

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES

Update
MARCH 2025



WISCONSIN VALLEY LIBRARY SERVICE



YOUTH SERVICES

➤ COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

The **Cooperative Children's Book Center** recently published the CCBC Choices 2025 digital publication. CCBC Choices 2025 contains recommendations for 251 books published in 2024 for children and teens from birth through high school age.

Don't forget to register for the upcoming CCBC workshop in Minocqua on April 8!

➤ STARRED REVIEWS

For a list of the past month's starred reviews visit: February 2025 Starred Reviews.

➤ WISCONSIN SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Learn more about the 15th annual Wisconsin Science Festival (Oct 16-26) and how your library can participate by joining the virtual kickoff party, April 24, 11:30a.m.-12:30p.m. Register Here

➤ COLLABORATIVE SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM

The 2025 CSLP theme is **Color Our World**. Be sure to check out the program manual and resources for ideas on how to incorporate the theme at your library. Need the password? Contact Emily Rogers



ADULT SERVICES

➤ READERS ADVISORY

Core Collections, available through BadgerLink, is a comprehensive guide that helps you build and maintain well-rounded collections of nonfiction and fiction books. Core Collections contain authoritative recommendations that are vendor and publisher neutral, and all titles are chosen by expert librarians.

Each collection includes thousands of titles, updated monthly, and can be compared against your local collection. Collections are divided by the following categories:

Fiction, Nonfiction, Core Collection en Español, Children's, Middle & Junior High, Senior High, and Graphic Novels

➤ DIGITAL LITERACY MADE EASY

DigitalLearn.org, provides free self-directed courses that build digital literacy skills and confidence using technology. The online courses—available in both English and Spanish—teach basic skills such as: getting started with email, navigating websites and commonly used apps, operating search engines, mastering cybersecurity, and more.



INCLUSIVE SERVICES

➤ PROJECT IMPLICIT

Being aware of your unconscious biases is crucial. These hidden prejudices can influence our decisions, behaviors, and interactions in ways we don't always recognize. Whether in the workplace, social settings, or everyday life, unchecked biases can lead to unfair judgments, limit opportunities for others, and reinforce stereotypes. By acknowledging and addressing them, we can make more objective, inclusive, and equitable choices, fostering better relationships and creating environments where diverse perspectives are valued. Self-awareness helps us challenge assumptions, improve decision-making, and contribute to a more just and understanding society.

Try [this tool](#) to help you become more aware of your own biases.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

➤ JOBPOD

Wisconsin libraries are partnering with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development and local workforce development boards to provide JobPod. JobPod offers services such as job search assistance, application support, career exploration, and connections to case managers who address individual employment needs. Additionally, JobPod emphasizes digital literacy by connecting individuals to online skill development resources and local training programs, empowering them to navigate the digital landscape effectively.

Interested in becoming a JobPod - Participating Library?

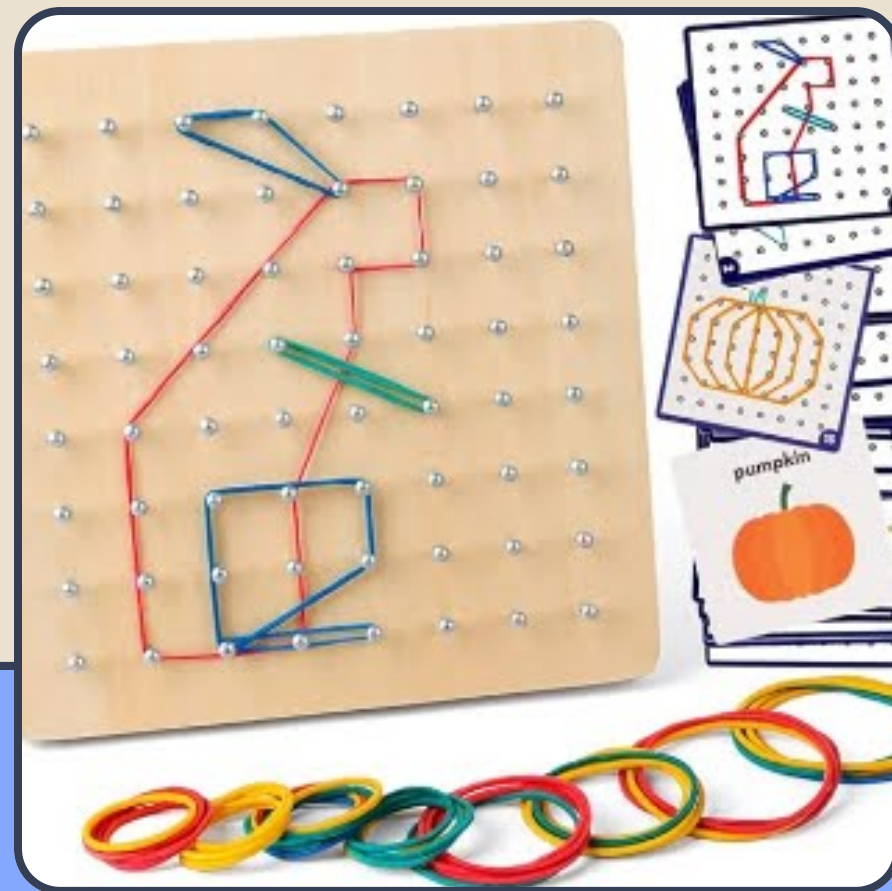
Complete the [JobPod Interest Form](#) or email jobpod@nflsoffice.org

If your library isn't ready for a fully integrated JobPod, you can use their job readiness resources on the [Resources](#) page to better help local job seekers.



MAKERSPACE

MATH MANIPULATIVES – GEOBOARDS



Learn different 2D shapes and fractions while having fun! This activity is good for kids who love making shapes, letters, designs and are still learning grasp, fine motor, and visual motor skills.

The kit contains 5 geoboards, 120 challenge cards, 20 blank cards, supply of colored rubber bands

[Book makerspace kits and equipment](#)



GAMING & LEARNING

➤ THE VAULT

The Vault is a dedicated home for the best online learning games. Curated by the experts at Field Day Lab, it focuses on high-quality, classroom-ready games for grades 3 and up—engaging, effective, and compatible with school tech. Inspired by the success of PBS KIDS, the Vault fills a critical gap in formal learning, building a collaborative community of educators and game designers.

If you have a caregiver looking for an quality video game that engages learning while still being fun, this site can help!

➤ FREE DUNGEONS & DRAGONS KITS

The Department of Public Instructions (DPI) provided WVLS with free Dungeons & Dragons Essentials kits as a part of an upcoming National Leadership Grant (more information can be found on the next slide. These kits can be used in library programming.

DPI asks that every library requesting kits commit to helping with year #1 grant research by filling out the form found on the next slide. They will be in contact in the coming months with surveys to be completed.

Contact Emily Rogers for a kit.



GAMING & LEARNING

➤ Games-Based Library Services Project

DPI is part of an IMLS National Leadership Grants for Libraries project, "Empowering & Innovating Games-Based Library Services: National Best Practices for Gaming Collections & Programming." This three-year initiative runs through August 2027, culminating in a free, digital Games-Based Library Services Toolkit for libraries nationwide.

In Year 1 (Spring/Summer 2025), they are diving into nationwide research to capture the current landscape of games-based library services in public and school libraries. They need your help to identify gaming programs, collections, gaps, and patron interests to build a comprehensive picture of gaming in libraries.

Fill out this [short form](#) to connect your library to their research and help shape the future of games-based library services.

Full grant proposal: [Read Here](#)

For questions, reach out to DPI Public Library Consultant, Games and Learning Consultant, [Chris Baker](#)



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

➤ **Question:** What activities count as Continuing Education (CE) contact hours toward public library certification in Wisconsin?

➤ **Answer:** According to the Certification Manual for Public Library Directors, Continuing Education (CE) for certification renewal activities include workshops, webinars, courses, conferences, and professional association participation, covering various topics, both related and unrelated to libraries. These activities can count as contact hours.

To count as a CE contact hour, an activity must:

- Relate to the current role or career growth
- Have planned learning objectives
- Be evaluated or measured

Typical job functions like board meetings, program planning, staff orientation, and reading journals do not qualify. WVLS indicates eligible activities and their associated contact hours when applicable to the event. Unsure if something qualifies? Ask WVLS Education Consultant Jamie Matczak.



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

➤ MAUREEN HAYES AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR OR VISIT AWARD

In honor of Maureen Hayes, for her life-long efforts to bring together children and authors/illustrators, [this award](#) pays for the honorarium and travel for a visiting author/illustrator, up to \$4,000.

Applications are due April 15. Must be an ALA member to apply.

➤ NATIONAL READING PROGRAM GRANTS

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)

- The [WI Dept of Children and Families](#), Div of Early Care and Education is awarding funding to reimburse non-profit organizations for book fees related to DPIL.
- [Applications](#) are accepted until funding runs out, or by 03/28/2025.
- Proof of affiliation with DPIL or willingness to become a partner; and proof of non-profit status are required.

➤ ARSL CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The [Association for Rural & Small Libraries \(ARSL\)](#) is offering four competitive scholarships to facilitate attendance at the ARSL Conference in New Mexico this September. Check out the [Conference Scholarship page](#) to learn more.

The [application](#) deadline is April 7.

➤ WILS' IDEAS TO ACTION FUND

[This fund](#) provides member libraries grants up to \$5,000 to bring their project ideas to life. The Fund encourages partnerships and collaborations, supports innovative and exploratory new work, and seeds the development of processes, methods, or resources that can be used by other WILS members.

The application period opens on April 1st.



UPCOMING

- April 8, 10a.m.-2:30p.m.
CCBC Workshop
Minocqua Public Library
- April 30-May 2
WAPL Conference
Oshkosh, WI
- June 26-30
ALA Conference
Philadelphia, PA
- August 21-22
Play Make Learn Conference
Madison, WI
- September 17-20
ARSL Conference
Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Oct 28-31
WLA Conference
Middleton, WI

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS,
CONCERNS?
REACH OUT!



Emily Rogers
WVLS
Public Library Services Consultant

