendant of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe in Northern Minnesota, mother of two, and enthusiast for all things arts & crafts.

9:15 AM 10:15 AM

Be the Change for for Access to Justice in Your Community

Salon A

Jaime Healy-Plotkin, Erica Nelson

Thanks to grant funding, LIFT Wisconsin is partnering with rural public libraries to host trainings and collaborate for resource sharing. This session aims to share information about being the change for access to justice for all members of the community. LIFT Wisconsin's offering for partnering is specifically aimed at rural communities in Wisconsin,

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

which makes up the majority of Wisconsin public libraries. Legal Tune Up is designed to help Wisconsinites identify and clear civil legal problems on their own or with help from trusted professionals. As a mobile first web-based application, it uses publicly available data (driver's license, criminal, eviction, court, and child support records) to help people identify and address legal needs. Low income individuals face the greatest challenges when it comes to accessing justice for civil legal barriers to their economic success which the Legal Tune Up tool seeks to address. In addition, the tool and the LIFT website are all available in Spanish.

Building and Maintaining Unique Youth Collections. A collaboration between youth and technical services.

Salon B & C

Jennifer Wharton, Lindsay Barnes

An overview of our unique collections, including picture book neighborhoods, young teen/middle school, and ready to read. We'll go into detail about how we worked together, and continue to collaborate, on building collections that meet our community's unique interests and needs. We'll also talk about making Dewey work for you, being flexible in updating collections, and regular maintenance outside of traditional weeding.

The Residency Remix: Creative Library Residency Models and Build Capacity and Spark Connection

Salon D

Kristina Gómez, Neeyati Shah, Michelle Herbrand

What happens when a library invites an expert to move in with big ideas and community passion? From entrepreneurs to naturalists to storytellers, Wisconsin libraries are turning the expert-in-residence model into a creative playground for connection, curiosity, and shared learning. Using three case studies we'll dig into how these residencies spark fresh, accessible ways to share knowledge, whether that know-how comes from degrees, deep passions, or lived experience. We'll dive into real-world examples, unpack what worked (and what didn't), and share how libraries have grown through the process. You'll hear about wins, recruitment strategies, and the ripple effects these programs have had on collaboration, capacity, and community engagement. You'll leave with ideas, tools, and inspiration to help your library bring new voices and new kinds of expertise into the spotlight.

Building Bridges: Enhancing Social Connections & Support in Public Libraries

Salon E

April de la Ruelle

This program supports small libraries lacking access to social workers by equipping staff with practical strategies to foster social connection and community support. It explores the library's role in Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) recovery through bibliotherapy, including reading groups and collection development. The program also addresses staff wellness, outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness, and effective marketing to reach underserved populations. Participants will gain tools to create more inclusive, supportive library environments.

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

Using Short Stories to Create Community Connections

Salon F

Richie Zaborowske

For the past seven years, Richie Zaborowske has hosted a popular monthly Short Story Night at the local brewery. Designed with busy lives in mind, the event offers an easy, low-commitment way for patrons, parents, students, and working folks alike; to connect over literature. The short story format is perfect for those who don't have time for a traditional book club but still want meaningful conversation. Learn how you can use literature to spark conversations about real-world issues, all in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

All Hands on Deck: Implementing Change as a Group

Salon G & H

Alyssa Gromowski, Melody Clark, Rachel Rohlf, Madeleine Pitsch

Change can be scary. For a librarian, a big change while still maintaining day-to-day Library functions might be the scariest! Meet staff from the WISPALS Consortium and learn about their year-long journey to implementing a new Integrated Library System. Attendees will leave feeling empowered with change management strategies and confident in tackling projects as a group while keeping your libraries functioning.

Lead the Change: Library Directors & Managers Collaborative Q&A

Green Bay/Milwaukee

Christina Jones, Cindy Fesemyer

Christina Jones and Cindy Fesemyer, authors of the forthcoming *Small Public Library Management*, 2nd Edition, facilitate this highly interactive session. This is for all library directors and managers who want to share their struggles and triumphs, with an eye toward collaborative problem solving and brainstorming.

Be sure to arrive on time as the topics discussed will be determined by a quick poll at the beginning of the program, ensuring there's great take-away information for everyone in attendance. In this program, we're all experts and novices - sharing and receiving advice; because no one is good at every single thing it takes to run a vibrant and welcoming library day in and day out.

10:30 AM 11:30 AM

Cultivating Multicultural Spaces and Reading Communities in a Technical College

Salon A

Kirsten Moffler-Daykin, Esther Mann

Academic libraries serve as essential community partners. We identified a need within our community to create literacy opportunities for families and students, ensuring that the diversity of cultural knowledge and wealth are included in campus resources.

Western Technical College is situated on Ho-Chunk land. Our aim was to honor Ho-Chunk language and history by providing opportunities for Ho-Chunk students and community

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

members as well as the Western community as a whole to hear and speak the original language of this land. With significant support from our Indigenous friends and colleagues, we launched “Ho-Chunk Storytime,” events designed for students, staff, faculty, and community members. During these gatherings, participants enjoyed Ho-Chunk stories in their native language, learned about the culture, sampled Indigenous-inspired foods, and listened to members of the Ho-Chunk Nation share insights about their lived experiences.

We want to inspire others by demonstrating that it is indeed possible and necessary to cultivate multicultural spaces and reading communities, even with limited prior knowledge. It requires a willingness to learn, to make mistakes, and to embrace humility.

Preparing for Intellectual Freedom Challenges: Essential Policies, Procedures, and Training for Library Readiness

Salon B & C

Kristie Hauer, Karin Adams

Library directors and boards establish policies that guide day-to-day operations, but are those policies prepared to address the complexities of intellectual freedom (IF) challenges? This session will provide library directors with a comprehensive approach to navigating IF issues by reviewing critical policies every library should have in place, focusing on reconsideration procedures and the key elements to include (and avoid) when drafting policies. In addition, the session will also provide training plans for staff of all levels and trustees to ensure that all library stakeholders are equipped to handle IF challenges with confidence. We will wrap up by examining real-world scenarios that libraries have faced, discussing best practices and practical solutions for managing these situations.

Government Information in 2025

Salon D

Eileen Snyder, Beth Harper, Abby Swanton, Carol Hassler

Librarians who work with government information are accustomed to constant change and a certain amount of uncertainty in our work. But since FDLP’s rapid changeover to a digital first depository, the rate of change has accelerated, and the new presidential administration has created even broader and more rapid changes to the ways government information is delivered and the amount of information available. Changes at the federal level have an impact on state government information as well. We don’t know what the government information landscape will look like in October, but we know that librarians who work with government information will need a forum to talk about the changes and learn from other librarians. Our panel of seasoned government information experts will answer questions and provide a forum for guided discussion.

Building and Remixing GenAI Lessons for a Diverse Variety of Audiences

Salon E

Kris Turner

Legal tech trainers are in demand right now. Not only do our patrons need to learn how to effectively and ethically use GenAI tools, but the need exists to connect more deeply with other audiences who can also benefit from GenAI training. This session will focus on how

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to create a template of reusable and adaptable lessons that can translate to a number of discrete and diverse audiences, ranging from college students to senior citizens to other librarians. The session will feature brief slide-based presentations that will illustrate the different types of lessons that can be seamlessly integrated into any given session. The session will also include time for small-group discussions and feedback to create consensus and debate about how to best approach audiences with differing levels of skill and how to use these sessions to create a stronger outreach program.

Top 5 Energy-Efficient Solutions to Optimize Library Facilities

Salon F

David Voss

Investing in energy efficiency upgrades offers libraries significant financial and operational benefits. By implementing cost-effective strategies such as upgrading to LED lighting, installing advanced HVAC systems, and integrating renewable energy, libraries can lower energy costs, reduce maintenance expenses, and enhance facility value. In this presentation, FOCUS ON ENERGY will guide libraries through five impactful solutions to optimize energy use and access financial incentives. Attendees will learn how to identify energy-saving opportunities, leverage available funding, and collaborate with Energy Advisors to implement sustainable practices that strengthen their role as a community resource.

Behind the Scenes, Front of Mind: Crafting Your Technical Services Elevator Speech

Salon G & H

Jackee Johnson, Gina Rae, Maren Mayer

Library technical services are the invisible backbone of every library, yet their value is often overlooked or misunderstood. In this interactive workshop, participants will explore creative ways to advocate for the essential work happening behind the scenes - cataloging, acquisitions, metadata, and more. Using real-world examples and resources from the ALA Core community, attendees will collaborate to develop compelling elevator speeches that communicate the impact of technical services in clear, engaging language. Walk away with a personalized advocacy message and the confidence to speak up for your work; whether it's to colleagues, administrators, or the public. Let's bring technical services into the spotlight where it belongs!

Books, Community, and Wine

Green Bay/Milwaukee

Tanner Adams

Sara Krewal

This presentation will cover our self-started annual Community Read program that we designed for Matheson Memorial Library in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. These include presentations, displays, and library programs themed around our Community Read title. These titles are funded by the Elkhorn Fund grant and our Friends of the Library. We will go into detail about how we come up our titles, choose programs that enhance and amplify the book chosen, and tie in local partners and businesses to ensure everyone can be involved. This culminates with a big event at the end of the summer where we celebrate

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and talk about not only our Community Read selection, but highlighted choices from our book clubs at a local winery. Through cooperative efforts of our Circulation Supervisor and the Adult Services department, we have increased our patron engagement, boosted circulation, and have created a community tradition for all to enjoy.

11:45 AM 1:15 PM

Closing Luncheon; Literary Awards/Authors Showcase

Superior Room

2:00 PM 3:00 PM

Tour of National Mustard Museum - Post Conference Tour

Downtown Middleton, WI

Join of a tour of the home of the world's largest collection of mustards and mustard memorabilia. Everyone on the tour gets a gift (a set of six fine art" postcards, which normally sells for \$10 each) and a coupon good for 10% off anything visitors may spend in the gift shop.

Poster Sessions

Lindsay Barnes

Building and Maintaining Unique Youth Collections

An overview of our unique collections, such as young teen/middle school, Yoto/Tonies, and picture book neighborhoods, including building, maintaining, and collaborating across departments.

Jaime Healy-Plotkin

Be the Change For Access to Justice in your Community

LIFT Wisconsin wants to team up with you to offer a training in your public library for staff and members of the public, followed by a clinic. These trainings will be an introduction to the tool but can be expanded and include multiple sessions to train an individual librarian who can serve as the in-house "expert". Our lesson plan for libraries can be tailored to your capacity, community needs as well as degree of in-depth training. Thanks to a fantastic grant from the American Bar Endowment, rural libraries are the focus of this funding to bring increased access to justice to your area and allow the training to occur in your library without a financial concern.

Nicole Burchfield

Universal Design for Learning: Simple Tips for More Inclusive Instruction

The Universal Design for Learning (UDL) guidelines are designed to help educators create more inclusivity in the classroom while providing learners with a sense of agency. Both elements work together to greatly increase student learning potential. Whatever your experience is with UDL, you are invited to join this presenter for tips on bringing UDL into practice right away. Simple strategies will be shared that you can implement tomorrow

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

helping you to plan UDL-friendly lessons thereby creating classes that are more welcoming and inclusive for all. You will also be invited to share ideas of your own on a Padlet board!

Krista Blomberg

Rib Lake - A More Accessible Library

Sharing our experience as a reward recipient of the Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant using photos and stories of how it is changing our library and our community.

Vicki Tobias

Building Successful Student Internships in Wisconsin Libraries, Archives and Local History Organizations

Sharing outcomes from the Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative, we'll highlight how student internships can successfully support libraries, archives, and local history groups. These hands-on experiences build skills in digitization, project management, and digital stewardship while advancing career readiness. With deep experience collaborating with information school programs and organizations across Wisconsin, we understand how to align academic learning goals with real-world library needs. This poster offers practical tips for creating mutually beneficial internship models and lessons learned from our first year of coordinating placements that help digitize, preserve and share unique local history collections.

Desiree Johnson

Won't You Be My Neighbor? Transforming Libraries into Hubs for Intergenerational Learning with PBS Learning Media

Discover how partnering with your local PBS station can enrich your library's programs and strengthen community connections. This poster session highlights successful collaborations between libraries and PBS education specialists, showcasing free, high-quality digital media and hands-on activities that engage learners of all ages. Explore customizable tools and strategies to enhance family engagement, expand your library's reach, and create dynamic, intergenerational learning experiences. Stop by to gather insights, resources, and inspiration for fostering meaningful partnerships that benefit your entire community!

Jeni Schomber

Two Paths to Engagement: Teen Internships and Building Community Based Summers

This poster will describe two different programs implemented by the Bureau of Libraries at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Viewers will learn about the 2026 Teen Internship program and how their library can apply for funding to hire a teen intern for the summer. Viewers will also gain insight into the 2026 Building Community Based Summers cohort and the application process for those libraries interested in participating in this community-focused initiative.

David Gagnon

What we know about Game Based Library Services

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

This poster will serve as the first form of disseminating a multi-year project to study Games-based Library Services (GBLS) nationally. In this poster, we will focus on the first round of research, a review of the currently existing practitioner and academic literature.

Reve Rogers-Bottino

Gaining Understanding: An Analysis of Federal IMLS Grants and Wisconsin Disbursement Since 2020

This poster hopes to more specifically and tangibly define and analyze the funding IMLS provided to libraries of all varieties by interpreting and presenting data from the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) websites. The poster will highlight trends in IMLS funding from the Office of Library Services throughout the United States from 2020 to present by both dollar amount and total number of grants awarded, current news articles, quotes from affected libraries, and explore how DPI distributed the IMLS Grants to States awards to Wisconsin libraries over the same period.

Emily Vieyra

Headings from the Heartland: Growing a Local Vocabulary for Wisconsin's Public Libraries

As part of the 2024-25 LSTA Grant for Statewide Cooperative Cataloging work, the Statewide Bibliographic Standards Committee asked library systems in Wisconsin about their locally used and controlled subject, genre and form headings in bibliographic records. As a result, the committee created a set of recommended standardized headings – a local vocabulary – and corresponding MARC authority records to be shared for implementation statewide. Find out more about the work with this poster session - including how you can join the movement.

Alex Rogers

Books Build Better Brains (and Beautiful Partnerships)

Reach Out and Read Wisconsin spotlights local libraries and the resources they provide to families with young children, by creating posters for local medical clinics, and offering “prescriptions” to read, visit their library, and get another free book (in certain locations). Participating libraries also receive posters highlighting the importance of shared reading and how local medical providers, by utilizing the Reach Out and Read program, are working to strengthen healthy bonds, encourage literacy-building activities, and promote school readiness.

A collaboration where missions align around learning, literacy, community, and helping children thrive!

Claire Wieboldt

Analog to Digital: Developing a Web App to Improve Delivery Data Tracking in a Public Library

This poster showcases the development of a web application designed to track and analyze daily delivery trends within a public library context. It highlights the potential for transitioning from analog to digital processes to enhance workflows, support daily

Meeting rooms are subject to change. Please check the conference app for updated listings.

operations, and strengthen advocacy efforts. The poster provides an overview of tools used in development, including JavaScript, CSS, HTML, and SQL, in addition to offering an approachable entry point into data analytics and visualization. Developed by an information science student and library page, the poster highlights the contributions of staff from across the organization, from pages to upper management.

Anne Moser

Saving our Sturgeon: The Next Generation

In the just released, *Saving Our Sturgeon: Protecting Wisconsin's Ancient Fish*, author Rebecca Hogue Wojahn tells the remarkable story of lake sturgeon in Wisconsin. It details the conservation efforts to save the species, and what is being done to keep the population healthy and thriving today. A great resource for readers ages ten and up, it contains maps, photos, and diagrams, plus a Who's Who list of individuals and groups and kid-friendly sources for further learning. It celebrates the success story about one remarkable species and shows young readers how they, too, can help protect these incredible creatures.

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