

Rooted in Community

2026 WLA Annual Conference

October 20–23

Madison Marriott West
Middleton, WI

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

Rooted in Community

2026 WLA Annual Conference

WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

We are excited to see you at Wisconsin Library Association's Annual Conference!

October 20-23, 2026
Madison Marriott West in Middleton, WI

"Rooted in Community" reflects what makes Wisconsin libraries so special. It's the people, relationships, ideas, and communities that keep us growing. Whether this is your first WLA Conference or you're a returning attendee, we have plenty of great programs, events, and opportunities to connect planned for you!

Conference Highlights

- **55+ breakout sessions** offer something for every library type, role, and community
- **Vendor exhibits** featuring products, services, and tools for your library
- **Friends & Trustees Day** on Wednesday with a full day of programming especially relevant to Library Friends and Trustees
- Indie Lens Pop-Up documentary screening of ***Free for All: The Public Library***
- Behind the scenes tour at **Raven Software**, one of Wisconsin's game development studios
- Bring your **best library fit!** Show off your coolest, funniest, or punniest library or bibliophile t-shirt on Friday

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Luke Zahm

Chef, restaurant owner, and host of PBS's *Wisconsin Foodie.*



Dasha Kelly

Award-winning author, performance artist, and creative change agent.



Jason Kotecki

Artist, master of wit and whimsy, and speaker helping people "Escape Adulthood."



Aaron Boyd

Wisconsin-based children's books illustrator and author

Rooted in Community

2026 WLA Annual Conference

WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The WLA Experience!

WLA 2026 provides plenty of opportunities to connect with colleagues, explore exhibitors, enjoy special events, celebrate Wisconsin libraries, and simply have fun together.

- Connect with library peers from across Wisconsin
- Build skills in practical breakout sessions
- Find inspiration from library leaders and beyond
- Explore products and services in the vendor hall
- Celebrate the community connections that keep Wisconsin libraries rooted and growing





Don't miss events for all!

- Opening Night Reception
- Stretch Sessions to recharge in the afternoons
- Attendee and Exhibitor Networking Luncheon
- Portrait Headshots
- Author's Showcase
- Exhibitor Appreciation Wrap Up and Vendor Trivia Event with Prizes



Even more special events!

Registration required. Limited space available.

- Pre-Conference: WAAL Tour & Reception at Morgridge Hall at UW Madison
- Documentary screening of *Free for All: The Public Library*
- Behind the scenes tour at Raven Software
- WLA Foundation Trivia Night for some friendly competition
- Post Conference: Hubbard Avenue Diner Pie Social



WLA CONFERENCE APP

Don't Miss a Beat!

Download the ConferenceBeat Event App to prepare for the **WLA Annual Fall Conference 2026**. Resources, attendee directory, notifications... all at your fingertips!



Download the ConferenceBeat Event App

For Android and Apple users, search for ConferenceBeat Event App in the App Store/ Google Play

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 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

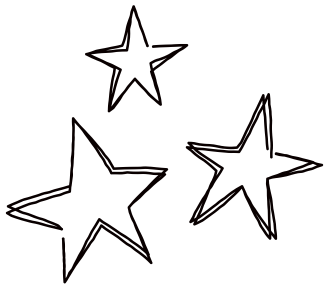
Sign in with the email address you used for registration. After entering your email address, create a passcode to secure your profile.

Using the App for the Conference

- Members: To access the WLA Annual Fall Conference 2026 event, tap the "Events" icon on the homescreen. Locate the WLA Annual Fall Conference 2026 event from the listing and tap to open.
- Non-Members: Upon login, you will access the WLA Annual Fall Conference 2026 immediately.

2026 AWARDS & HONORS RECIPIENTS

The 2026 WLA award and honors recipients and the inductees into the Wisconsin Library Hall of Fame will be recognized at the Awards & Honors Ceremony on October 22, 2026.



Hall of Fame Inductee

Kathy Pletcher

Library of the Year

New Richmond Community Library

Demco Librarian of the Year

Mindy King, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

Muriel Fuller Award

Jennifer Bernetzke, Southwest Wisconsin Library System

Trustee of the Year

John Kuehn, Fall Creek Public Library

Paralibrarian of the Year

Kate Strattner, Shorewood Public Library

Citation of Merit

Friends of South Milwaukee Public Library

Special Service Award

Shan Thomas, Mineral Point Public Library

Programming Innovation

Nicolet Library System — JobPod Program

2026 LITERARY AWARDS & HONORS

Literary Award Committee Honors

Nonfiction Literary Award Winner

- *Ginseng Roots: A Memoir* by Craig Thompson

Honored Nonfiction Titles

- *I Am Nobody's Slave: How Uncovering My Family's History Set Me Free* by Lee Hawkins
- *Funny Because It's True: How The Onion Created Modern American News Satire* by Christine Wenc

---

Fiction Literary Award Winner

- *The Devil Three Times* by Rickey Fayne

Honored Fiction Authors

- *Everything We Could Do* by David McGlynn
- *Life, and Death, and Giants* by Ron Rindo

Poetry Literary Award Winner

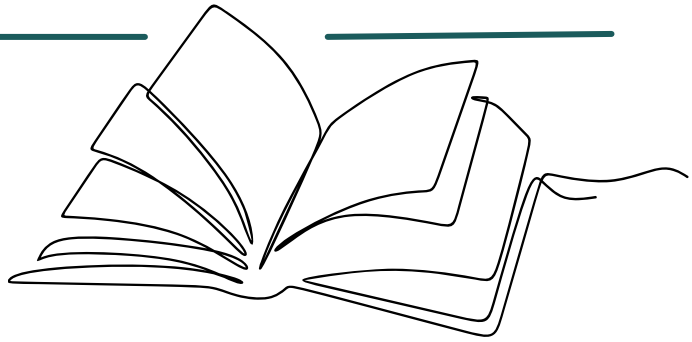
- *Late to the Search Party* by Steven Espada Dawson

Honored Poetry Titles

- *Joy Is My Middle Name* by Sasha Debevec-McKenney

Notable Wisconsin Authors

- David Wroblewski
- Hannah Morrissey



2026 CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS & HONORS

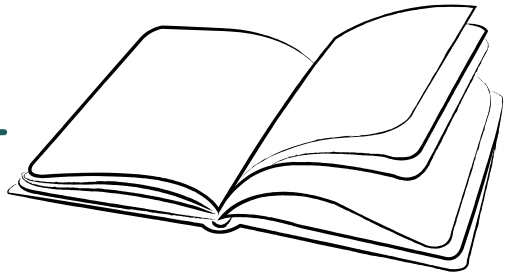
Children's Book Award Committee Honors

Elizabeth Burr Award Winner

- *In Case You Read This* by Edward Underhill

Notable Wisconsin Author/Illustrator

- *Lita Judge*



Outstanding Books of the Year

- *Old Blue is My Home* by Lita Judge
- *Valiant Vel: Vel Phillips and the Fight for Fairness and Equality* by Jerrianne Hayslett, Author and Aaron Boyd, Illustrator
- *Take a Chance on Me* by Elizabeth Eulberg
- *Wanda Hears the Stars: A Blind Astronomer Listens to the Universe* by Amy S. Hansen
- *Blue* by Suzanne Kaufman
- *Cassini's Mission: A Spacecraft, a Tiny Moon, and the Search for Life Beyond Earth* by Katie Venit
- *The Bigfoot Field Guide to Campers* by Jami Gigot
- *The Blossoming Summer* by Anna Rose Johnson
- *Unstoppable John: How John Lewis Got His Library Card--and Helped Change History* by Pat Zietlow Miller, Author and Jerry Jordan, Illustrator
- *Saving Our Sturgeon: Protecting Wisconsin's Ancient Fish* by Rebecca Hogue Wojahn

2026 WLA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Wisconsin Library Association Foundation (WLAF) is excited to announce a new and expanded Conference Scholarship Program designed to help more members access valuable professional development opportunities.

This year, we launched a new scholarship application process for the 2026 WLA Annual Conference. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and supporters, five scholarships of $500 each were awarded to WLA members to help cover conference registration.

The goal of the scholarship program is to reduce financial barriers to participation, encourage first-time attendees and those with limited employer support, and strengthen the diversity and vitality of Wisconsin's library community.

- **Camille Charette, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Lenox Library**
- **Stephanie Addison, Ethel Everhard Memorial Library**
- **Lori Midthun, Barneveld Public Library**
- **Amanda McCoy, Lac du Flambeau Public Library**
- **Rainee Snodie, Edgerton Public Library**

2026 CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS RECIPIENTS

The Scholarship Committee of the WLA Foundation awarded over $7,000 in continuing education and library education scholarships as part of its annual scholarship program. WLA Foundation Scholarships are funded through generous charitable contributions.The WLA Foundation Board allocates scholarship amounts based on a percentage in each scholarship endowment. The Scholarship Committee reviews applications and determines the recipients.

Congratulations to the 2026 Scholarship Recipients!

- **Library Education Scholarship - Hayley Huston**
- **Sally Davis Scholarship - Karissa Richardson**
- **Vida Cummins Stanton Scholarship - Rosa Chambers**
- **Diversity Scholarship - Dominic Davis**
- **Gloria Hoegh Scholarship for Rural Librarians - Cathy Kolbeck**
- **George Bauer Memorial Fund Scholarship - Kristina Kelley Johnson**

Thank you to our 2026 WLA Conference Committee for making this all possible!

Conference Chair
Chad Glamann

Accessibility and Inclusion Chair
Elizabeth Timmins

Book Signing
Angela Schneider

Exhibits Chair
Michelle Dennis

Local Arrangements
Katharine Clark
Alex Schwier

On-Site Volunteer Coordinator
Emily Rogers

Trustee and Friends Coordinator
Jocelyne Sansing

Programming Chair
Daphne Goldfinch

Publicity Chair
Emily Heller

Registration Chair
Jamie Matczak

Technology Chair
Craig Ellefson

WLA Conference Manager
Cindy Foley

WLA Executive Director
Kara Sullivan

WLA President
Bradley Shipps

WLA Membership Coordinator
Pam Beam



THANK YOU SPONSORS!



EBSCO

Demco
Spark curiosity. Ignite learning.
An industry-leading library furnishings, equipment, and supplies company with a single goal: empower every learner to reach their maximum potential.

hoopla

First Business Bank.

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee School of Information Studies

Emporia State University School of Library & Information Management

Cordelia Anderson Consulting

Wegner CPAs

Nicolet Library System

Milwaukee County Federated Library System

Winding Rivers Library System
Bringing a world of information to your local library

Bridges Library System
Bringing libraries together

OWLS
Local Libraries • Better Together

Elizabeth Timmins

Rooted in Community
2026 WLA Annual Conference

WLA Wisconsin Library Association

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

WLA 2026 Annual Conference

Rooted in Community

FULL CONFERENCE AGENDA • October 20–23, 2026

Tuesday • October 20, 2026

1:00 PM–3:00 PM
SRLAAW Business Meeting
Location: Salons F & G

1:00 PM–3:00 PM
Pre-Conference: Traitors Workshop at Middleton Library
Location: Offsite - Middleton Public Library
Participants will experience a Traitors-inspired library program firsthand while learning how to structure gameplay, facilitate rounds, and keep players engaged. Leave with practical ideas, implementation tips, and adaptable tools for hosting a version of this event at your library.
Pre-registration required - limited to 25.

3:00 PM–6:00 PM
Registration Open
Location: Conference Center Foyer

3:00 PM–5:00 PM
Pre-Conference: WAAL Tour & Reception at Morgridge Hall at UW Madison
Location: Offsite - Morgridge Hall at UW Madison
WAAL Tour & Reception at Morgridge Hall at UW Madison
WAAL members and WLA Conference attendees are invited to visit UW–Madison's new Morgridge Hall and connect with iSchool alumni, partners, faculty, and friends. Explore the new space and enjoy a light snack and beverage reception in the 4th floor iSchool conference room. A limited number of complimentary parking passes will be available, for nearby Lot 20. Attendees are encouraged to carpool. This event is free and limited to 20 people. Pre-registration is required.

3:30 PM–4:30 PM
Exhibitor Pre Expo Meeting
Location: Exhibit Hall

4:00 PM–6:00 PM
WLA Board Dinner Meeting
Location: Middleton Room

6:00 PM–8:00 PM
Opening Reception in the Exhibit Hall
Location: Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

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

Wednesday • October 21, 2026

7:00 AM–5:00 PM
Registration Open
Location: Conference Center Foyer

7:00 AM–7:00 PM
Special Business Meetings
Location: Middleton Room

7:00 AM–2:00 PM
Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck – First 100 cups of coffee are FREE
Sponsored by: Winding Rivers Library System, Milwaukee County Federated Library System and Nicolet Library System

The first 100 drinks will be free thanks to Winding Rivers, MCFLS and Nicolet Library System!
To find the coffee truck, exit the conference center doors (next to registration), turn left and follow the sidewalk down to the end of the building. The truck will be to your left in the roped off area.

8:00 AM–9:00 AM
Exhibit Hall Open - Please visit and support our exhibitors
Location: Geneva, Mendota and Wisconsin Rooms

8:00 AM–9:00 AM
Breakfast Served in Exhibit Areas
Location: Exhibit Hall

8:00 AM–9:00 AM
Past President's Breakfast
Location: Middleton Room

9:00 AM–10:00 AM
Opening Keynote: Luke Zahm
Location: Superior Room

Luke Zahm is a Wisconsin chef, restaurant owner, and host of PBS's Wisconsin Foodie, known for celebrating the people, places, and local foods of the Driftless Region. As owner of The Driftless Cafe in Viroqua, he has built his work around connecting farmers, diners, and communities through a deep commitment to local and sustainable food. His community engagement extends beyond the kitchen through tourism, conservation, and advocacy work that supports Wisconsin's rural communities, local economy, and natural spaces.

10:00 AM–10:40 AM
Annual Membership Meeting and Introduction to Ebooks Legislative Initiative
Location: Superior Room

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:50 AM–11:50 PM
AI or the environment – do we have to choose?
Location: Salon A • Speaker(s): Erica Brewster

Generative AI is a polarizing topic as it ripples through our communities. Librarians as information and technology specialists are confronted by those who want to learn about it and use it, those who are afraid of it, those who argue that it is an ethical evil, and some serve communities that are grappling with data centers in their backyards. Librarians as individuals have their own personal feelings about the role of AI in their lives and work and personal ethics around social and environmental impacts. This session will look at known science around genAI's energy demands and environmental impacts, beginning from individual queries. Unfortunately, like plastics, the impact an individual consumer has in this area is minimal, but understanding the known numbers and the unknown future can empower librarians as a local community's technology consumers and communicators.

10:50 AM–11:50 PM
Responding with Confidence: Unattended Children & Vulnerable Adults
Location: Salon E • Speaker(s): Kristie Hauer, Emily Rogers

Public libraries regularly encounter situations involving unattended children and vulnerable adults, yet staff often feel underprepared or uncertain about how to respond consistently and safely. This session equips library workers with the tools to strengthen their policies, clarify internal procedures, and build confidence when handling these sensitive situations. We will examine important elements to make these policies most effective, including safety considerations, staff responsibilities, communication strategies, and risk-mitigation practices. The session includes interactive, choose-your-own-adventure scenarios that allow attendees to practice applying policy elements in realistic situations and discuss approaches with peers. Attendees will leave with practical templates, conversation strategies, and a clearer understanding of how to create a safer, more supportive environment for all patrons.

10:50 AM–11:50 AM
Nerdy by Nature: Technical Services Idea Exchange
Location: Salons F • Speaker(s): Maren Mayer, Gina Rae

Technical services might happen behind the scenes, but the challenges (and creativity!) are anything but hidden. From wrangling cataloging backlogs to figuring out how to classify a ukulele in your Library of Things, this interactive, discussion-based forum invites library workers across Wisconsin to share ideas, troubleshoot challenges, and learn from one another in a relaxed, collaborative setting. This session embraces a fun, slightly tongue-in-cheek "nerdy pride" theme—because if anyone knows how to get excited about metadata schemas or spine label alignment, it's this crowd. Expect lively conversation, practical takeaways, and maybe even a few laughs along the way.

10:50 AM–11:50 AM
Succession Planning for Library Boards
Location: Salons B & C • Speaker(s): Rachel Arndt

Library trustees provide critical leadership and governance in Wisconsin's public libraries. Successful library boards are composed of engaged trustees with diverse backgrounds and a variety of skills and

knowledge. With a succession plan in place, library boards are empowered to suggest potential appointees when trustee vacancies arise. A strong succession plan can help outline key leadership qualities, identify strong prospective candidates, prepare new trustees, and ensure timely rotation of duties and terms.

10:50 AM–11:50 AM
The Board as an Employer
Location: Green Bay & Milwaukee • Speaker(s): Tracy Vreeke, Riti Grover
Trustee 201 Workshop
Public library system directors will walk you through the library trustee's role as employer.
Topics covered will include: the library board's relationship with the library director; hiring, evaluating, disciplining, and terminating a library director; personnel policies; the library board and other library staff

10:50 AM–11:50 AM
Between the Stacks and the Statehouse: Libraries and the state biennial budget
Location: Salon D • Speaker(s): Steven Conway, Kris Adams Wendt, Kris Turner, Bradley Shipps, Betsy Bleck
Join Dr. Steven Conway and LD&L committee members for updates on the Wisconsin state legislature and a preview of the upcoming state 2025-2027 biennial budget. They will discuss the budget process, what WLA is hoping to achieve for library systems and libraries, Library Legislative Day, and how you can help.

10:50 AM–11:50 AM
Bringing Voices Together: Adapting a Statewide Library Campaign That Fits Your Community
Location: Salons G & H • Speaker(s): Beth Tomev, Chad Glamann, Jenny Schink, Deb Marett
Struggling to communicate to a large number of people in a short amount of time? This presentation and panel discussion will explore the process used to coordinate the statewide 'Speak Up for Libraries' outreach campaign, developed and executed in a matter of months. Learn about the campaigns' successes, partnerships and relationships created, key lessons learned, and practical strategies for adapting this collaborative approach on a smaller scale for your library and community.

12:00 PM–1:00 PM
YSS Luncheon Keynote: Aaron Boyd
Location: Superior Room
Aaron Boyd is a Wisconsin-based illustrator and author who knew from childhood that he wanted to create children's books, inspired by the artists he discovered at his local library. After graduating from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, he built an award-winning career illustrating dozens of books and now shares his own stories through both words and art.

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

Trustee Keynote Luncheon: Notes from the Table: A conversation with former Trustee Mary Nugent and Middleton Public Library Director Jocelyne Sansing on tips for Board success
Location: Greenway Room
Join Jocelyne Sansing and Mary Nugent for a casual, story-based conversation about what it means to serve as a library trustee. Drawing from their own experiences, Jocelyne and Mary will share practical tips, lessons learned, and a few things they wish they had known when they first took a seat at the table. The

conversation will explore how to learn the lay of the land, understand the acronyms (and the meetings!), and recognize the many ways libraries serve their communities beyond books. They'll also talk about bringing your own skills and experiences to the board, building multidirectional support, getting involved in the community, and knowing when it may be time to step away. Along the way, they'll consider the questions every trustee should be asking: What do I need to learn? What skills do I bring to the table? What skills do I need to develop? What does effective trustee onboarding look like? And what has—or hasn't—worked along the way?

12:00 PM–1:00 PM
Attendee Luncheon in the Exhibit Hall
Location: Exhibit Hall

1:00 PM–1:15 PM
Book Signing with Aaron Boyd

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:15 PM–2:15 PM
Phenomenal Programming Powers, Itty Bitty Activity Space
Location: Salon A • Speaker(s): Katherine Schoofs, Amy Kilkenny

As librarians, we're always thinking of new and inventive ways to engage our patrons. We're constantly collaborating, creating, and innovating. But what do you do when your programming space vanishes due to a renovation or move - - or never existed in the first place? Join Katherine and Amy from Delavan Public Library as we explore the wild world of programming in less than spacious conditions. We'll talk programming ideas, collaborations, and re-evaluating how success is measured when space is limited.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM
It Should be Easy to get a Library Card
Location: Salon E • Speaker(s): Emily Whitmore, Carrie Portz

Spring Green Community Library sits at the border of four counties, Dane, Sauk, Richland, and Iowa. Two of these counties are in Spring Green's library system, and two are not. But, Spring Green is the most convenient library for most people in our area. To that end, Dodgeville Public Library Directors, both past and present, have worked with Spring Green Community Library Directors, both past and present, to work out the best way to handle this for patrons. We have gone through a couple of different versions of this, but recently, we have landed on a great solution of giving out both systems' library cards at one time. Attendees of this presentation will learn more details about the evolution of this process and how they could implement this at their libraries to make the library card application process smoother.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

Partners in Learning: Classrooms and Public Libraries Together
Location: Salon F • Speaker(s): Katrina Wulff, Jan Koshalek

An experienced librarian and literacy coach will share practical strategies for building stronger connections with schools, selecting books that align with curriculum, and creating engaging literacy and STEM activities. Learn how to effectively promote book collections and programs, boost circulation and program attendance, and encourage more students and families to become library cardholders.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

Learn the Basics of Being a Library Trustee

Location: Green Bay & Milwaukee • Speaker(s): Tracy Vreeke, Angela Noel

Public Library System Directors will lead a discussion on the many aspects of serving as a library trustee. The session will provide an overview of the trustee's role and responsibilities, important legal considerations such as open meetings, policies, and liability, and the trustee's role in library advocacy. There will also be time for questions and discussion of local issues and other topics participants would like to explore.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

Best Practices in Board Engagement Strategies

Location: Salons B & C • Speaker(s): Carla Anderson, Stef Moritz

In early 2026, The Middleton Board of Trustees conducted a self-evaluation. Based on those results, we developed a set of strategic goals directly aligned with Library goals. Each goal has a specific Trustee or Trustees assigned to it to ensure progress is being made and make adjustments along the way as needed. We also expanded our annual Board calendar to anticipate what each month requires, including board presence at specific community events. These are two tools we are using to increase Board engagement and are very much a "work in progress" as we have just implemented them this year. In this session we will share this background, including any updates or insights we have gleaned from the process. To ensure a robust discussion, we encourage attendees to share their own strategies, insights, and experiences in increasing Board engagement.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

Fostering Belonging with Proactive Outreach to Marginalized Communities

Location: Salon D • Speaker(s): Melody Clark, Cheryl Nessman, Blake Opal-Wahoske

Libraries and cultural heritage organizations serve varied and unique communities. At a time where political, social, and economical forces make it challenging to serve our communities equitably and fairly, we are seeing libraries and cultural institutions rise up to serve their members, to highlight and represent underserved populations, and provide safe spaces for all. During this session, panelists will share how they are creating and sustaining inclusive services and practices for the marginalized populations they serve, including the challenges they have faced, and the new partnerships they have created. The discussion will illustrate practical ways to reach and support underserved populations within your own communities.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

VITA-lize (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Your Community!

Location: Salons G & H • Speaker(s): Amy Christian, Emily Kornak

In the 2025 tax filing season, VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) sites at Hedberg Public Library and Lake Geneva Public Library returned thousands of dollars in refunds to residents — for free, inside spaces they trusted, through IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers. This session tells the story of how two public libraries launched IRS partnerships from scratch to deliver accessible tax preparation to their communities. Attendees will learn how the library staff recruited and retained certified preparers, navigated IRS quality requirements, managed space and logistics, and helped patrons save hundreds of dollars per return. Expect candid talk about what we changed in succeeding years and our initial experiences with federal VITA grant funding. Participants will leave with our outreach initiatives, volunteer training timeline, IRS site

coordinator checklist, and a realistic picture of the staff and volunteer resources needed to start a VITA program in their own community.

2:00 PM–4:00 PM
Portrait Headshots
Sponsors: Bridges Library System, Nicolet Library System and OWLS
Pre-registration required. Sign up at Registration Desk. First come, first served.

2:15 PM–3:30 PM
Refreshment Break
Location: Exhibit Areas and Outside of Salon D

2:30 PM–3:00 PM
Afternoon Stretch/Energizer
Location: Exhibit Hall

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:30 PM–4:30 PM
Rooted in Tradition: Indigenous Community Garden Project
Location: Salon A • Speaker(s): Kim Cackowski, Sarah Wroblewski
In this session we will share the journey from soil study to seed saving, highlighting our experiences with Three Sisters companion gardening and how we integrated Indigenous knowledge through the process. The presentation will highlight educational resources from Wisconsin Tribal Nations, to respectfully incorporate Indigenous knowledge into library programming.

3:30 PM–4:30 PM
Shhh… About your data: Digital privacy strategies for library professionals
Location: Salon E • Speaker(s): Colleen Rortvedt, Tanya Arnold
In today’s world of online harassment and doxing, library professionals need more than good passwords. While it is nearly impossible to avoid an online presence entirely, there are strategies that you can use to tidy up your digital presence online and resources available if you find yourself in the unfortunate situation of being doxed. Using resources from the American Library Association and PEN America, this session covers the basics of digital hygiene and practical strategies for minimizing online exposure. You will leave with practical tools and resources and methods of determining your own digital presence. The presenters are trainers through the American Library Association's Law for Librarians cohort.

3:30 PM–4:30 PM
Shake, Rattle, and Grow: Music in Early Childhood Programming
Location: Salon F • Speaker(s): Alison Loewen, Karen Stern
Music is more than a joyful addition to programming; it is a powerful tool for supporting whole-child development. This interactive session explores how music can be intentionally integrated into library programs to strengthen early literacy, social-emotional development, executive function, and motor skills. Not only can music be intentionally integrated into library programs, but it can become the foundation for new programs, even if you do not sing or play an instrument. Participants will be introduced to a variety of approaches for incorporating music into their work, from simple songs and rhythmic play to

movement-based activities that engage both children and caregivers. Attendees will actively participate in songs and music games they can immediately bring back to their libraries. Come ready to move, sing, and play as we explore how music can create meaningful learning experiences for young children and families.

3:30 PM–4:30 PM

Shared Roots: Growing Library and Local Leader Connections

Location: Green Bay & Milwaukee • Speaker(s): Teresa Schmidt, Kami Lynch

Building a stronger relationship between a public library and its municipality requires communication, understanding, and patience. Presenters Kami Lynch and Teresa Schmidt have been working together in 2026 to learn more about the ways libraries and local government collaborate in service of their communities. They have developed programming and resources to help local leaders, library directors, and library trustees build their knowledge of their roles and responsibilities in supporting the library and its services. In this session, you'll learn more about the resources available from the Bureau of Libraries and the UW-Extension Local Government Education Program, and hear tips on strengthening the connection between your library and your municipality.

3:30 PM–3:30 PM

Tenets of Transparency: Open Meetings & Public Records

Location: Salons B & C • Speaker(s): Shannon Schultz, Tracy Vreeke

This workshop is a continuation of the Trustee 101 and 201 workshops, with a focus on open meetings and public records laws. It it ideal both as an introduction to the job for new trustees, and a refresher for people who have been on the board for a while. Topics covered will include agendas and posting meetings, closed sessions, meeting minutes, and records retention under Wisconsin law

3:30 PM–4:30 PM

At the Movies with Librarians: The Odyssey Continues

Location: Salon D • Speaker(s): Rachel Arndt, Kim Dearth, Erin Foley, Sherry Wichitchu

Rated G – For General Audiences. The panel will discuss books being made into movies slated for release in late 2026/early 2027. 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. Audience polls and Q & A will be included. Grab your popcorn and join us for this fun and popular conference tradition!

3:30 PM–4:30 PM

A Strong Hand-Off: Setting Up Your Organization For Success After You Leave

Location: Salons G & H • Speaker(s): Laura Damon-Moore, Clairellyn Sommersmith, Mindy King, Sarah Townsend, Sarah Miller

When someone steps out of a role, whether for retirement, leave, or a new opportunity, the transition can either create momentum or introduce a lot of stress. This panel brings together voices from the library world (and beyond) to share their most valuable tips for leaving a role in strong shape and even better than it was found – and grappling with the challenges this can pose depending on the workplace. From documentation and communication to relationships and continuity practices, panelists will highlight what they appreciate most when responsibilities are handed off with care. Attendees will have the opportunity to contribute their own ideas and to-do's on the topic of A Strong Hand-Off, and will leave with a concrete set of panel and community-sourced ideas in the form of a checklist.

4:30 PM–5:30 PM
Exhibit Hall Open - Please visit and support our exhibitors

4:30 PM–6:00 PM
Showing of the documentary "Free for All: The Public Library"
Sponsor: Elizabeth Timmins
Location: Superior Room

7:00 PM–9:00 PM
WLA Foundation Fundraiser: Trivia Night with Kris Turner
Location: Salons G & H
Pizza, salad and cannoli will be provided. Proceeds support WLA Conference scholarships
Pre-registration required

Thursday • October 22, 2026

7:00 AM–6:00 PM
Special Business Meetings
Location: Middleton Room

7:00 AM–2:00 PM
Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck – First 100 cups of coffee are FREE
Sponsored by: First Business Bank
To find the coffee truck, exit the conference center doors (next to registration), turn left and follow the sidewalk down to the end of the building. The truck will be to your left in the roped off area.

7:30 AM–4:30 PM
Registration Open
Location: Conference Center Foyer

8:00 AM–9:00 AM
YSS Breakfast Board Meeting
Location: Middleton Room

8:00 AM–9:00 AM
Exhibit Hall Open - Please visit and support our exhibitors
Location: Exhibit Hall

8:00 AM–9:00 AM
Breakfast Served in Exhibit Areas
Location: Exhibit Hall

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

Keynote Speaker Dasha Kelly Hamilton - The Creative Change Agent

Location: Superior Room

Contributing Sponsor: hoopla

Dasha Kelly is a writer, performance artist and creative change agent. She has authored award-winning poetry, essays and fiction. She is a mainstage storyteller and host with The Moth, an alum of HBO's Def Poetry Jam, Poet Laureate Emerita for both the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin and a National Laureate Fellow with the American Academy of Poets. In 2024, Dasha was named a Living Legacy Honoree by the licensing agency for the legendary poet Gwendolyn Brooks. A skilled engagement practitioner and instructor, Dasha has facilitated initiatives in Botswana, Mauritius and Beirut as an Arts Envoy for the U.S. Embassy. Her nationally-touring stage show, Makin' Cake, serves audiences a unique conversation on race, class and equity. Her documentary film of the same title premieres this spring. Her nonprofit literary arts organization, Still Waters Collective, recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Dasha's recent releases are a poetry anthology, A Line Meant (Jaded Ibis Press), a 10th anniversary reprint of Almost Crimson (Traitmarker Books), and a new novel, Baker's Dozen (Jaded Ibis).

10:00 AM–10:15 AM

Book Signing with Dasha Kelly Hamilton

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:15 AM–11:15 AM

Data Driven and Community Focused: an introduction to Wisconsin's Public Library Standards

Location: Salon F • Speaker(s): Teresa Schmidt, Ben Miller

Wisconsin's new public library standards are the result of a process driven by the Wisconsin library community, involving almost two years of planning, input, and volunteer participation. This session will provide an overview of the recently released 7th edition of the Wisconsin Public Library Standards and the process used to develop them. Attendees will gain insight into the Wisconsin DPI Bureau of Libraries' plans for continuous improvement of the standards and the development of additional tools to make them usable by libraries of any size. Attendees will also have an opportunity to discuss the implementation and use of the new standards and share feedback on DPI's plans for additional standards-related resources.

10:15 AM–11:15 AM

Self-Censorship in Libraries: Recognizing Bias and Better Serving Our Communities

Location: Salon A • Speaker(s): Ayda Jaeger

Many librarians avoid ordering certain books out of caution, but when does caution become censorship? Public and school libraries serve people with many different identities, needs, and lived experiences, but books by and for marginalized communities are still often underrepresented, avoided, or challenged. Drawing on a brief history of censorship, current book challenge trends, professional guidance on intellectual freedom, and interviews from library staff, this presentation will take a look at how self-censorship can shape how books are ordered. Additionally, it will also consider the role of fear, discomfort, and community pressure in these decisions. Attendees will leave with ways to recognize bias in their own professional choices as well as practical ideas for creating collections that better reflect and support the communities they serve.

10:15 AM–11:15 AM

Turning the Page on Security

Location: Salons B & C • Speaker(s): Justin Stevenson, Charlie Carerros

Join Waukesha Public Library staff as they share their journey from a reactive, enforcement-driven security model to a more humane, people-centered approach to safety. The session will outline important changes, including an updated code of conduct and suspension guidelines, as well as the cultivation of partnerships with outside entities such as NAMI Southeast Wisconsin and the Waukesha Police Department. Presenters will also discuss the adoption of practical tools such as walkie-talkies for real-time communication and incident tracking software for data-informed decision making, both of which support consistency and accountability. The presentation will also focus on Waukesha Public Library's transition from contracted external security vendors to a trained, in-house safety team, fostering stronger relationships and a deeper understanding of patron needs. Participants will leave with actionable insights for creating safer, more inclusive library environments.

10:15 AM–11:15 AM

Bridging the Generations: Building Stronger Library Teams

Location: Salon E • Speaker(s): Katharine Clark

Library staff can vary so much in age. For some it is a very first job, for others it is a retirement hobby job. From Gen X to Millennials, today's libraries bring together staff with different communication styles, work habits, and expectations and those differences can become one of a library team's greatest strengths. This session explores the realities of multigenerational workplaces in a casual, practical way, with honest conversations about misunderstandings, workplace culture, and what helps teams work well together. Attendees will leave with simple strategies for building trust, improving communication, and creating a more collaborative and supportive environment where every generation feels valued.

10:15 AM–11:15 AM

Adventures in Accessibility: Practical Lessons for Documents, Spreadsheets, Slides, and More

Location: Green Bay & Milwaukee • Track: Thursday • Speaker(s): Erica Brewster, Katie Zimmerman

New website accessibility standards have highlighted how standard content creation practices often produce materials that are not accessible to assistive technologies. Presenters will share candid "what we learned" insights on creating accessible documents, spreadsheets, slide presentations, and recorded content for both internal use and public sharing. They will also discuss how to move beyond one-time fixes by building sustainable team workflows that ensure future content meets accessibility standards. This session follows the journey of the Wisconsin Valley Library Service ILS and website staff as they learned accessibility standards and transitioned from a PDF-heavy environment to more accessible formats. This learning and practice was key to improving other WVLS website workflows as well as informing website training for the entire LEANWI Website Service. Presenters will emphasize realistic, sustainable changes that help ensure all community members can access information and fully participate in public meetings and library services.

10:15 AM–11:15 AM

Healthy Numbers for a Healthy Community: Leveraging Community Partnerships to Promote Better Health

Location: Salons G & H • Speaker(s): Beth Krebs-Smith, Christine Wonder, Michelle Crisanti

Edgerton Public Library received a WiLS Ideas to Action grant in 2025 to create a free A1C and blood pressure screening program in partnership with the Edgerton Lions Club and the Edgerton Hospital. The program offers a 2 hour screening opportunity at the Edgerton Hospital Quick Care Clinic, which is less

than 2 blocks from the hospital. Our presentation will focus on conceptualizing the program, building the relationships needed to develop and execute a program that is outside of the usual library purview, and continuing the program into the future. We'll wrap up the program with a 15 minute Q&A session.

10:15 AM–11:15 AM
From Take-It-or-Leave-It to Taking Action: Lessons from the Multi-State Push for eBook Licensing Reform
Location: Salon D • Speaker(s): Ryan Livergood, Sherry Wichitchu, Monica Harris
Publishers don't negotiate eBook licensing terms with libraries. They dictate them, charging libraries four times more than consumer prices for content that expires, eroding the collections we build for our communities. A growing coalition of states is pushing back through legislation grounded in state contract law. Connecticut passed its digital library protection law in 2025, and Illinois, Minnesota, and others are advancing similar bills. This session brings together advocates working on eBook legislation in Illinois (HB 5236, the Digital Library Protection Act) and Minnesota (HF3698/SF3685) for a candid conversation about what state-level reform actually takes: building coalitions and networks, navigating legal arguments, engaging legislators, and responding to publisher opposition and disinformation. We'll share what's worked, where we've stumbled, and how Wisconsin can build on this multi-state momentum. Attendees will leave with a clear picture of the policy landscape, practical lessons from active campaigns, and concrete next steps for advancing eBook licensing reform in Wisconsin.

11:15 AM–12:00 PM
Exhibit Hall Open - Please visit and support our exhibitors
Location: Exhibit Hall

12:00 PM–1:00 PM
Attendee and Exhibitor Networking Luncheon
Location: Michigan Room

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:15 PM–2:15 PM
The Gentle Art of Handling Tricky Patrons
Location: Salon A • Speaker(s): Jenny Sessions
Tricky patrons--not problem patrons, the ones who only ask for help once they're seething, or are two steps off from reality, the parasocial ones, the nosy ones, the ones who have you taking a deep breath before engaging. Let's talk about our successes, commiserate about the chronic ones, and get advice about ones we haven't got handled to quite the level we'd hope. As this is a discussion of patron interactions, we will start with a review of the relevant Wisconsin library statutes on patron privacy, and practice anonymized descriptions.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM
5 Practical tips for Managing a Space Refresh in Your Library
Location: Salons B & C • Speaker(s): Katelyn Killian
It's time to refresh your community's favorite space in the library—the children's area! So where do you start? How do you visualize your ideas and design signage? Over the past year, I've managed a refresh of our Children's Center that includes a new theme, feature elements, signage, and a refreshed play and learn area. During my session, I'll cover each stage of this ongoing project—from crafting a proposal to

installation. I'll share tips for communicating your vision to different stakeholders, space planning without an interior design background, keeping details organized when ordering, and more. Digital planning templates applicable to any area of the library will be provided.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

"But I'm Not a Reading Teacher!": A Science of Reading Toolkit for Library Staff

Location: Salon F • Speaker(s): Samantha Holt

This session will explore how public libraries are reimagining their role in the literacy landscape—incorporating the Science of Reading into collections, programming, and community outreach. Dive into the essentials using Hollis Scarborough's Reading Rope and explore how authentic literature, predictable texts, decodables, and leveled texts each have a specific function in building the reading brain. Look at how libraries across the country are integrating these evidence-based practices to meet community needs and why this research is a secret to unlocking the joy of reading. Walk away with a trove of resources to use at your own library, including an extensive bibliography, staff training tools, hands-on literacy activities, and more!

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

Wonder Media: Media and News Literacy for Tweens and Teens

Location: Green Bay & Milwaukee • Speaker(s): Jeni Schomber

Are you looking to engage in meaningful ways with tweens and teens in your community? Check out Wonder Media: Ask the Questions! - a website with ready-to-use resources that build media and news literacy skills. In this session, you will explore FREE programming materials co-designed with public and school librarians, featuring interactive activities that focus on learning how to use digital media critically, thoughtfully, and safely. The basic concepts of news and media literacy will be covered, and participants will gain ideas and strategies for creating passive and active programming at their libraries. Participants will spend time exploring the website, trying out games, videos, quizzes, and more.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

In BeTWEEN programming: The Case for Cross-Age Programs for 'Tweens and Teens

Location: Salon E • Speaker(s): Jenn Senn, Katie Ganser

DPI groups children ages 6-11, and teens ages 12-18. 'Tweens are usually classified as 9-12. Teens are 13 and up. But how does that translate to programming? We will talk about the advantages of blurring the age limits for 'Tween and Teen programs, and the positive outcomes of having age overlap, including kids who may be bored with 'Tween programming, or Teens who still have younger friends. It lets the kids choose where they are most comfortable, and provides a smoother transition to older teen programming. Hear stories of success (and a few failures…) from Katie and Jenn, and hear from some of the 'Tweens and Teens who were there along the way!

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

Notable Books (and More) Marathon

Location: Salon D • Speaker(s): Jean Anderson, 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.

1:15 PM–2:15 PM

The Chippewa (River) Runs Through It: Outreach Strategies for Far-Flung Academic Buildings

Location: Salons G & H • Speaker(s): Stephannie Regenauer, Hannah Carlton, Anna Zook

The Chippewa River runs through UW-Eau Claire's campus, providing beautiful views, but also access challenges for students whose academic buildings lie across the river from the library. In 2023, the Arts Librarian at McIntyre Library launched a weekly library outreach office hour in the arts building on the opposite side of the river, visiting weekly with giveaways and activities, and sharing information about the library. Based on the success of that effort, two other librarians collaborated to establish a similar outreach program in the neighboring health and human sciences building. Regularly connecting with students outside of the library has proven invaluable for understanding student research needs and building connections with faculty. Librarians commonly engage with 40+ students each week between the two buildings. In this presentation, the librarians will discuss their proof of concept through sharing successes, failures, and pivots with examples of favorite activities, meaningful moments, and surprises.

2:30 PM–3:45 PM

Exhibitor Appreciation Wrap Up and Vendor Trivia Event with Prizes

Location: Exhibit Hall

2:30 PM–2:45 PM

Afternoon Stretch/Energizer

Location: Exhibit Hall

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

4:00 PM–5:00 PM

Audit to Action: Practical Steps for Evaluating Native American Library Resources

Location: Salon B & C • Speaker(s): Cassy Leeport

Selecting authentic Native American resources is more than a collection development task—it is a commitment to accuracy and respect for Tribal Sovereignty. This session provides library staff with a clear, actionable framework to move from "good intentions" to a measurable Authenticity Audit. We will explore how to identify harmful stereotypes, distinguish between "insider" and "outsider" perspectives, and prioritize contemporary Native voices. Participants will learn how to evaluate their current holdings, identify gaps, and confidently select new titles to Indigenize your collections! Whether you are weeding a youth collection or building an adult nonfiction section, you will leave with the tools necessary to ensure your library's resources honor and respect the truths of Native communities.

4:00 PM–5:00 PM

The Cataloging Code of Ethics

Location: Green Bay & Milwaukee • Speaker(s): Sarah Furger

The Cataloging Code of Ethics, endorsed by the Board of CORE in 2021, can be a useful document for both tech services staff and other library workers. Learn about the Code, its development, and how it can be applied in your library!

4:00 PM–5:00 PM

Start Small to Achieve Big: How to Create a Small Space, Low-Cost Teaching Kitchen and Gardens in Your Library

Location: Salon E • Speaker(s): Annette Bahringer

With our Ideas to Action grant from WiLS, we were able to purchase our teaching kitchen, our teaching gardens, and our seed library for under $5,000. Our kitchen is 100% portable, able to set up anywhere in the library for cooking and baking classes or, what we call, pop-up cooking demonstrations. Our cooking and baking classes consist of recipes that are easily replicated at home and samples that the audience can taste or take home. We often use items from our Library of Things, such as pasta makers and dehydrators in our classes. We also grow our own herbs, vegetables, and edible flowers that we use in our cooking demos and classes. We have both an outside garden and an indoors hydroponics garden. Everything is grown with seeds from our seed library. We invite the community to come and learn about recipes and gardening techniques that may be too intimidating to explore on their own. No prior experience, dedicated space, or large budget is required—only a willingness to start small and build over time.

4:00 PM–5:00 PM

I Seek Dead People: How to Serve Genealogists at Your Library

Location: Salon F • Speaker(s): Katie Stilp

Calling all librarians, archivists, and staff who find themselves fielding questions from “time travelers” in search of long-lost ancestors! This session is designed for anyone who supports genealogy or local history research, whether you’ve been in the field for decades or are just getting started. You’ll pick up practical tips for handling tricky genealogy reference requests, explore databases that make genealogy and local history research easier, and leave with ideas for engaging programs that won’t stretch your budget. Best of all, you’ll leave inspired, prepared, and energized to turn even the toughest genealogy queries into successful interactions!

4:00 PM–5:00 PM

Revising What Connects Us: Analyzing the Proposed Changes to ACRL’s Framework for Information Literacy

Location: Salon D • Speaker(s): Patrick Leeport, Edie Veum, David Bloom

ACRL’s Framework for Information Literacy has served as a foundational document bringing together academic librarians since it was accepted more than 10 years ago. But some changes to the Framework are on the horizon. At the time of this submission, a first draft of proposed revisions shows changes suggested by ACRL’s Information Literacy Framework Review and Revision Task Force. With over 700 edits proposed, ranging from minor stylistic tweaks to wholesale additions of sections, it may be difficult for practicing librarians to tease out the nuance of these changes. This presentation will thematically analyze the proposed changes to the Framework to make them more accessible and to highlight implications for library practice. While the presenters will monitor progress on the revisions throughout the summer, regardless of the next steps in ACRL’s process, careful review of the proposed changes can offer insight into the future direction of this important document.

4:00 PM–5:00 PM

CCBC Choices 2027

Location: Salons G & H • Speaker(s): Merri Lindgren, Tessa Michaelson Schmidt

CCBC Choices 2027- Preview Books that engage and entertain, delight and inspire, affirm and inform are the focus of this session that will preview selected books from CCBC Choices 2027, the forthcoming

best-of-the-year list for children and teens from the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC). The CCBC is a library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and serves as statewide children's and young adult literature book examination and resource center. The CCBC librarians will also highlight intellectual freedom resources for administrators and time-saving tools for librarians.

4:00 PM–5:00 PM
Tour of Raven Software
Location: Off site - Raven Software
Founded in Middleton in 1990, Raven Software is now part of Activision and a key contributor to the *Call of Duty* franchise, including *Call of Duty: Warzone*™ and the *Black Ops* series. Go behind the scenes at this leading video game studio and learn about the people and technology involved in creating blockbuster games. The tour includes Raven's development spaces, an inside look at the game development process, and exclusive access to its new state-of-the-art Motion Capture Studio and Sound Engineering Studio. Guests will also receive a Raven Software swag package. Pre-registration is required and space is limited to 15 participants. Transportation is not provided. Raven Software is approximately 0.6 miles from the Madison Marriott West, about a 3-minute drive via Greenway Boulevard.

4:00 PM–5:00 PM
AWSL Book Swap
Location: Middleton Room

5:00 PM–6:30 PM
WLA Literary and Children's Book Award Winners: Author's Showcase
Location: Conference Center Foyer Hallway

5:30 PM–7:00 PM
Awards and Honors Registration Open
Location: Conference Center Foyer

6:00PM-8:30 PM
Cash Bar
Location: Superior Foyer

6:30 PM–8:30 PM
Awards and Honors Banquet
Location: Superior Room

Friday • October 23, 2026

7:00 AM–12:00 PM
Registration Open
Location: Conference Center Foyer

7:00 AM–12:00 PM
Special Business Meetings
Location: Middleton Room

7:00 AM–1:00 PM
Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck
To find the coffee truck, exit the conference center doors (next to registration), turn left and follow the sidewalk down to the end of the building. The truck will be to your left in the roped off area.

7:30 AM–8:30 AM
Lightning Session Breakfast: 3 Presentations on Innovative Library Programs
Location: Superior Room • Speaker(s): Courtney Metko, Rachel Thomas, Kate Davis

-7:30 AM - 7:45 AM
Culture Kits for Kids: Build It! Share It! Spark It! - Kate Davis, Prairie Lakes Library System
Ready to spark cultural awareness and curiosity among young patrons—helping them connect with the wider world as global citizens? Passport Packs, designed for ages 5–12, highlight a country through books, puzzles, toys, games, and language resources, as well as digital content such as playlists and virtual field trips. This initiative promotes cultural literacy, inclusivity, and global understanding, particularly in underserved or rural areas with limited access to multicultural experiences. Launching in 2026 at select libraries in the Prairie Lakes Library System, Passport Packs are designed to be affordable, replicable, and scalable for libraries of all sizes to build. This breakout session will dive into the best practices in building these kits, from finding partners to sourcing materials to evaluating books. Developed with funds from a WiLS Ideas to Action grant, Passport Packs transform complex cultural resources into turn-key toolkits that empower library staff and captivate young explorers.

- 7:50 AM - 8:05 AM
Making Waves with Kayaks - Rachel Thomas, Rice Lake Public Library
Any great adventure will include planning, surprises, challenges, and rewards! The Rice Lake Public Library has been checking out kayaks since 2023, including two custom made adaptive kayaks. Learn how the library launched this unique collection. See examples of tools and resources that have been life preservers for staff. Hear the stories of unexpected rapids, those surprises and challenges that staff have navigated and learned lessons from. And hear about the rewards of paddling through unknown waters. This program will have practical advice for anyone considering checking out very unique items.

- 8:10 AM - 8:25 AM
Intergenerational Storytimes - Courtney Metko
Intergenerational Storytime is a unique program that brings together young children, their caregivers, and residents of local senior living communities for a shared literacy experience. Designed like a traditional toddler storytime, each session includes engaging books, songs, movement, and music. The added intergenerational element creates meaningful connections, fostering joy, empathy, and a sense of community across ages. Children benefit from social interaction and diverse relationships, while older adults enjoy the energy and companionships of young families. This program is easy to replicate and adaptable for various group sizes and settings, making it a valuable partnership opportunity between libraries and senior living communities.

8:30 AM–9:30 AM
Keynote Speaker: Jason Kotecki
Location: Superior Room

Jason Kotecki is an artist who speaks. Really, really well! A master of wit & whimsy, he is an expert at helping people “Escape Adulthood,” in order to beat burnout and create lives with adventure, meaning, and joy. Jason uses his extraordinary artistic gifts, combined with humor and memorable storytelling, to spark intentional thinking that re-energizes people to reclaim passion for doing their best work.

9:30 AM–9:45 AM
Book Signing with Jason Kotecki

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:45 AM–10:45 AM
Strengthening Community Connections Through Home Delivery Services
Location: Salon E • Speaker(s): Katharine Clark, Megan O'Keefe
This presentation will explore the development and growth of a library home delivery service designed to expand access and strengthen community connections. Presenters will outline the evolution of the service from its origins during the 2020 Covid pandemic to its integration into public services, highlighting key steps such as establishing workflows, coordinating volunteers, and managing monthly delivery processes. Attendees will gain practical insights into logistics, reader’s advisory tools, and strategies for building meaningful relationships with homebound patrons and volunteers.

9:45 AM–10:45 AM
Library Crawl: A Community Collaboration
Location: Salon A • Speaker(s): Jill Roth
At the Demmer Memorial Library, “Library Crawl Week” reimagined outreach by bringing library programming directly into local businesses and gathering spaces. The week featured a Silent Book Club at a coffee shop, a book-and-cheese pairing at a local cheese market, a library foundation fundraiser at a restaurant, an America 250 film screening at the local arts center, music bingo at a brew pub, and yoga in the park. Each event was designed to connect residents not only to the library, but also to the businesses and organizations that shape daily community life. By meeting people where they already gather, the library strengthened partnerships, expanded visibility, supported local commerce, and created

low-pressure opportunities for engagement. The series demonstrated how rural libraries can serve as community conveners while building goodwill, cross-promotion opportunities, and a stronger sense of place.

9:45 AM–10:45 AM

Preparing for RDA (Resource Description and Access): The Intellectual Shift

Location: Salon F • Speaker(s): Sarah Furger

Official RDA is coming! But how does that impact our daily workflows? RDA (Resource Description and Access) is a package of data elements, guidelines, and instructions for creating library and cultural heritage metadata – a cataloging standard, in other words. This presentation will lay the groundwork for Official RDA, introducing key concepts such as data models, WEMI, and key vocabulary that will help with making the shift!

9:45 AM–10:45 AM

Better Living Through Wiki: Collaborative Strategies for Creating and Maintaining Internal Documentation

Location: Green Bay & Milwaukee • Speaker(s): Michelle Fisher, Kestrel Gregorich-Trevor

The Access Services unit was formed in January 2025 to centralize staffing and standardize public services across six campus libraries at the UW-Madison Libraries. The Access Services Management Team approved a staff-led initiative to consolidate a wide array of print and digital training and documentation content from each library into a system that encourages consistent documentation of policies and procedures, responds to the needs of stakeholders, and is capable of surviving institutional change.

We will discuss the process of building a wiki-based system of documentation and knowledge-sharing for the newly-formed Access Services department, specifically the use of templates, audience-driven taxonomy, maintenance schedules, and best practice codification, and how a careful approach has allowed us to transfer over a decade’s worth of both written and verbal knowledge into a widely-adopted system for staff ranging from part-time student workers to full-time subject matter experts.

9:45 AM–10:45 AM

From Roots to Reach: Growing Community Engagement Through Local History Digitization

Location: Salon D • Speaker(s): Angela Schneider, Keetra Schultz, Laura Skalitzky, John Serrano

Across the Winnefox system, libraries of all sizes are transforming local history collections into dynamic, accessible community assets. This panel highlights how three libraries—serving different communities and at different stages of digitization—approach this work in sustainable, creative, and community-rooted ways. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas, scalable strategies, and knowledge of Wisconsin-based organizations and resources that can help launch or strengthen local digitization initiatives in libraries of any size. Hear how one small library built momentum through simple community-driven programs that turn analog engagement into hands-on digitization support. Explore how a larger library strategically prioritizes collections and activates them through cross-departmental programming and partnerships. Discover how collaboration with community partners and creative outreach can amplify storytelling and invite the broader community into the collection. Finally, learn how system-level support lowers barriers through shared infrastructure, training, and discovery tools.

9:45 AM–10:45 AM

Hear Our Voices: Homeschool Alumni Speak to Public Libraries and Library Services

Location: Salons G & H • Speaker(s): Abigail Nye, Abigail Phillips, Jessica Hermanny

Homeschooled children comprise an oft-overlooked patron group in public library services and programming, particularly in states with minimal homeschool regulation. Join two homeschool alumni and a public librarian turned information studies professor for a much-needed conversation that centers the voices of homeschool alumni. Drawing on an ongoing oral history project of Wisconsin homeschool alumni, recent research, and the lived experiences of presenters, this session will highlight the unique needs of Wisconsin homeschooled children and empower public librarians to support this underserved population.

9:45 AM–10:45 AM

Building Sustainable Libraries for Stronger Communities

Location: Salons B & C • Speaker(s): Lisa Kropp

Libraries are wonderful third spaces to meet, connect, and learn. They can also be meaningful catalysts of community resilience and social cohesion in the face of disruptions large and small--like when extreme weather strikes or when patrons who are disconnected and lonely turn to the library for connections. You will leave with practical examples of ways to expand your library's roots in your local community. This session will also explore the new partnership between the WLA and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, which empowers library leaders to advance environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible practices that make libraries more resilient as they intentionally address climate change and co-create thriving communities.

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Library Marketing for Facebook and Beyond

Location: Salon A • Speaker(s): Jenny Schink

95 % of libraries use Facebook for promoting programs and services. This presentation will cover best practices for using the platform, how to create the best content, and how to maintain knowledge of this ever changing platform.

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Return of the Small Town Cheap & Easy: 5 NEW Programs under $10

Location: Salons B & C • Speaker(s): Kari Preuss

Kick off by hearing at least 5 programs that Kari has run on her own for under $10 followed by group time to share your programs. We will re-convene to have a group share with a unified goal to have plenty of ideas to utilize that are Cheap and Easy!

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Beyond Cardholders: How to Research and Serve the 80% Not Using Your Library

Location: Salon E • Speaker(s): Dawn Leijon, Kate Tallman

Most libraries make decisions based on the voices of their patrons and engaged users, but what about the majority of residents who don’t use the library?
The Warren-Newport Public Library (IL) undertook a strategic planning process to understand its full community amid shifting demographics, including a growing immigrant population and more financially-stressed households. This session will share their approach to researching changing community needs, identifying underserved and emerging audiences, and developing spaces, programs,

and policies to serve everyone. Presenters will outline a multi-method approach including demographic and usage analysis, a community survey designed to reach non-users, bilingual outreach, and structured input from community partners, board members, and teens. These efforts uncovered key insights around awareness gaps, language barriers, and access challenges. Attendees will learn how this research informed changes to programs, policies, staffing, and outreach, and leave with a roadmap and tips to apply in their own communities.

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Radon Testing Made Simple: Implementing Library Lending of Radon Test Kits

Location: Green Bay & Milwaukee • Speaker(s): Alaina Morales, Grace Rollin

In January 2026, Brown County Library and Brown County Public Health partnered to lend digital radon test kits to the community. Brown County Public Health was interested in improving access to easy-to-use, high quality radon test kits throughout the County, and thought the Library would be the perfect partner in this endeavor. With funding from Wisconsin Department of Health Service's Taking Action with Data grants, BCPH provided 55 digital radon kits to BCL to catalog and circulate. Although everyone involved was optimistic about the program, no one predicted the community's overwhelmingly positive response. These kits have been wildly popular, with 200+ holds on the devices since they became available.

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Rooted in Our Communities: Showcasing LIS Graduate Student Experiential Learning Happening Across the State

Location: Salons G & H • Speaker(s): Jaime Healy-Plotkin, Cassy Leeport, Anna Lee

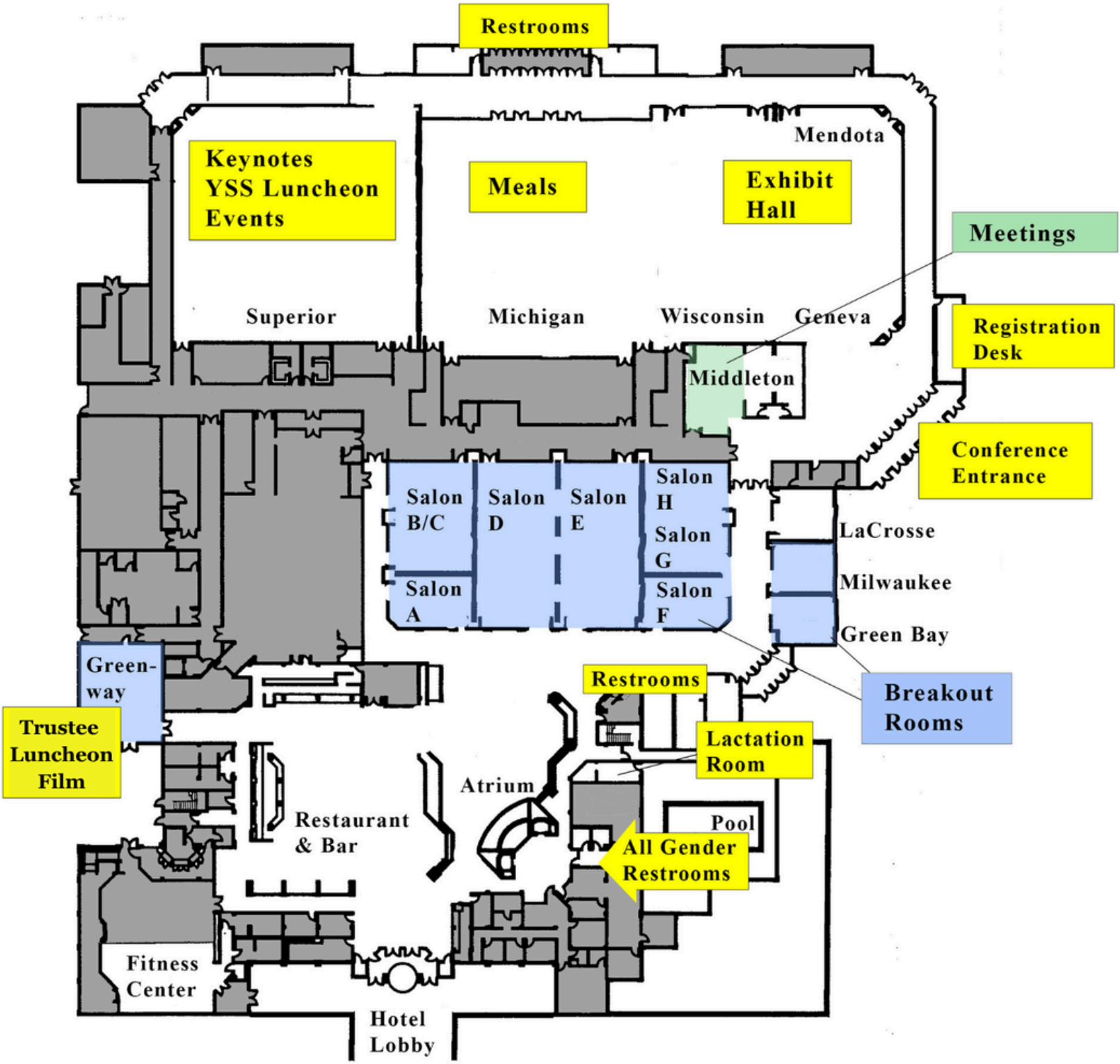
This presentation will introduce attendees to experiential learning opportunities offered to students in the MA LIS program at UW-Madison's iSchool. Students complete their required practicum through work at a wide variety of settings including academic libraries, public libraries, archives, museums, and more. In Spring 2026, two new practicum options were offered to students: the Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums Practicum and the Teaching & Learning Practicum. This panel will provide an opportunity for students to share the experiences they had in completing their practicums during either Spring or Summer 2026 semesters. In addition to hearing about the fieldwork completed by these students, attendees will learn more about how they might host and mentor practicum students from the UW Madison MA LIS program in the future. Note: students interested in presenting from the summer practicum experience are yet to be identified. The instructors of the three practicum avenues can join.

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Rooted Insights: Turning Library Data into Community Impact

Location: Salon D • Speaker(s): Melissa Aro, Tim Drexler, Kim Cochran Kiesewetter

Libraries are rooted in their communities, collecting data that reflects local needs, experiences, and impact. Transforming that data into meaningful insights, however, requires intention and the right tools. This session introduces a Data Use Toolkit developed by the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium to help librarians build confidence and capacity in community-centered data use. Participants will explore practical resources for identifying key questions, interpreting data, and applying findings to better understand and respond to their communities. Presenters will share the toolkit's development, real-world applications, and strategies for adapting it across library contexts. In addition, presenters will demonstrate two statewide dashboards that transform Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Annual Library Survey data into accessible, interactive visualizations. Attendees will learn to explore trends, support advocacy and planning, and communicate impact through clear, data-informed stories grounded in community needs.



Rooms are subject to change as needed.
For up-to-date information,
please check the conference app.

Water stations can be found throughout the property.

Rooted in Community

2026 WLA Annual Conference

1313 John Q Hammons Drive, Middleton, WI 53562

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

Your Community's History Belongs to the World: What Recollection Wisconsin’s Free Services Can Do for You

Location: Salon F • Speaker(s): Kristen Whitson

Wisconsin's libraries and cultural heritage organizations hold irreplaceable local history, and Recollection Wisconsin exists to help you share it. Rooted in community partnerships across the state, RW offers a growing suite of free services designed to meet libraries wherever they are on their digitization journey.

In this session, you'll learn about many ways RW can support your work: how becoming a content partner puts your collections in front of audiences via a centralized search portal; the Recollection Wisconsin Digitization Initiative, which pairs your organization with a trained graduate student intern to digitize collections; the A/V kit lending program for reformatting film and audio cassettes; PreserveWI, a statewide digital preservation program for long-term digital storage of digitized cultural heritage materials; and the free Digital Readiness Toolkit, a self-paced online manual covering every step of a digitization project.

Come ready to discover what's possible; your community's stories deserve to be found.

12:15 PM–12:30 PM

Conference Wrap, Announcements and Wisconsin Library Foundation Raffle Drawing

Location: Atrium

12:45 PM–2:00 PM

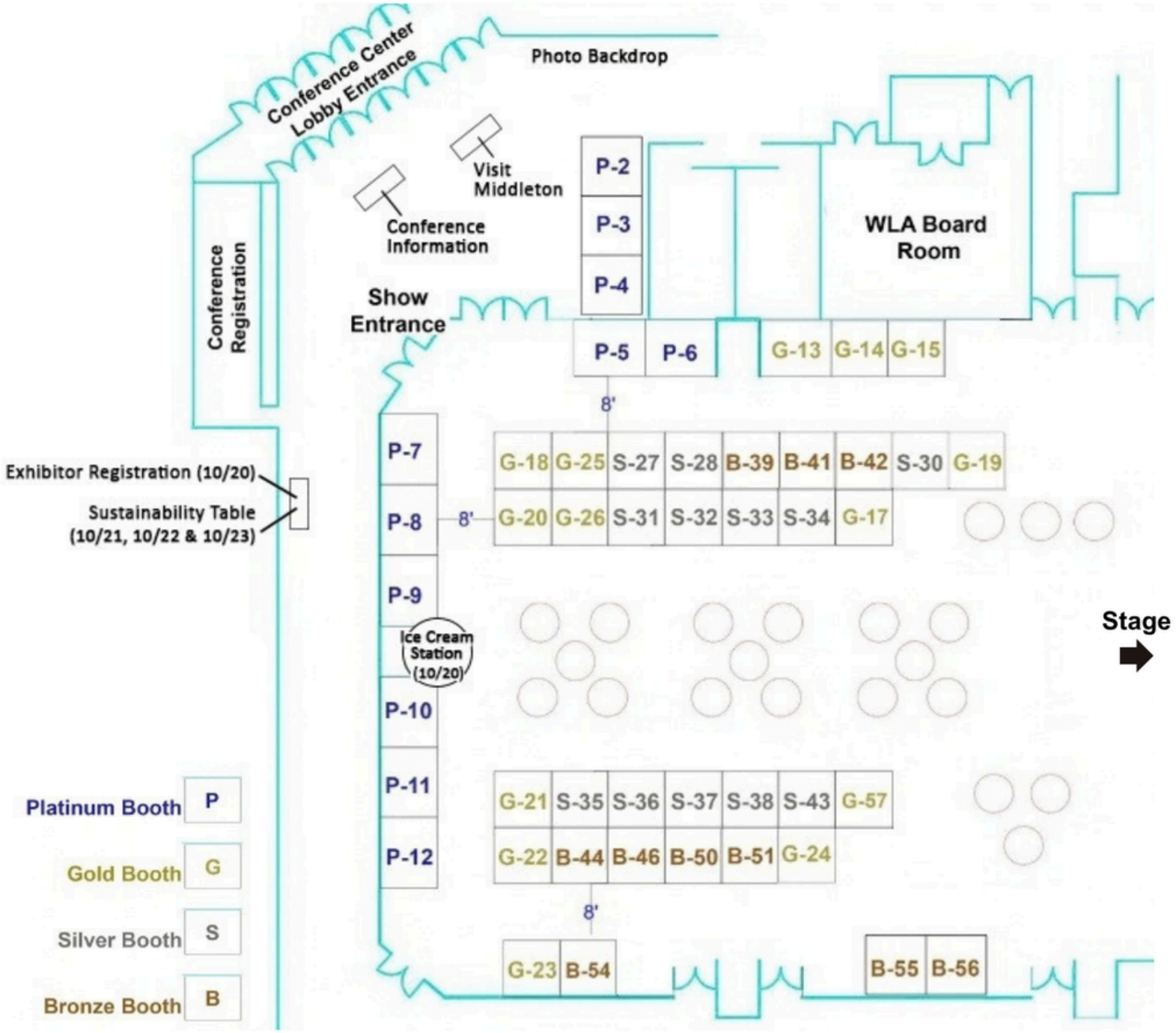
Post Conference - Hubbard Avenue Diner Pie Social

Hubbard Avenue Diner Pie Social at the Middleton Public Library

Rooted in Community

2026 WLA Annual Conference

Exhibit Hall Map



Rooted in Community

2026 WLA Annual Conference

Exhibit Hall Key

Booth	Exhibitor
2	Pillar Booth
3	WLA Book Store
4	Wisconsin Library Association Foundation
5	OPN Architects
6	UW-Milwaukee School of Information Studies
7	ISG
8	LLMC
9	EBSCO Information Services
10	Building Service /Smart Spaces
11	Demco
12	Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA)
13	Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc.
14	PBS Wisconsin Education
15	Wisconsin Library Association Head Table
17	Mackin
18	Engberg Anderson, Inc.
19	Libraria
20	Library Furniture International
21	HeinOnline
22	ABDO Books
23	Maris Associates
24	Wisconsin Library Association Special Units & Sections
25	UW-Madison iSchool
26	Building Service /Smart Spaces
27	WiscNet
28	Creativebug

Booth	Exhibitor
31	Recollection Wisconsin
32	WiLS
33	Department of Public Instruction
34	Ingram Library Services
35	RMC Imaging, Inc.
36	Murphy Security Solutions
37	FEH Design
38	Lark Signs
39	Libby/Kanopy
40	Lee Recreation
41	Focus on Energy
42	State bar of Wisconsin Lawyer Referral Service
43	Wisconsin Information Technology Education Grant
44	The HON Company
46	Bibliotheca
50	Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library
51	Coakley Brothers & Brothers Interiors
54	WI College Savings Program, Edvest 529
55	Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom - Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation
56	The Wall Street Journal
57	Shive-Hattery Group, Inc.

2026 WLA Conference Exhibitor Directory

Booth 2 — Pillar Booth
320 N Sangamon
Chicago, IL 60607

www.pillarbooth.com

Onsite Representative: Blake Schwartz
Email: blake@pillarbooth.com
Phone: 847-917-1681

Categories: Furniture

Pillar Booths are the only soundproof phone booths that balance functionality, thoughtful design, and affordability while utilizing sustainably sourced, high-quality materials while maintaining industry-best lead times.

Booth 3 — WLA Book Store

Booth 4 — Wisconsin Library Association Foundation
https://www.wisconsinlibraries.org/foundation

The Wisconsin Library Association Foundation supports Wisconsin libraries through funding for scholarships, continuing education, awards and honors, literary awards, keynote speakers, and the Wisconsin Library Heritage Center. All WLA members are members of the Foundation.

Booth 5 — OPN Architects
301 N Broom Street
Suite 100
Madison, WI 53703

https://www.opnarchitects.com/

Onsite Representative: Julia Sieving
Email: jsieving@opnarchitects.com
Phone: (608) 819-1281

Categories: 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.

Booth 6 — UW-Milwaukee School of Information Studies
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.

Booth 7 — ISG
201 Main St Ste 1020
La Crosse, WI 54601

isginc.com

Onsite Representative: Brooke Petska
Email: brooke.petska@isginc.com
Phone: 605-838-4962

Categories: Architecture & Design, Engineers, Interior Design

Architecture + Engineering + Environmental + Planning

Booth 8 — LLMC
8011 34th Ave S
Suite 245
Minneapolis, MN 55425

https://llmc.com/

Onsite Representative: Anne Mostad-Jensen
Email: anne@llmc.com
Phone: 612-445-8196

Categories: Databases

LLMC is a non-profit organization that digitizes and preserves historical, legal and government information and makes it available to member institutions in a database.

Booth 9 — EBSCO Information Services
10 Estes Street
Ipswich, MA 01938

about.ebsco.com

Onsite Representative: Mara Egherman
Email: megherman@ebsco.com
Phone: 800-653-2726

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.

Booth 10 — Building Service /Smart Spaces
W222 N630 Cheaney Road
Waukesha, WI 53186

www.buildingservice.com

Onsite Representative: Lori Curtis
Email: lcurtis@buildingservice.com
Phone: 920-360-7761

Categories: Architecture & Design, Audio Visual Equipment/Systems, Furniture, Signage, Wayfinding and Design Services, Video, Interior Design, Government Information, Engineers

Full Interior Furnishings also specializing in DIRTT Modular Walls & Audio Visual

Booth 11 — Demco
4810 Forest Run Road
Madison, WI 53704

demco.com

Onsite Representative: Lynne Gruneberg
Email: lynneg@demco.com
Phone: 608-206-4382

Categories: Furniture, Wayfinding and Design Services, Shelving, Supplies

Demco is an industry-leading learning environments company with a single goal: empower every learner to reach their maximum potential

Booth 12 — Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA)
1414 MacArthur Rd.
Madison, WI 53714

https://wisconsincaregiver.org/

Onsite Representative: Kristin Voss
Email: kristinvoss6@gmail.com
Phone: 608-843-8299

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.

Booth 13 — Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc.
1880 West Morton Avenue
Jacksonville, IL 62650

www.btsb.com

Onsite Representative: Kevin Weniger
Email: kweniger@btsb.com
Phone: 800-637-6586 ext. 3540

Categories: Books, Children's Books/Materials, Book Jobber/Wholesaler, Distributor

Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc. (BTSB) is a leading provider of the most durable prebound children's and young adult books available.

Booth 14 — PBS Wisconsin Education
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, curates, and distributes standards-aligned, free-to-use educational media for grades PreK-12. From engaging videos and games to practical professional learning events, we support educators and learners in classrooms, libraries, and beyond.

Booth 15 — Wisconsin Library Association Head Table
wisconsinlibraries.org
Phone: 608-245-3640

The Wisconsin Library Association connects and supports library workers, trustees, friends, and advocates across Wisconsin. Through advocacy, professional development, networking, and leadership opportunities, WLA helps members strengthen library services in their communities.

Booth 17 — Mackin
3505 County Road 42 W
Burnsville, MN 55306

Mackin.com

Onsite Representative: Sheri Evans
Email: sheri.omernik@mackin.com
Phone: 952-895-9540

Onsite Representative: Jessica Foltz
Email: conferences@mackin.com
Phone: 952-895-9540

Categories: Books, Children's Books/Materials, Multi Media, Library Automation, Children's Programs, Education, Literacy

Mackin provides 4.2 million high-quality print and digital titles for grades PK-12, maker, and more!

Booth 18 — Engberg Anderson, Inc.
320 E Buffalo Street Ste 500
Milwaukee, WI 53202

https://www.engberganderson.com

Onsite Representative: Alexandra Ramsey
Email: alexr@enberganderson.com
Phone: 414-944-9000

Categories: Architecture & Design

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

Booth 19 — Libraria
1387 Dutch American Way
Beecher, IL 60401

https://www.libraria.com/

Onsite Representative: Linda Peterson
Email: lindap@libraria.com
Phone: 800-334-8647

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.

Booth 20 — Library Furniture International
797 Glenn Ave.
Wheeling, IL 60074

https://libraryfurnitureinternational.com/

Onsite Representative: Henry Fairbanks
Email: Henry@library.furniture
Phone: 847-987-4265

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.

Booth 21 — HeinOnline
2350 North Forest Rd.
Getzville, NY 14068

https://heinonline.com/

Onsite Representative: Steve Roses
Email: marketing@heinonline.com
Phone: 716-445-9872

Categories: Databases, Online Databases for Reference

HeinOnline is a premier online research platform that provides more than 249 million pages of multidisciplinary periodicals, essential government documents, international resources, case law, and much more. Composed of fully searchable image-based PDFs and available at an affordable price, the wealth of material allows researchers access to authoritative, true-to-print digital material without the hassle or cost of using multiple research databases. At the end of the day, our goal remains simple—to meet the needs of our customers and streamline the research process for all.

Booth 22 — ABDO Books
8000 W. 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55439-2534

abdobooks.com

Onsite Representative: Michele Gillman
Email: mgillman@abdobooks.com
Phone: 612-387-6180

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

Children's Publishing Company

Booth 23 — Maris Associates
3175 Willowgate Pass
Colgate, WI 53017-9346

Maris Dambekaln

Onsite Representative: Morey 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.

Booth 24 — Wisconsin Library Association Special Units & Sections
wisconsinlibraries.org
WLA's divisions, sections, roundtables, and special interest groups connect members who share professional interests, library settings, and service priorities. These groups offer opportunities to exchange ideas, develop expertise, participate in programs, and take on leadership roles within the association.

Booth 25 — UW-Madison iSchool
1205 University Ave
Madison, WI 53706

https://ischool.wisc.edu/

Representative: Jenny Greiber
Email: jgrieber@wisc.edu

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!

Booth 26 — Building Service /Smart Spaces
W222 N630 Cheaney Road
Waukesha, WI 53186

www.buildingservice.com

Onsite Representative: Lori Curtis
Email: lcurtis@buildingservice.com
Phone: 920-360-7761

Categories: Architecture & Design, Audio Visual Equipment/Systems, Furniture, Signage, Wayfinding and Design Services, Video, Interior Design, Government Information, Engineers

Full Interior Furnishings also specializing in DIRTT Modular Walls & Audio Visual

Booth 27 — WiscNet
605 Science Drive
Madison 53711

www.wiscnet.net

Onsite Representative: Rich Turiel
Email: richt@wiscnet.net
Phone: 608-310-3931

WiscNet is Wisconsin's Research and Education Network.

Booth 28 — Creativebug
2560 Ninth Street
Suite 314/316
Berkeley, CA 94710

https://www.creativebug.com/libraries

Onsite Representative: Mark Sporle
Email: mark.sporle@creativebug.com
Phone: 608.520.0152

Categories: Databases, Subscription Services, Program Resources

Creativebug promotes wellness and lifelong learning through the proven benefits of creativity through an unlimited access online art and craft resource.

Booth 31 — Recollection Wisconsin
1360 Regent St. #121
Madison, WI 5371

https://recollectionwisconsin.org/

Onsite Representative: Andi Coffin
Email: acoffin@wils.org
Phone: 414-979-9457

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

Recollection Wisconsin connects cultural heritage institutions statewide to preserve, promote, and facilitate digital access to Wisconsin's rich history through collaboration and shared infrastructure

Booth 32 — WiLS
1360 Regent St. #121
Madison, WI 53715

https://www.wils.org/

Onsite Representative: Andi Coffin
Email: acoffin@wils.org
Phone: 414-979-9457

Categories: Education, 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.

Booth 33 — Department of Public Instruction
201 West Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

https://dpi.wi.gov/libraries

Onsite Representative: TBD
Email: benjamin.miller@dpi.wi.gov
Phone: 608-224-6168

Categories: Education, Literacy, Databases, Consultants, Government Information, Program Resources, Children's Programs

The Bureau of Libraries at DPI is Wisconsin's State Library Agency and works to empower libraries to best serve their communities. Stop by and saw hi and meet Teresa Schmidt, the newest DPI Library consultant.

Booth 34 — Ingram Library Services
14 Ingram Blvd
La Vergne, TN 37086

https://www.ingramcontent.com/libraries

Onsite Representative: Brette Dorris
Email: brette.dorris@ingramcontent.com
Phone: 618-210-3280

Categories: Children's Books/Materials, Large Print Books, Audio Materials, Books, Publishers

Ingram Library Services is your “need- it-now” solution delivering millions of titles, innovative systems, expertise, and assistance in developing and maintaining your library’s print collection.

Booth 35 — RMC Imaging Inc
780 Creek Bluff Lane
Rockford, IL 61114

https://www.stimaging.com/

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

Categories: Microform/Microform Equipment

New ST Viewscan 5 Digital Library Reader Printer Scanner with Perfectview user friendly software.

Booth 36 — Murphy Security Solutions
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.

Booth 37 — FEH Design
902 Main Street
Dubuque, IA 52001

www.fehdesign.com

Onsite Representative: Kim Bellman
Email: kimb@fehdesign.com
Phone: 563-590-6087

Categories: Architecture & Design

FEH Design is a community of architects, engineers, and interior designers with a passion to create. Each team member brings unique strengths, and together we are creating vibrant communities through collaborative design.

Booth 38 — Lark Signs
120 N Old Manor Rd
Wichita, KS 67208

https://larksigns.com

Onsite Representative: Karl Miller
Email: karl@larksigns.com
Phone: 316-371-5585

Categories: Architecture & Design, Signage, Wayfinding and Design Services, Children's Programs, Storytelling Resources

We make Waterproof StoryWalk© signs and storywalk© books!

Booth 39 — Libby/Kanopy
One OverDrive Way
Cleveland, OH 44125

https://company.overdrive.com

Onsite Representative: Paula Roman
Email: proman@overdrive.com
Phone: 407-496-3773

Categories: Books, Distributor

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

Booth 40 — Lee Recreation
260 W. Main St.
Cambridge 53523

www.leerecreation.com

Onsite Representative: Megan Lee Cunningham
Email: megan@leerecreation.com
Phone: 800-775-8937

Lee Recreation is a Family-Owned Company. We have been supplying outdoor recreation equipment and public space solutions for over 30 years!

Booth 41 — Focus on Energy
725 West Park Avenue
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729, WI 54729

focusonenergy.com

Onsite Representative: David Voss
Email: david.voss@focusonenergy.com
Phone: 715-720-2166

Categories: Consultants

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Booth 42 — State Bar of Wisconsin Lawyer Referral Service
5302 Eastpark Blvd
Madison 53718

wisbar.org

Onsite Representative: Katie Wilcox
Email: kwilcox@wisbar.org
Phone: 608-250-6191

Categories: Program Resources

State Bar of Wisconsin's Lawyer Referral Service connects people with qualified attorneys, offering referrals, legal information, and affordable initial consultations tailored to specific needs today.

Booth 43 — Wisconsin Information Technology Education Grant
1250 Connecticut Ave NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036-2657

https://www.itedgrantwisconsin.com/

Onsite Representative: Tyra Harris
Email: tyra@meucciandco.com
Phone: 202-203-9292

Categories: Education, Program Resources

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.

Booth 44 — The HON Company
Muscatine, IA

https://www.hon.com/

Onsite Representative: Jackson Woods
Email: woodsjac@honcompany.com
Phone: 563-261-9097

Categories: Furniture, Interior Design

HON provides durable, thoughtfully designed furniture for libraries, including study, collaboration, staff, and public spaces, backed by industry-leading warranties and nationwide support.

Booth 46 — Bibliotheca
111190 Hudson Blvd N
STE 300
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

https://www.bibliotheca.com/

Onsite Representative: Kyle Kigin
Email: k.kigin@Bibliotheca.com
Phone: 651-983-2490

Categories: Automation, Wayfinding and Design Services, Security, Digital Scanning & Preservation, Online Databases for Reference, Technology Management, RFID, Self-check

Bibliotheca provides innovative library technology solutions that enhance patron experiences, streamline operations, and help libraries better connect with and serve their communities.

Booth 50 — Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library
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 Braille 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.

Booth 51 — Coakley Brothers & Brothers Interiors
400 S 5th St
Milwaukee, WI 53204

https://coakleybrothers.com/

Onsite Representative: Parker Rezner
Email: prezner@coakleybrothers.com
Phone: 414-581-9109

Booth 54 — WI College Savings Program, Edvest 529
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

Edvest 529 is Wisconsin's direct-sold college savings plan. Pick up an outreach kit to share with your patrons: education savings information for Wisconsin residents.

Booth 55 — Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom - Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation
PO Box 5550
Madison, WI 53705

www.wisagclassroom.org

Onsite Representative: Beth Schaefer
Email: bschaefer@wfbf.com
Phone: 608-577-6845

Categories: Associations, Education, Children's Programs, Children's Books/Materials, Promotional Materials, Literacy

Growing student learning through the relevant context of the Food, Fiber, and Fuel by providing educators and volunteers resources, grants, and professional development in agricultural literacy.

Booth 56 — The Wall Street Journal
PO Box 300
Princeton, NJ 08543

wsj.com

Onsite Representative: Mark Johnson
Email: mark.johnson@dowjones.com
Phone: 920-492-0306

Categories: Databases

Booth 57 — Shive-Hattery Group, Inc.
316 West Washington Avenue
Suite 975
Madison, WI 53703

Onsite Representative: Christy Monk
Email: cmonk@shive-hattery.com
Phone: 563.580.1115

Categories: Architecture & Design

Architecture + Engineering to make the world a better place.