



1) WEMTA Conference Scholarships Available

WVLS is awarding scholarships to public and K-12 school library staff to attend the 2024 Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA) Conference at the Wisconsin Dells' Kalahari Resort and Convention Center on March 3-5, 2024. More details about the conference [can be found here](#).

The WVLS WEMTA Conference Scholarship is valued at \$1,000. The deadline to apply is Friday, January 5, 2024. [Download an application](#) from the WVLS Scholarships and Grants webpage.

2) This Week

- **The WVLS Office is closed** on Friday, December 15 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. for a staff holiday gathering.
- **2024 WVLS Marketing Support Grant**
In 2024, WVLS will pilot a Marketing Support Grant project and opportunity for member libraries to evaluate their marketing goals. Libraries chosen to participate in the project will receive \$250-500 in funds to support their marketing plan or campaign. [See the WVLS Scholarships and Grants page](#) for more information and an application. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, December 12.
- **“Mapping Your Way Through the Annual Report.”**
Thursday, December 14; 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – WVLS office and online
Session 1: Section-by-Section Review of the Annual Report
Session 2: Team workshop your annual report
[More information and links to register / attend](#). Register by Monday, December 11.

3) Recorded Webinar on ‘Writing Survey Questions’

Is your library planning for upcoming services, programs or events? They'll be more successful if you know what sorts of things the people in your service area truly want and need. Great marketers and planners don't guess what people want, and they don't presume to already know. They ask! Doing a “simple survey” isn't all that simple. If you don't know how to write and ask the questions, you may find out later that you didn't get any actionable data.

WVLS has a new recorded webinar posted, “How to Write Effective Survey Questions to Get Useful Data,” presented by marketing and wordsmith Kathy Dempsey. This webinar is worth 1 contact hour in public library certification. [View it here](#).

4) What's New

- **Digital Byte:** [In this Digital Byte](#), Kristie talks about the resources offered at the Collaborative Children's Book Center (CCBC).
- **December Newsletter:** The [WVLS December Newsletter](#) is now available. WVLS libraries interested in submitting a feature for the January newsletter should contact Jamie by Thursday, December 28.
- **Inclusive Services Update:** The [December Inclusive Services Update](#) is available on the WVLS website.

5) December Web Trainings

Several web training sessions are happening this month, including "Website 201" and "Managing a Library Board Document Page." The sessions last 60 minutes and are recorded.

[Read more information and register.](#)

6) NICE Team Report November 2023 Project Update

The NICE (Northern Wisconsin ILS Consortium Exploration) Team met on Tuesday, November 21 to hear reports from the ILS Vendor targeted work group, the Funding Formula and budget targeted workgroup and establish targeted workgroups that will focus on Delivery and Collaborative Decision-making.

Questions are Welcome! V-Cat and NWLN (Northern Waters Library Network) member library staff are welcome to share their questions and concerns via an [online form](#). Answers will be shared on the NICE Libraries [FAQ page](#).

More details will be shared on the [NICE Libraries website](#) when the reports are complete. Full meeting minutes are posted [here](#).

7) Next Ryan Dowd Webinar

Bed Bugs: How to Prevent and Handle Outbreaks

Thursday, December 14; 1 p.m.

Contact Jamie at WVLS (jmatczak@wvls.org) for the registration link. The recording of the live training will be available for four weeks.

8) Upcoming Webinars

- [Next Level Library Fundraising](#) - 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12
- [Canvaholic - Tips to Make the Most of Canva](#) - 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13
- [ChatGPT: Engaging with Technology in the Generative Era](#) - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13
- [Introduction to Grant Proposal Writing](#) - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13
- [De-escalation and Recovery: Supporting Staff on the Front Lines](#) - 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 14

9) Reminders

- **Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference**

Registration is now open for the [12th Annual Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference](#), held on January 24-25, 2024. Fourteen sessions will be available in four different tracks, including Management, Marketing, Internal Communications (new), and Programming (new).

There is no cost to attend! Thanks to donations from Wisconsin public library systems, along with the Department of Public Instruction, registration for this conference is free. All fourteen conference sessions will be captioned and recorded for people unable to attend the live events. Each webinar is worth 1 contact hour for public library certification.

For more information on the conference, contact Jamie Matczak at jmatczak@wvls.org.

- **Penguin Random House Grants for Small Libraries**

The Penguin Random House is offering a grant opportunity for small and rural libraries nationwide. This grant is available to libraries that meet both the IMLS definition for small libraries (a service population of 25,000 or fewer) *and* the definition for rural libraries (libraries located 5 or more miles from the nearest town of 25k or more). [The application period](#) is Monday, December 4 - Friday, December 15. Notifications will be sent to applicants by March 8, 2024.