2024 WLA Annual Conference Schedule
Stand & Deliver
October 9-11 | Casper, Wyoming

2024 WLA Speakers Sponsored by:

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Becky Calzada
AASL President

AUTHOR LUNCHEON SPEAKER
Shannon Hale
Author

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, October 9

12:00 PM Registration Opens!
12:45 PM Welcome
1:00-1:50 PM 12 Open Education Resources: How Librarians Can Use AI and OER Together - Julie Erickson
2:00-2:50 PM Librarians Leading the Way to AI Integration - Julie Erickson
3:00-3:50 PM Breakout Sessions (2x 50 min)
   Shortcuts and Hacks for the Technology in Your Life - Julie Erickson
   Community Overdose Preparedness: Recognizing & Responding within Our Communities - Jim Crowser
4:00-4:50 PM Breakout Sessions (2x 50 min)
Redefining Geek: Lifechanging Ways to Teach Technology - Julie Erickson
Community Overdose Preparedness: Recognizing and Responding within Our Communities - Jim Crowser (repeat of earlier session)

Thursday, October 10

7:30 AM Vendor Set-Up
8:00 AM Registration Opens!
8:00–8:50 AM Interest Group Meetings
WLLI; YSIG
9:00 AM-5:00 PM Vendor Hall Open
9:00–10:20 AM Breakout Sessions (4x 80 min)
  Questing through Elementary Information Skills - Jennison Lucas
  Leadership – It’s All Fun and Games! - Judi Boyce
  Law for Librarians: For non-lawyers (like me!) - Conrrado Saldivar & Darcy Lipp-Acord
  Living Room Conversations -- Engagement with Your Community! - Panel: Chloe Flagg, Lucas Fralik, Katrina Brown, Betsy O’Neil
10:30–11:30 AM Vendor Hall Grand Opening!
11:30 AM–1:30 PM Kickoff Luncheon:
  WLA Business Meeting
  Keynote Speaker: Becky Calzada
1:30–2:00 PM Vendor Time
2:00–2:50 PM Breakout Sessions (4x 50 min)
  Art in Our Libraries - Kellie Humphries
  High School Romance Book Clubs - Maggie Unterseher
  Grab and Know Steam Activities - Letitia Bulic
  Library Advocacy is for Everyone - Caitlin White
3:00–4:30 PM Breakout Sessions (4x 90 min)
  Intellectual Property in Action - Anne Kuipers
  Statewide Legal Resources for the Public Patron - Matt Swift & Tracey McCormick
  Science of Reading in the Library - Michelle Ottoes
  There's Only One AASL - Becky Calzada
5:30 PM Awards Reception

Friday, October 11

8:00 AM–12:30 PM Vendor Hall Open
8:00–9:00 AM Vendor Time
8:00–9:00 AM Interest Group Meetings
LEAD; SLIG; Programming Interest Group
9:00-9:50 AM Breakout Sessions (4x 50 min)
   AMPing the Library of Things - Mary Kelly & Angela Jordan
   Strengthening School Culture through Collaboration - Brenna (Franklin) Heinen, Breanna Jackman & Andrea Carroll
   What’s New with GoWYLD - Paige Bredenkamp
   Everybody Dance Now! Early Literacy & Movement in the Library and Beyond - Angel Capone Evans

10:00-10:30 AM Coffee and Treats with Vendors

10:30-11:20 AM Breakout Sessions (4x 50 min)
   Building Bridges, Not Walls: How Public and School Libraries Can Serve all Students - Cindy Hagen & Zola Shockley
   You Might Want to Be: How to Introduce Skilled Trades to your Tweens and Teens - Joy Williams
   Laramie County Seed Library - Kellie Johnson
   Elevating Library Advocacy: Crafting Impactful Stories - Conrrado Saldivar & Melissa Snider

11:30-12:20 PM Breakout Sessions (4x 50 min)
   Meeting Teens Where They Are - Lorene Heinzen
   Using AIDET - David Brown, Dana Abbey & George Strawley
   Beyond Bestsellers: Dismantling the Reading Hierarchy - Cindy Hagen
   What the Tech 2024 - Jessica Otto

12:30 PM Author Luncheon
   Speaker: Shannon Hale
Conference Descriptions

Wednesday, October 9

1:00-1:50 PM ........................... K-12 Open Education Resources: How Librarians Can Use AI and OER Together
Julie Erickson – Chief Learning Officer, Lan Crew Colorado
This session will dive into K-12 Open Education Resources (OER) and how to use AI to create supporting materials like pre-assessments, reviews and quizzes. Librarians are already finding and evaluating OER content. Take it to the next level and give educators in your building the tools to incorporate OER and AI to make quizzes, rubrics and supporting materials. Open education resources provide your learners with relevant, updated, equitable content while empowering educators. With the increase of 1:1 technology in schools, educators are turning towards online content and resources. We’ll look at K-12 OER sources, Creative Commons licensing and AI tools best suited for resource creation so you can go back to your school and start implementing ideas immediately!

2:00 –2:50 PM ........................... Librarians Leading the Way to AI Integration
Julie Erickson – Chief Learning Officer, Lan Crew Colorado
Extend information literacy to include AI and bring AI into your library and school. This session will focus on how librarians can transform their instruction to include AI evaluation, prompt generation, instruction strategies and more. We’ll look at how the work librarians already do fits into AI and provide resources for policy development, educator instruction and student content. We’re not recreating the wheel -- we’re extending it! Lead the way into the latest information age with AI.

Breakout Session Descriptions

Wednesday, October 9

3:00-3:50 PM ....................... Breakout Sessions

Shortcuts and Hacks for the Technology in Your Life
Julie Erickson – Chief Learning Officer, Lan Crew Colorado
Technology updates and changes in a flash! With the addition of AI, our online tools provide more efficiencies and features than you can imagine. This session will look at ways to use the online tools you already use more effectively. We’ll explore Office 365, Google, and other online resources to save you time! Bring along your devices to follow along!

Community Overdose Preparedness: Recognizing and Responding within Our Communities
Jim Crowser, MSSW, LCSW, MCAP – Chief Executive Officer, Central Wyoming Counseling Center
A discussion on understanding the trends, signs, symptoms of opioid overdose and the importance of intervention and referral for help. This training will cover the recommended method of administering naloxone as a reversal agent and offer naloxone kits to participants.
4:00-4:50 PM  

**Breakout Sessions**  

**Redefining Geek: Lifechanging Ways to Teach Technology**  
*Julie Erickson – Chief Learning Officer, Lan Crew Colorado*  
Redefining Geek by Cassidy Puckett dives into how people learn technology. She's identified five characteristics that determine technology learning success. This session will look at the five characteristics and how you can bring them to your staff and patrons to increase their technology confidence and redefine geek for all! Bring along your laptop or device to follow along with the interactive session.

**Community Overdose Preparedness: Recognizing and Responding within Our Communities**  
*Jim Crowser, MSSW, LCSW, MCAP – Chief Executive Officer, Central Wyoming Counseling Center*  
(repeat of earlier session)

---

**Thursday, October 5**

9:00-10:20 AM  

**Breakout Sessions**  

**Questing through Elementary Information Skills**  
*Jennison Lucas – District Librarian, Park County School District #6*  
Are you ready for an adventure? Do you think learning can be fun? Let’s go on a quest for information skills! Learning how to navigate the world of information is much like going on a quest. Join me for a chance to experience a new way of guiding elementary-aged learners through information skills activities using a gamified platform that allows students to learn at their own pace with the school librarian acting as Game Master.

**Leadership – It’s All Fun and Games!**  
*Judi Boyce – Assistant Director, Sublette County Library*  
Are you interested in learning about leadership and how you can advance? Are you already a leader and interested in new ideas for staff development? Or maybe you’re just ready to be active and play some games. Join us for this active, game-based session that will introduce you to leadership topics and help you plan your way to a leadership role, using a variety of games we will play together. The games are all pirate-themed, so bring your best Matey and we’ll set sail on adventure.

**Law for Librarians: For non-lawyers (like me!)**  
*Conrrado Saldivar – Tech Services Manager, Natrona County Library*  
*Darcy Lipp-Acord – Deputy Director, Albany County Library*  
Using the ALA Law for Librarians program materials, we will cover topics related to the First Amendment, "CIPA, Social Media & Internet", Privacy & Confidentiality", or "Youth and the Law & School Librarians Copyright". The final topic(s) will result in library workers having a better grasp surrounding the laws that affect their positions.

**Living Room Conversations – Engagement with Your Community**  
*Chloe Flagg – Director of Grants and Programs, Wyoming Humanities*  
*Lucas Fralik – Program Coordinator, Wyoming Humanities*  
*Katrina Brown – Library Director, Casper College*  
*Betsy O’Neil – Adult Services Manager, Natrona County Library*
An overview of a recent two-part community engagement program, Discuss & Construct. The program aims to connect our communities through shared culture and celebration of differences to gain understanding through conversation. Participants will have the opportunity to experience the Discuss portion of the program, a Living Room Conversation with the same trained and experienced hosts that led Casper’s Discuss & Construct program in the Spring of 2024. You will have the chance to learn more about becoming a trained LRC host yourself and bringing meaningful conversations to your community!

2:00–2:50 PM Breakout Sessions

Art in Our Libraries
Kellie Humphries – Adult Services Specialist, Natrona County Library

After completing an inventory of the art at the Natrona County Library for a practicum to complete my Bachelor of Library Sciences for the University of Nebraska - Omaha, I wondered why libraries are not better at utilizing the art we have. How could the art establish connections in their communities? Can our art help our library to become a better center of our community? The presentation will include information on the art inventoried at NCPL, how it could be used to establish connections, and ways to inventory and use your art in your libraries to tell your library and community stories.

High School Romance Book Clubs
Maggie Unterseher – High School Librarian, Weston County School District #1

Romance books. Just those two words drudge up childhood memories of supermarket book kiosks with covers painted of bared male chests and dainty women being saved in a flowy dress. However, the Romance genre encapsulates more than that and always has! Join this session to learn how a High School Librarian has created a successful Romance Book Club during lunches with boys and girls alike.

Grab and Know Steam Activities
Letitia Bulic – Youth Services Consultant, Wyoming State Library

STEAM education is an essential aspect of a successful career in modern society. The job opportunities and salaries offered by STEAM fields are expected to grow by 10.8% from 2022 to 2032. However, the representation of women and minority groups in the STEAM field is inadequate. Furthermore, young people living in rural areas have limited access to extracurricular STEAM activities. Department of Defense Ambassador Crystal Ricks proposed two strategies to address these issues: increased access to extracurricular programs and inclusive programming. This presentation offers low-cost, hands-on STEAM activities that enable youth librarians to stand and deliver carefully vetted high-quality, inclusive, and education-based STEAM projects. Join us in this movement to provide equal opportunities for all and prepare the next generation for success!

Library Advocacy is for Everyone
Caitlin White – Chair, WLA Legislative Committee

The WLA Legislative Committee will host a program about advocacy, legislative session, and library issues. If the program is scheduled as the sole session in a time slot, the committee will focus its presentation on how to find legislative information, the legislative process, best practices for contacting local/state officials, and brief tips for
advocacy. The committee will focus on best practices for contacting officials, a more robust discussion of advocacy, and building advocacy relationships and local coalitions.

3:00–4:30 PM Breakout Sessions

**Intellectual Property in Action**
Anne Kuipers – State Documents Librarian, Wyoming State Library
This program will help you learn what intellectual property resources are available and how to incorporate them into STEAM library programs. Join us in creating a simple hologram projector for your phone and learn where to find accompanying lesson plans and resources. Gain insight into the USPTO (United States Patent and Trademark Office) educational sites, lesson plans, games, and hands-on activities. Alongside hands-on demonstrations of various projects and their paired inventors, we will also dive into online educational games, lesson plans, and videos provided by the USPTO.

**Statewide Legal Resources for the Public Patron**
Matt Swift – State Law Librarian, State Law Library
Tracey McCormick – Assistant Law Library Head of Public Services, State Law Library
Learn about and explore free or affordable legal resources of different state and academic libraries, legal clinics, and other resources throughout the state. The WY State Law Library and UW Hopper Law Library have teamed up to create a set of legal resources geared toward the public librarian and the public patron. These legal resources include a glossary, legal research explanatory web pages, and introductory and organization-specific videos, among others. Learn the critical difference between providing legal research help and providing legal advice (which we do not do). This project is ongoing, so there will be an opportunity to explore the resources, ask questions, and provide feedback.

**Science of Reading in the Library**
Michelle Ottoes – Elementary District Librarian, Laramie County School District #1
Learn how read alouds in the library setting align to the Science of Reading.

**There's Only One AASL**
Becky Calzada, AASL President
Since 1951, AASL has provided professional development, networking, advocacy, research, tools, and resources to meet the needs of school library professionals and advance the profession. How does AASL connect to the work of the Wyoming Library Association? Don’t miss this opportunity to hear from President Becky Calzada on how AASL builds community with state chapters and is a connector for passionate, like-minded professionals dedicated to empowering their learners to succeed in college, career, and beyond.

Friday, October 6

9:00-9:50 AM Breakout Sessions

**AMPing the Library of Things**
Mary Kelly – Senior Library Assistant for Adult Services, Teton County Library
Angela Jordan – Adult Services Manager, Teton County Library
AMP stands for Acquiring, Maintaining, and Promoting. When applied to a Library of Things, AMP regulates all aspects of the collection. Acquiring demands having successful procedures in place, procuring material/s, as well as implementing a sound catalog strategy. Maintaining requires regularly inspecting the materials, and spare parts to ensure the LoT is well stocked. Promoting ensures that patrons learn about the collection and what it contains. Using AMP will help librarians maintain or build collections that run smoothly. All three aspects of a successful Library of Things are explained in detail through the experiences of the Teton County Library. Participants will engage in reflection on how Libraries of Things can be developed in their home libraries.

**Strengthening School Culture through Collaboration**

*Brenna (Franklin) Heinen – Library Media Specialist, Rock Springs Junior High*

*Breanna Jackman – ELA Teacher, Rock Springs Junior High*

*Andrea Carroll – ELA Teacher, Rock Springs Junior High*

Join us for a discussion on how our classroom teachers and Librarian collaborate to build a stronger reading culture within the school.

**What’s New with GoWYLD**

*Paige Bredenkamp – eResources and School Library Consultant, Wyoming State Library*

This session will explore the many changes in eResources in GoWYLD, from EBSCO’s new interfaces to the new test prep resource, Mometrix, and much more. This will be a general overview of GoWYLD, with some focus on using the eResources for teaching and learning. Come see some of the exciting things waiting for you in GoWYLD!

**Everybody Dance Now! Early Literacy and Movement in the Library and Beyond**

*Angel Capone Evans – Youth Services Specialist, Natrona County Library*

“Sit down and be quiet!” So many of us grew up with the idea that you had to be still and silent to learn. However, when it comes to literacy, movement is a key element! Studies show children who move in conjunction with learning learn those skills faster. In this session, you will find innovative ways to integrate movement into your story times and children’s programming. Come move and groove with a Youth Services Specialist who just happens to be a licensed fitness instructor!

10:30–11:20 AM  .......... Breakout Sessions

**Building Bridges, Not Walls: How Public and School Libraries Can Serve all Students**

*Cindy Hagen – School Librarian, Big Horn Middle and High Schools*

*Zola Shockley – Children’s Services Supervisor, Sheridan Fulmer Public Library*

Building collaboration strategies; Advocating and Outreach for Young People.

**You Might Want to Be: How to Introduce Skilled Trades to your Tweens and Teens**

*Joy Williams – Senior Library Assistant/Teen Services, Park County Library*

I designed this program for tweens & teens to show them that there are options after high school specifically in skilled trades. I’ve achieved this by inviting local skilled tradesmen to come to the teen room and talk about their careers with the teens in a relaxed atmosphere as well as having hands-on demonstrations and topical books for them to check out.

**Laramie County Seed Library**

*Kellie Johnson – Reference Specialist, Laramie County Library System*
The Laramie County Seed Library was launched in April 2017 and has grown from a humble offering of 30 seed varieties to 130 seed varieties. Nearly 700 patrons had seed orders filled for the 2023 growing season and the excitement and enthusiasm for this program only continues to "grow." What have we learned in these years and what advice can we offer libraries pursuing similar programs?

Elevating Library Advocacy: Crafting Impactful Stories
Conrrado Saldivar – Tech Services Manager, Natrona County Library  
Melissa Snider – Library Media Specialist, Teton County School District, Munger Mountain Elementary School

Libraries play pivotal roles in communities, and articulating their value concisely is vital. This program offers interactive sessions focusing on honing elevator speeches, mastering advocacy techniques, and adeptly responding to challenging inquiries. Participants will learn to distill complex narratives into succinct, compelling messages, enhancing their ability to advocate effectively for library initiatives.

11:30–12:20 PM Breakout Sessions

Meeting Teens Where They Are
Lorene Heinzen – Teen Services Specialist, Natrona County Library

Teens have always been busy, but COVID changed the way teens interact with the library. They went from being stuck at home to being busier than ever. In this presentation, I will share what the Teen Services Specialists at Natrona County have learned over the course of the last 4 years. We have added and changed programming and partnered more with the school district and community partners. As more teens asked, we incorporated Creation Station projects each month to teach the teens how to use our makerspace, and over time we developed more outreach into our programming to, you guessed it, meet teens where they are.

Using AIDET
David Brown – Public Health Engagement Specialist, Network of the National Library of Medicine Region 4  
Dana Abbey – Engagement Specialist, Network of the National Library of Medicine Region 4  
George Strawley – Engagement Specialist, Network of the National Library of Medicine Region 4

This presentation will provide examples and approaches on how to use the AIDET® (Acknowledge, Introduce, Duration, Explanation and Thank You) tool to enhance the reference interview experience for both library staff and patrons who are seeking information. The library reference interview promotes a personalized and user-centered approach to information service, enabling library staff to provide tailored assistance, empower patrons, and enhance the patrons’ satisfaction with the library’s resources and materials. At times, library staff find it difficult to interpret patrons’ questions and lack knowledge about the most appropriate information sources for the patron’s query (Luo, 2013). When conducting a reference interview, integrating the healthcare industry’s AIDET® tool (Register et. al, 2019) should improve communication, enhance the library service experience, and foster a positive relationship between the patron and the librarian. AIDET® is a tool developed for healthcare professionals to enhance communication, address patient anxiety, patient compliance, and clinical outcomes. The goals of the tool are to help establish trust, improve understanding, manage expectations, and foster positive relationships between healthcare providers and patients. The AIDET® framework aligns well with
the components of the traditional reference interview, which include approachability, interest, listening/inquiring, searching, and follow up. We will offer audience members an overview of AIDET® and some examples of its use in responding to health reference questions.

**Beyond Bestsellers: Dismantling the Reading Hierarchy**

*Cindy Hagen – School Librarian, Big Horn Middle and High Schools*

Forget the "Ugh, I'm not a reader" excuse! This session, presented by a school librarian with experience across all age groups, dismantles the myth of the "non-reader" and explores the empowering concept of "everyone is already a reader." We'll challenge the "snobbery" associated with reading and brainstorm practical strategies to make libraries and reading more inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

**What the Tech 2024**

*Jessica Otto – Research and Statistics Consultant, Wyoming State Library*

This session is a lightning round tour of technologies that can be used in (and sometimes out) of the library world. Run by Letitia, Paige, and Jessica from WSL, What the Tech has something for everyone in a rapid-fire show of websites, apps, tools, and tech developments. Participation is required by presenting and being an active attendee (maximum 25 presenters, no maximum attendees). For presenters, simply put together a few PowerPoint slides prior to the conference; at WLA, in two minutes or less, explain what the resource is and how it can be used. As an active attendee, encourage your colleagues and be ready to take note of the exciting tech developments you want to investigate later.