



Summer (Re)Construction

Are you exhausted? I know that I hit the couch hard on my last day of work this year, and while my brain is still buzzing with to-dos and loose ends to tie up, I know that I need a break.

A real one.

I think most of us have experienced chronic high levels of stress since the start of the pandemic, and making it through this school year was no easy task. We poured ourselves into transforming how we teach and deliver library services in a COVID-19 world, balanced the risk of illness with the urgency of reaching students, and navigated unexpected roadblocks along the way.

Summer here in Jackson means construction *plus* a huge influx of visitors to our National Parks. While it's difficult to find the patience to endure the reconstruction of a bridge or a crew filling a pothole when thousands of people are driving the same highway, I know that it's the right time to get this work done. Let your "work" this summer be the same: find the places that need repair, and do what you can to rest, recover, and rebuild! Oh yeah...and read.

Thank you for all that you do to serve our students and staff! You truly make a difference.

-Melissa

News & Resources

- Congratulations to Wyoming District Librarian, Jennisen Lucas, who will serve as the 2021-2022 President of AASL following this month's National ALA conference. Check out this recent [Q&A with her in Publisher's Weekly](#).
- 2021 Winners and 2021-2022 Nominees for the Wyoming State Book Awards have been announced! Visit the WYLA Book Awards page for more details, and for resources to promote these books to your students & staff. The awards are co-sponsored by the Wyoming Library Association & [Wyoming State Literacy Association](#).
- The Wyoming Department of Education is asking for input as it assembles a [Portrait of a Wyoming Graduate](#). Please complete their [survey](#) with your thoughts on library-related essential skills for our graduating seniors!

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities & Support

- **AASL National Conference: October 23-25, 2021**

If you're able to attend, stay tuned for ways for WY School Librarians to connect in SLC!

- **Save the date** for the Wyoming Library Association Conference, October 7-8, 2021
- **From June 29, 2021 to August 13, 2021**, eligible schools and libraries can apply for financial support to purchase connected devices like laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and broadband connectivity to meet unmet needs for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons during the COVID-19 emergency period. During this application filing window, eligible schools and libraries, in addition to consortia of schools and libraries, can submit requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and services between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022.

You can view an FCC Fact Sheet on the program by visiting:

https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/ecf_factsheet.pdf

- **ARPA Funds for WY Libraries:** Wyoming will receive approximately \$2.1 million for Libraries, and about 20% of these funds will be distributed to school libraries in several ways. Stay tuned for more details about how to access these funds for your school library collection(s) this fall!

Get Involved!

- Visit wyla.org/join-us to **become a member** of the Wyoming Library Association, and add **SLIG** as your interest group.
- Join our **Facebook** group: Wyoming School Libraries Group (SLIG) and Info. Power
- Join our e-mail **listservs:** [Wyoming Library Association](#) (All Libraries) and [SLIG](#)

We wish everyone a restful, rejuvenating summer break.

If there is anything you need from us, please don't hesitate to reach out to your SLIG Co-Chairs!

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