



ADMINISTRATION
& INFORMATION

STATE LIBRARY DIVISION

Mark Gordon, Governor | Patricia L. Bach, Director | Jamie Markus, State Librarian

State Librarian Report to the Wyoming Library Association

October, 2021

The State Library has seen a 40% rate of staff turnover this year, mostly due to retirements and promotions. We have filled most of these positions and are actively interviewing for the remaining open roles. While we'll miss the familiar faces, we're excited to welcome new staff members to our team. They bring different skills, experiences, and perspectives to our library. Moving forward, we expect that our team, though changed, will continue to provide the highest level of service to the Wyoming library community.

Budget News:

The State Library did not take a budget reduction this year. Additionally, we were not asked to submit reduction plans for the next biennium. The Governor will release his budget recommendation in November, and the Wyoming Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee will begin work on that budget in December.

The State Library received \$2,126,881 in ARPA funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. WSL formed a taskforce of academic, public, and school librarians to select and coordinate projects. The taskforce focused on statewide initiatives that will provide resources to all library patrons while taking budget pressure off of local libraries. Projects include:

- Collection Access: Cover the cost of the statewide library catalog and technology needed to loan materials between library locations.
- Digital Collections: Cover the cost of the statewide OverDrive (e-books/e-audiobooks) service as well as provide e-resources to college/UW libraries.
- Physical Collections: Provide support to state institution and Ft. Washakie libraries to purchase physical collections for their patrons.
- K-12 Support: Provide statewide access to a K-12 e-book/e-audiobook resource, support for school library physical collections, and access to TeachingBooks.net.
- Workforce Development: Provide access to LinkedIn Learning and GALE Legal Forms/Business Plan Builder. Work with library public information staff to advertise all library-related workforce development resources.

A detailed ARPA project budget and timeline can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/5ywp7cd9>



State Library priorities have not changed:

1. **Shared library infrastructure** including the statewide Integrated Library System, interlibrary loan software, and electronic resource platforms (OverDrive)
2. State Library **staff**
3. State Library programs and projects **required by statute**
4. Statewide library databases, resources, and digital content, and State Library programs, projects, and collections that are not required by statute

FY21 Project Updates:

The WYLD Network of Libraries facilitated 3,240,198 library transactions in 108 public, academic, school, and special library outlets using the statewide integrated library system managed by the State Library. More than 4 million searches were conducted in the online library catalog in FY21.

The Wyoming State Library's Central Acquisitions Program successfully administered over 200 separate accounts for 43 Wyoming county libraries, school districts, community colleges, and institutions. The State Library facilitated and managed a \$1.8 million bulk purchasing program that saved libraries approximately 40% off retail pricing.

The State Library launched a new support portal and knowledge base for library staff using the Integrated Library System, conducted a satisfaction survey for the ILS with member libraries, migrated to a hosted solution for remote user authentication, and assisted six libraries in going fine-free.

The Wyoming State Library circulated 253,456 e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines through statewide licensed products found on the GoWYLD.net library resource portal.

The State Library migrated digital book and audiobook services from the cloudLibrary platform to the statewide Overdrive Consortium and used CARES Act funds to purchase nearly \$1 million in digital content that can be used by anyone with a Wyoming library card.

The Wyoming State Library and the University of Wyoming Libraries worked in partnership to bring the Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection online. This collection of historic newspapers combines the digital holdings of both institutions with a new interface that is more robust, providing easier, customizable searches and better results. Nearly 4,000,000 pages from 370+ newspapers are now available. Find the Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection at www.wyomingnewspapers.org.