



### **1) Registration Open for 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@wvl.org](mailto:jmatczak@wvl.org).

### **2) 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 program will award grants to libraries that demonstrate a true need. First-time recipients will receive priority when reviewing the applications.

Applicants may request one of the following:

- One (1) monetary grant in support of a community-oriented project for up to \$1,000.
- An in-kind grant donation of up to \$1,000 in equivalent value to support a circulating collection in your library.

[The application period](#) is Monday, December 4 - Friday, December 15. Notifications will be sent to applicants by March 8, 2024.

### **3) DPI and Strategic Planning Opportunities**

During the strategic planning, DPI is offering several exciting ways to actively help shape our school and library initiatives.

- Strategic Planning Survey: This data collected in this survey will be used to better align the efforts of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), your input is important and crucial to shaping our initiatives for schools and libraries. This survey is anonymous. Names and email addresses will not be collected.

- Community Engagement Sessions: Join DPI at any of our virtual or in person community engagement sessions to share your thoughts. Two of the sessions are at WVLS libraries.

[Read more](#) to take the survey or sign up for a session.

#### 4) CSLP Virtual Summer Symposium This Thursday

The Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) Virtual Summer Symposium will be held this Thursday, December 7 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sessions include Simplifying the Adventure of Summer, Once Upon an Adventure, Taking the Adventure Outdoors, and 2024 Manual Highlights. Register [here](#).

#### 5) Next Ryan Dowd Webinar

Bed Bugs: How to Prevent and Handle Outbreaks

Thursday, December 14; 1 p.m.

Topics Covered:

- How to Do a Complete Visual Inspection
- The Six Steps for Eradication
- Special tips for Libraries

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

#### 6) Upcoming Webinars

- [Library Signage: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly](#) - 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5
- [A Gentle Introduction to ChatGPT](#) – 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5
- [RA: Graphic Novels and Manga for Teens and Tweens](#) – 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5
- [Tools for Reimagining School Readiness](#) – 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 5
- [Policy Writing and Implementation with an Equity Lens](#) - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6
- [Understanding and Challenging Implicit Bias in Decision Making](#) – 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 7
- [Next Level Library Fundraising](#) - 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12

#### 7) Reminders

- **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. One of the challenges for public libraries is finding effective ways to promote what they do, and focusing on a specific marketing campaign or creating a marketing plan are great places to start. 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,”** a two-part session on preparing to navigate the 2023 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.