Letters About Literature Deadline Nearing

The deadline for the Letters About Literature student reading/writing contest is on January 11 — less than one month away. The Wyoming State Library invites students in grades 4-12 to read or reread a favorite book and respond with a letter to the author, living or dead, about how the book changed the way they see the world.

Encourage the teens and tweens you work with to enter! Wyoming students could win a $150 Amazon gift card for first place, $100 for second, or $50 for third in one of three age categories: grades 4-6, grades 7-8, and grades 9-12. The top Wyoming letter in each category will advance to national competition. Both classroom and individual entries are welcome. Guidelines, entry form, and a teaching guide are available at read.gov/letters. More information, promotional posters, and a link to submit may be found on the WSL website.

This year, for the first time, entries will be accepted online through Submittable. Entries may also be mailed to Susan Mark, Wyoming State Library, 2800 Central Ave., Cheyenne WY 82002. All entries must be postmarked or uploaded by January 11, 2019. Questions may be directed to Susan at susan.mark@wyo.gov or (307) 777-5915.
WSL News

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE WSL!

Want to be certain Santa Claus arrived safely at your house? Check out Patent US5523741 Santa Claus Detector. When Santa comes through the chimney, he’ll break the electrical circuit housed by the stocking. Lights and sound will go off, announcing his arrival.

Find more patent information from our Patent and Trademark Resource Center.

The Wyoming State Library will be closed on Monday, December 24, and Tuesday, December 25, for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and on Tuesday, January 1 for New Year's Day. We wish all of our colleagues around the state a happy holiday season.

HOST A FALLEN WARRIOR KIOSK AT YOUR LIBRARY

Since the start of the Global War on Terror, Wyoming has lost sons and daughters as they protected our freedom and liberty in the Armed Forces. To honor their memory and legacy of service, the Wyoming Veterans Commission created several Fallen Warrior Kiosks. Each traveling kiosk contains biographies, pictures, and stories about these fallen heroes.

The Wyoming Military Department is scheduling host locations for their Fallen Warrior Kiosks for 2019-2021. There is no cost for hosting. Each venue will host the kiosk for three months. The units require only 10 square feet of space and access to an electrical outlet. The Wyoming Veterans Commission will assist with moving kiosks between venues, provide operational training, and supply media resources to help advertise the kiosk. The deadline is January 25, 2019, to volunteer as a host location. Questions may go to John Woodward at (307) 473-3489 or john.woodward@wyo.gov.
Around the State

GOSHEN COUNTY LIBRARY FUNDRAISES TO CREATE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Goshen County Library recently completed their local and online fundraising efforts to create a community vegetable garden.

“We want to feed our patrons’ souls, whether through knowledge, art, a peaceful setting, or new opportunities,” library director Joan Brinkley said. “Our goal is to build raised gardens in all of our open areas and invite our patrons, young and old, to grow vegetables, get their hands dirty, meet their neighbors, and to share in the bounty.”

Goshen County’s main source of income is agriculture, and Joan said it’s home to many experienced gardeners who are excited to share their knowledge. Before the first seeds are even sown, the library has work to do. The following months will be spent reaching out to local gardeners, scrounging building supplies, finding soil, and sharing their excitement for this project.

LARAMIE COUNTY’S LIBRARY FOR ALL GETS A CHRISTMAS TWIST

On December 11, the Laramie County Library ran a special Library for All event with a Christmas-themed puppet show put on by award-winning ventriloquist Meghan Casey of Rocky Mountain Puppets. Library for All is a program that is catered specifically to adults with disabilities. Laramie County began offering it as a regular program in December 2017.

Held the second Tuesday of each month from September through May, Library for All usually includes a craft, science demo, and LEGO® build. Past participants have created candle holders, periscopes, tie-dyed pillowcases, and more all while enjoying science demonstrations from Kurt Hinaman exploring everything from what brand of soda reacts best with Mentos to how paper airplanes fly in a wind tunnel. This program is designed to ensure that every member of the Laramie County community has the opportunity to enjoy library events, making it a library that truly is for all.
School Libraries

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR TEACHER LIBRARIAN DAY 2019

Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Western Region is proud to announce the 15th annual Teacher Librarian Day on Friday, February 15, 2019 at the History Colorado Center in Denver for K-16 teachers, librarians, and other educators.

The morning of TLD will offer inspiring short TED-style talks focusing on innovative ways to use primary sources in the classroom. The afternoon will feature hour-long breakout sessions.

Substitute Reimbursement will be offered to the first 100 educators; select the “General Admission + Substitute Reimbursement” ticket option. All attendees are eligible to register for .5 graduate credits offered through Adams State University. A certificate showing 8 professional development hours will be given through email after the event.

Trustees, Friends, & Foundations

MAKING LIBRARY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Many Wyoming public librarians are likely in the budget process (or about to enter into the budget process) for the next fiscal year.

The American Library Association (ALA) offers a great article with tips on how to prepare for, give, and follow up after a budget presentation, including information on:

- Identifying community priorities,
- Ideas for ways to use your Friends group,
- Leveraging strategic partners,
- Qualities of a successful budget proposal,
- Do’s and Don’ts for the presentation itself, and
- Links to graph tools to help you create visuals with impact.

Read the full article from ALA to learn more.

ONLINE RESOURCES EVERY LIBRARY SHOULD CONSULT

Keeping a public library running entails a bewildering number of day-to-day responsibilities. With so much to do, and so
little time left over for “big picture thinking,” it’s quite common to lose sight of what is going on in Libraryworld beyond your own service area. Here are three free and authoritative sources to explore.

Public Libraries Survey (PLS)
Every year, more than 17,000 public libraries report into the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and share a handful of key statistics. These include budget basics, annual visitor figures, circulation statistics, collection size, hours of operation, and staffing levels. IMLS aggregates this wealth of data for its annual Public Libraries Survey and Report – to be used by policymakers, lobbyists, journalists, and library practitioners.

Pew Research Center Studies
The Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan “fact tank” – versus think tank – subsidiary of the Pew Charitable Trust. It conducts public opinion polling and media content analysis on a host of topics, and is perhaps best known for its studies on American politics and religion. Pew Research Center polls the public regularly and extensively about library usage and perceptions.

Center for the Future of Libraries
The American Library Association’s (ALA’s) Center for the Future of Libraries has thoroughly researched and prepared position statements and forecasts around 34 trends likely to impact library service in the coming decade.

Nominate an Outstanding Trustee for ALA Citation
The ALA Trustee Citation, established in 1941 to recognize public library trustees for distinguished service to library development, honors the best contributions and efforts of the estimated 60,000 American citizens who serve on library boards. It is presented during the Opening General Session of the ALA Annual Conference. Recipients must be present to accept the award, and the recipients or their libraries are responsible for all expenses to attend. Nomination deadline is January 7, 2019.

Calendar

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<td>Letters About Literature Deadline</td>
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<td>Jan. 25-29</td>
<td>ALA Midwinter</td>
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<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>WLA Legislative Reception</td>
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<td>Big Talk From Small Libraries</td>
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<td>March 16</td>
<td>Freedom of Information Day</td>
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<td>April 7-13</td>
<td>National Library Week</td>
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Databases & Electronic Resources

FEATURED IN GOWYLD: CULTUREGRAMS

For our December GoWYLD mini-marketing kit, we thought it might be nice to feature something a little different for the Christmas season. Kids know all about the history associated with Santa Claus, so why not encourage them to take a look at the tastes and traditions of other cultures?

CultureGramps is a perfect database for public libraries and schools. Learn about countries around the world — the people, their lifestyle and customs, and even holidays. CultureGramps includes lesson plans and a blog with additional ideas for classroom and library use.

- Find links to marketing resources.
- Watch the CultureGramps webinar.
- Explore CultureGramps.

While you’re exploring CultureGramps, check out the festive recipes included for each country, state, and province such as buchty (Slovakia) and figgy duff with molasses coady (Newfoundland and Labrador).

Technology

TOWARD GIGABIT LIBRARIES TOOLKIT AVAILABLE

The free Toward Gigabit Libraries toolkit is an open-source technology learning, diagnostic, and advocacy tool designed for public and tribal libraries in the US. The toolkit will guide you through a series of questions about your technology environment — and provide you with all the information you need to answer the questions. The toolkit is an excellent way to diagnose and fix library technology problems. Some libraries have found it especially useful in preparing for E-rate requests, budget cycles, and even in helping open up lines of communication between library staff and tech workers.
Government Documents

STATE PUBLICATIONS AND THE WIND RIVER RESERVATION

The relationship between the State of Wyoming and the Wind River Reservation has a long and complex history. While the Arapahoe and Shoshone Nations maintain federally recognized Tribal Sovereignty, the Reservation intersects with many state agencies. With adjacent jurisdictions, coordination between Wyoming state government agencies and the Reservation is essential.

This cooperation can be seen in a number of state publications found in the State Publications Database. One example is the Wyoming Gray Wolf Monitoring and Management 2017 Annual Report. For this report, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department worked in cooperation with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribal Fish and Game Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lander Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.

For more information on state publications, both online and in our stacks, contact Karen Kitchens, (307) 777-7281, karen.kitchens@wyo.gov.

Wyoming Library Association

TASTY TREATS NEEDED FOR LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The Wyoming Library Association legislative reception will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2019, at the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne. The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a legislative update at 5 p.m. preceding it. A potluck dinner will be served, and the WLA needs your help to make it happen! Appetizers, hot dishes, sides, salads, and desserts are all welcome.

If you would like to attend and participate in the potluck dinner, please contact Jessica Dawkins at jessica.dawkins@wyo.gov or (307) 777-6337. Please indicate whether you will need an electrical outlet for hot dishes.

What's Up?

If you have great happenings at your library, we’d like to know! Send news to Susan Mark at susan.mark@wyo.gov.
People News

The Riverton Branch Library’s Teri Wiblemo, Library Assistant/Programming, celebrated her ten-year anniversary with the library recently. Shari Haskins, Library Manager/Adult Services, will celebrate her 20th anniversary in January. The library also welcomed Scott Barlow as its new maintenance person. Riverton Branch Library is part of Fremont County Library System.

Tamsen Hert, Head of the Emmet D. Chisum Special Collections at the University of Wyoming, received a Topham and Susan Redd Butler Off-Campus Faculty Award from the Charles Redd Center at Brigham Young University to continue her research on the history of lodging in Yellowstone National Park.

Elizabeth Albin is the new Wright Branch Library (WBL) Branch Services Manager effective in early December. Elizabeth is a lifelong resident of Campbell County and a 16-year employee of Campbell County Public Library System. She replaces Mandy Quarders, who is moving with her family back to her home state of Wisconsin. Mandy began at WBL in 2006 and became manager in 2008.

Campbell County Public Library has named Becky Prelle as Youth Services Coordinator for their children’s department, replacing Janet Tharp who retired after 26 years at CCPL, the last ten in the coordinator position. Becky’s CCPL career started in 2001 as a part-time Youth Services Specialist; in 2004 she moved to full time in that position.

EvaLyn Flores joined the Laramie County Library System at the end of June as an Early Literacy Outreach Specialist. She will play a key role in the library’s new First Steps Initiative. Before joining the Laramie County Library System, EvaLyn worked as a Family Engagement Professional at Head Start of Laramie County.

Kasey Storey joined the Laramie County Library System in September as the new Communications Coordinator. Before joining the library, Kasey completed her Master of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies at Dartmouth College. Kasey grew up in Cheyenne and is thrilled to have the opportunity to work at the same library.
system where she spent her time reading and learning as a child.

Angie Wolff is approaching her one-year anniversary as a Laramie County Library System employee on January 15, 2019. Angie received her MLIS Degree from San Jose State after graduating from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. Prior to joining LCLS, she worked at the Wyoming State Library.

New Books

The latest additions to our professional library science collection are available to you through WYLDCat. Questions or comments? Contact Library Development Manager Brian Greene at brian.greene@wyo.gov or (307) 777-6339.

Public library administration transformed: developing the organization and empowering users  
Karen Starr and Patrick Ragains  
Lanham, Maryland : Rowman & Littlefield, [2018]  

Appraisal and acquisition strategies  
Chicago : Society of American Archivists, [2016]  

Mob rule learning: camps, unconferences, and trashing the talking head  
Boule, Michelle  
Medford, N.J. : CyberAge Books, c2011  

Youth Services

IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSE CHILDREN’S AND YA COLLECTIONS

School Library Journal recently published the results of a survey asking librarians about diversity in their children’s and young adult book collections. The survey administrators defined a diverse collection as one with books that feature “protagonists and experiences involving under-represented ethnicities, disabilities, cultural or religious backgrounds, gender nonconformity, or LGBTQIA+ orientations.”

Out of the 1,156 school and public librarians who responded to the survey, 8 in 10 say that it is “very important” to develop a diverse book collection for children and teens. Nearly three-quarters (72%) consider it a personal mission to create a diverse collection for their patrons. Many librarians have institutional support as
well – about half of respondents working in both public (54%) and school (50%) libraries have school- or district-wide collection development goals that focus on inclusive collections.

Read more from Library Research Service (LRS).

**TEENS’ SOCIAL MEDIA HABITS AND EXPERIENCES**

Amid growing concern over social media’s impact and influence on today’s youth, a new Pew Research Center survey of U.S. teens finds that many young people acknowledge the unique challenges – and benefits – of growing up in the digital age. Teens credit social media for helping build stronger friendships and exposing them to a more diverse world, but they express concern that these sites lead to drama and social pressure.

**Intellectual Freedom**

**OIF SEEKS CENSORSHIP INFORMATION FROM 2018**

The ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) is seeking information on challenges and censorship incidents that occurred in 2018 in libraries, schools, and universities. Library workers, educators, and community members are encouraged to submit reports to OIF by December 31, 2018. Reports will help OIF identify censorship trends, craft resources, and provide updated information for the annually published Top 10 Most Challenged Books list.

**Training**

**THE WAY WE’LL WORK: BLOCKCHAIN**

Learn how Wyoming is leading the way in applying blockchain to our resources and the way we work in this video of an event held at the Laramie County Library in Cheyenne on October 4. The panel presentation was presented through partnerships with the Wyoming State Library, Wyoming Humanities, and Museum on Main Street.

In the video, state and international experts discuss how blockchain technology is currently enhancing agriculture, how it could be applied to the energy industry, and how the impacts of recent blockchain legislation could affect Wyoming businesses. This event was planned as a launchpad for future educational programs on blockchain technology and cryptocurrency.
AT YOUR LEISURE

In addition to the live webinars in our training calendar, each month we try to pick some videos out there that you can watch “At Your Leisure.” We hope you enjoy these ones that caught our attention for December:

- Trustee Trouble 2 (Wyoming State Library)
- A librarian’s case against overdue book fines (TED Talk)

Special Populations

WORKING WITH DEAF PATRONS

The Gallaudet University Library has put together this helpful guide for librarians who work with deaf or hard-of-hearing patrons or with deaf-related collections.

The first step in communicating with a person who is deaf or hard-of-hearing in a library setting is to determine the need. Some individuals will identify themselves as deaf or hard-of-hearing immediately. In that case, let the individual tell you the means of communication that works best for him. Others may be reluctant to identify themselves as deaf or hard-of-hearing. If an individual tilts their head toward you when you are speaking, speaks more loudly than usual, or just doesn’t seem to understand you, they may not be able to hear you clearly.

Communication styles and preferences vary. Some individuals use sign language, some read lips, some use assistive listening devices, and still others prefer to communicate in writing. Some may use a combination. Patience and careful attention are the keys to communication, regardless of the preferred method.

People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing rely heavily on visual cues, regardless of the specific means of communication. If you suspect a user cannot hear you, try some of the strategies suggested in the full guide.

Grants & Awards

BIG GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FROM IMLS FOR SMALL LIBRARIES

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has launched a new special initiative, Accelerating Promising Practices for Small Libraries (APP), and is accepting grant applications now through February 25, 2019. This new funding opportunity is designed to strengthen the ability of small and rural libraries, archives, and related organizations to serve their communities. Awards will range from $10,000 to $50,000 in three grant categories:

- Transforming School Library Practice
- Community Memory
- Digital Inclusion
A pre-application webinar will be held with program staff to answer questions from potential applicants on Wednesday, January 9, 12-1 p.m. MST. A session covering the same material was held and recorded on December 18. For information about how to participate in the webinars or to access the webinar recordings, see the IMLS webinar page.

MORE SMART SPACES COMING SOON

OCLC has received a supplemental IMLS grant that will allow the next iteration of the WebJunction program Small Libraries Create Smart Spaces. The original program led 15 small and rural public libraries from across the country to reimagine and reconfigure their libraries. The supplemental funding provides the same opportunity to 15 more libraries. The application process will open in January 2019.

GRANTS IN BRIEF

Loleta D. Fyan Grant
DEADLINE: January 11, 2019
The grant, up to $5,000, is to be used for the development and improvement of public libraries and the services they provide. The project should result in the development and improvement of public libraries and the services they provide; have the potential for broader impact and application beyond meeting a specific local need; be designed to effect changes in public library services that are innovative and responsive to the future; and be capable of completion within one year.

Lola Homsher Research Grant
DEADLINE: February 28, 2019
The Wyoming State Historical Society offers cash grants to people involved in research activities based on various aspects of the state’s history. The grants, ranging from $100 up to $1500 are awarded based on applications submitted to the Society’s Lola Homsher Endowment Fund Committee. Preference is given to proposals that promise original research on topics related to Wyoming history. Wyoming residents are also given preference, but all applications are welcome.

Archives Collaboratives: Planning Grants
DEADLINE: April 4, 2019
The National Historical Publications and Records Commission seeks projects that will make collections from small and under-represented archives more readily available for public discovery and use. The grant program will fund archives collaboratives to share best practices, tools, and techniques among partners; assess institutional strengths and opportunities; and develop plans and management structures for long-term sustainability and growth.

NNLM Reading Club Book Kits
DEADLINE: April 30, 2019
The NNLM Reading Club is a selection of “ready-to-use” fiction and nonfiction book titles along
with free and downloadable materials designed to help libraries support health literacy and their communities’ health information needs.

**Bank of the West Charitable Investments**

**DEADLINE: Ongoing**

Bank of the West supports nonprofit organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life, particularly for low- and moderate-income individuals and communities. Public nonprofit organizations in Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Fremont, Goshen, Laramie, Lincoln, Natrona, Niobrara, Park, Platte, Sheridan, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton, Uinta, and Washakie counties are eligible to apply.

**Awesome Foundation Grants**

**DEADLINE: Ongoing**

Have a crazy brilliant idea that needs funding? The Awesome Foundation awards $1,000 grants every month. Awesome projects include initiatives in a wide range of areas including arts, technology, community development, and more.

**News in Brief**

**Big Talk From Small Libraries Call for Speakers**

This free one-day online conference aimed at librarians from small libraries is looking for speakers from small libraries or speakers who directly work with small libraries. Small libraries of all types — public, academic, school, museum, special, etc. — are encouraged to submit a proposal by January 18, 2019, for the February 22 online conference. Big Talk From Small Libraries gives you the opportunity to share what you’ve done, while learning what your colleagues in other small libraries are doing.

**Digital Privacy & Security in the Library**

This new resource offers tools, tactics, and resources to prepare and inspire public library staff to provide information on data privacy and online security to their patrons. Seven online training modules feature core concepts:

- digital safety in the library context,
- how information travels across the internet, and how it can be intercepted,
- the entities that have vested interest in intercepting your information,
- securing accounts and devices,
- connecting to the internet securely,
- preventing tracking,
- avoiding spam and malware, and
- minimizing your digital footprint.

**New Year, New You from the NIH**

Did you know the National Institutes of Health has a variety of online wellness toolkits? As you think ahead to the new year, use these tools to find ways to improve your well-being in any area you’d like. Explore your emotional health, your stress adaptability, your physical health, your relationships, and how to protect yourself from disease.
**Book Reviews**

**Wyoming from A to Z**
*K.W. Bunyap*
*Createspace, 2017*

Take a walk through *Wyoming from A to Z* with this delightful children’s alphabet book. A creative use of photos illustrate the state from the black-footed ferrets for the letter B and the Town of Van Tassell for the letter V. Iambic pentameter makes this work flow from page to page. Little ones will enjoy the rhymes, while older readers will enjoy the factual content. One excellent example is, “D is for Devils Tower. It was the first National Monument, but that’s not all, this flat-topped column of stone is 867 feet tall.”

Readers who enjoy this book, may also enjoy other theme-based alphabet books like *F Is for Firefighters*, by Dori Butler, or *ABC’s in Nature*, by Daniel Nunn. A great nonfiction browser or read-a-loud. What better way to learn about your state without ever leaving home.

*Joan Brinkley, Director*
*Goshen County Library*

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**Return of the Grizzly**
*Cat Urbigkit*
*Perseus Distribution Services, 2017*

Cat, a Wyoming sheep producer and author, has done an exceptional job distilling information about what is either our most loved or hated top predator, the grizzly bear.

The book is an easy and engaging read, if slightly unnerving when she discusses human-bear conflicts. Living in Cody, I especially appreciated the range maps depicting grizzly bear expansion from 1980 to 2010. Cat’s narrative centers on the grizzlies of the Upper Green River, but she does an inclusive job of presenting the state of the bears across the entire region.

As a public lands recreationist, I generally focus my data-gathering on hiking-related bear conflict information, but I learned quite a bit about the challenges experienced by livestock producers in grizzly country. This is an excellent resource for all libraries.

*Leslie C. Tribble, Technical Services Manager*
*Park County Library*