

SHOW ME EXPRESS

 **State Library Newsletter**

April 2026



Denny Hoskins, CPA
Missouri Secretary of State



State Library News

Use Niche Academy for your Professional Development Needs

If you do not currently have a Niche Academy account, now is a great time to do so! Niche Academy is free to you and provides on-demand access to professional development and continuing education content for library directors, library staff and board members. You have access to both our regular [Niche Academy for Missouri Library Staff](#) and the [Academy for the Homeless Training Institute](#). When you first



create an account, you'll need to be approved by our office, unless your library email domain has been pre-approved, but the approval process is quick and easy. Create an account today and start learning!



This project is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Reference Services for YOU: Missouri State Auditor Resources

The Office of the Missouri State Auditor provides oversight of public funds through audits of state agencies, boards and commissions, and local governments such as counties, municipalities, and school systems. [Audit reports](#) from 1999 to the present are available online to search or browse by year, region, state agency, or local/state topic, such as [Property Tax Rates](#), [Municipalities](#), [Special Taxing Districts](#) and [State Elected Officials](#), among others.

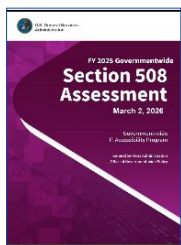
Patrons can also visit the [Audits in Progress](#) page to learn which entities are currently undergoing an audit by the office. Many audits are required either by law or by state or federal programs,

but voters can also request audits through a petition. The State Auditor also registers general obligation [bonds](#) issued by political subdivisions, such as fire protection or school districts, as well as provides [fiscal notes](#) for proposed ballot measures from initiative petitions.

Additionally, resources like the [Public Corruption, Fraud and Abuse Map](#), [Sunshine Law](#) request responses, and the [World's Greatest Audit Podcast](#) are also available to the public.

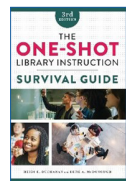
Questions? Contact Reference Services at (573) 751-3615, libref@sos.mo.gov or mostate.libguides.com.

Featured Government Document from the State Library

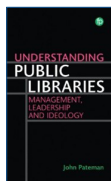


The [FY25 Governmentwide Section 508 Assessment Report](#) from the General Services Administration (GSA) is an assessment of federal government agency compliance with accessibility standards for digital accessibility, information and communication technology, and IT modernization. Previous [Section 508 Assessments](#) are also available. For assistance accessing government information or publications, please contact the Reference Services staff at the [State Library](#).

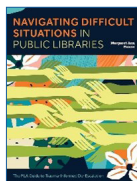
Featured Books from the State Library



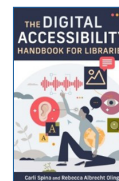
[The One-Shot Library Instruction Survival Guide](#)



[Understanding Public Libraries](#)



[Navigating Difficult Situations in Public Libraries](#)



[The Digital Accessibility Handbook for Libraries](#)

Discover more Library Professional Development titles in the [Missouri Library Staff Guide](#).

Directors and branch managers can sign up for a State Library card from the guide and are encouraged to borrow items for themselves or any of their library's staff. State Library books are also available for borrowing through both MOBIUS and WorldShare.

For assistance placing holds, requesting or replacing a card, or for additional information, please contact Reference Services by phone, email or chat. We are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are always happy to help!



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Around the State

Grant Supports Author Visit at School

Acclaimed author Mindy McGinnis recently visited more than 250 students at Jefferson City High School and Capital City High School, made possible in part by an Educational Presenter grant from the Missouri State Library. Jefferson City High School Library Media Specialist Jill Lemons said, "We are grateful to the State Library for this grant because it afforded us the opportunity to have Mindy at both Jefferson City High School and Capital City High School. We would not have been able to swing that cost alone and provide our students with the opportunity to meet an award-winning author in such a personal setting."

As a popular Missouri teen read, McGinnis is no stranger to the Gateway Awards. Six of her titles have been nominated for the award, with *Heroine* the 2021–2022 Gateway Awards winner and *A Long Stretch of Bad Days* a current 2025–2026 nominee.



Author Mindy McGinnis sharing her writing process and story inspirations with students at Jefferson City High School.

McGinnis offered three sessions at each school and also met at Jefferson City High School with Epsilon Beta, a Missouri Association of School Librarians sponsored student organization that promotes literacy and school libraries at middle and high schools. In the sessions, McGinnis talked about her books and writing process, and she gave students the opportunity to ask questions.

Learn more about [Mindy McGinnis at TeachingBooks](#) and the Educational Presenter Grant at the Missouri State Library's [online grants management system](#).

Adair County Public Library's Teddy Bear Clinic



Left: While a stuffed tiger gets their teeth checked, a young patron and two doctors in training discuss the importance of oral hygiene. Image provided by Adair County Public Library.

Right: A stuffed bear dressed in camo has their reflexes checked by a doctor in training. Image provided by Adair County Public Library.

"On Feb. 25, Adair County Public Library was the single most important healthcare provider in the community—for stuffed animals," says Library Director Susan Knox. At their Teddy Bear Clinic program, children brought their stuffed animals to the library for visits with the doctor. With the partnership of A.T. Still University's (ATSU) Pediatrics Club, doctors in training set up multiple stations for stuffed animals to have their height and weight measured, operations completed, shots administered, and their reflexes, eyes, ears, lungs and heart checked. With their stuffies, attendees learned about nutrition, handwashing, dental hygiene and sun health. They also created x-ray crafts and left with their own stethoscope.

The over 70 community members who attended had a wonderful time at the two-hour event, and every station was busy nearly the entire time. The doctors in training loved working with the children and their stuffed animals to help them feel more comfortable visiting doctors. Caregivers were able to ask questions, and children became more familiar with common health practices. All had fun ensuring the community's stuffed animals were in good health. In particular, Children's Librarian Breann Turner notes, "[o]ne little girl had an adorable stuffed lamb. The doctor measured its height and said, 'Wow, 6 inches.' The little girl hugged her lamb tight and grinned before proclaiming, 'You grew!'"

The Teddy Bear Clinic helped the community start health conversations in the comforting environment of the library. Turner says, "No doctor wants their patient to be scared to come to them. Having children bring in their best stuffed friend to experience what goes on at the doctor's office takes away the scary unknown. The children get to talk to real pediatric doctors in training and watch exactly what happens when you go to the doctors."

Sandie Ciccone and Breann Turner of Adair County Public Library would like to thank A.T. Still University–Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine's Pediatrics Club for partnering with them to put on this fantastic program. To successfully host programs of this scale, volunteers are a must, and Adair County Public Library's working relationship with ATSU's Pediatrics Club helped make this event a smashing success. However, if your library is putting on a similar event and does not yet have a relationship with a school or group, they suggest reaching out to your community for local volunteers. Turner says, "There are plenty of places you can reach out for volunteers! Check your local businesses; many of them like to be part of the community. Try your local high school as many of them may have service hours they need to fill."





Teen Programming at St. Joseph Public Library

Teens can be a difficult group to reach to come to library programming. However, St. Joseph Public Library has found success and utilize their Teen Advisory Board (TAB) composed of volunteer teen patrons to advise how to host more events that boost teen engagement. In recent months, they've hosted Teen After Hours: Anti-Valentine's Day, Teens Taste: Will It Waffle, Fiction Addiction Writing Club and the Slay Crochet! Club.

The Missouri State Library Technology and Communications Consultant Kathleen Schmidt talked with St. Joseph Public Library Senior Library Assistant for Teen Services Evelyn Holtzclaw to learn about how St. Joseph Public Library reaches teen patrons and to provide advice for teen programming. Below are Holtzclaw's responses.

What tend to be some of your most popular, well-attended teen programs?

In my opinion, the most popular teen program we offer at the library is our Teen After Hours events. These nights, teens have the library to themselves if you don't include the staff members. This gives them the rare opportunity to be as loud and crazy as they want in the library. We do all sorts of fun activities: play parachutes, board games, tag, hide n' go seek and a lot more. We have noticed teens tend to gravitate toward activities that they would have done in elementary school. It is a lot of fun to get to see them revert back to their younger

childhood selves for a little bit. Food themed programs are another knock-out option. If you feed them, they will come. So, the programs we've done that give them the opportunity to learn about foods from around the world or taste random terrible foods from the internet do really well at the downtown library.

How do you generate ideas for teen programs?

Inspiration for programs can strike from all sorts of things. Sometimes there are holidays or local events that we can use to theme programs around. Sometimes there is an activity that I want to learn for myself or a food that I want to learn to make, and doing a program ensures that I will follow through on learning the activity. And sometimes our Teen Advisory Board has a ridiculous idea that we have to find ways to make it happen.

Why is it important to have a Teen Advisory Board at a public library?

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is so important to our library because it keeps us relevant. These kids help us to plan activities, tell us what will work and what won't, give us ideas for materials to add to our collection, and write reviews that let other teens know what people their age are reading. They also work to keep us on our toes. Without them, I never would have known that my attempts at alliteration and puns were actually cringe-worthy and driving teens away. That stung a little, but I've adjusted. Case in point: we now have an egg hunt simply titled

"egg" because that's what the board insisted teens want. It's already getting sign-ups a month in advance, so clearly, they know their audience better than I do.

What does your TAB members enjoy most about being a part of the group and helping guide teen programming at the library?

When TAB members fill out the application to be on the board, one of the questions is, "What interests you most about the participating on the board?" We get answers like performing community service, planning teen programs, and advising reading suggestions. But I think that the social aspect ends up being the most important benefit to them. We get teens from different schools or who are homeschooled who have never met each other before the school year starts, and now, they are texting and hanging out with each other outside of TAB meetings. They have inside jokes that have spanned different TAB years. The jokes are getting passed to new TAB members like a baton. They invite each other to their performances and sporting events. They become a friend group with a mash-up of personalities that you would not expect to work, but they find common ground at the library. (If you asked them though, they would probably tell you that the answer is the food.)

What advice do you have for other libraries to market and bring teen patrons to programs?

To market your programs, I think that flyers and social media posts work best for getting the word out. Canva is a great platform to create

your own flyers. Keep the flyers interesting, but not too wordy. You can have links to your calendar for people to get more information on the program if they are interested.

What advice do you have for implementing teen events?

For teen programs, don't think too hard. They are still kids, but they want to be treated like adults. You can give them fun activities that take them back to a time when they had less responsibilities but give them the respect that you would give your adult patrons. Also, ask them what they want! They have ideas. Some of them are ridiculous, but the more ridiculous the better a lot of the time.

What other advice do you have for those responsible for teen programming?

It is easy to get discouraged when attendance is low for a program that you worked hard on, but you can't really take it personally. They are at an age that they can make decisions about how they spend their time. Their schedules are busy, and they don't always want to socialize after a long day or week at school. That does not mean that you did not plan an awesome program. You also cannot assume that because you have a program that worked for a while that it is going to continue to work well. Interests are constantly changing, and that is okay. I think that is why our Teen Advisory Board can be such a huge asset for us, and I am thankful that they are willing to help us keep up to date.

Want to Be Featured in an Upcoming *Show Me Express* Edition?

If your library has a spectacular program, event, collection, or anything else you want to share in a future *Show Me Express* edition, contact us at

mostlib@sos.mo.gov, and we will gladly work with you to highlight your library and all the incredible work you do for your community!

Grant Opportunities – State Library Grants

Educational Presenter Grant • Deadline: Ongoing

This open-call grant from the Missouri State Library provides funds for libraries to bring an author or educational presentation to their community. This application is open to Missouri public libraries certified to receive FY26 state aid, Missouri school libraries publicly supported

and publicly controlled, and Missouri academic libraries supported publicly or privately.

Applications must be submitted a minimum of three months (90 days) prior to the event.

Show-Me Steps to Continuing Education • **Deadline: Ongoing**

This open-call grant from the Missouri State Library provides financial assistance for library staff and trustees to participate in continuing education and training opportunities when local funds cannot finance the entire cost. Continuing education events can be for individuals or groups but must be pertinent to the operational or service needs of the applicant's library. This

application is open to Missouri public libraries certified to receive FY26 state aid, Missouri school libraries publicly supported and publicly controlled, and Missouri academic or special libraries supported publicly or privately.

Applications must be submitted a minimum of three months (90 days) prior to the event.

All available grants are found in the [online grant management system](#) approximately 45 days prior to the application due date.



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Grant Opportunities – National Grants

USDA Community Facilities Programs

This United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program offers funding through loans, loan guarantees, and grants to public bodies, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized Native American tribes to construct, expand, or improve rural communities' facilities

that provide health care, education, public safety, and public services, including libraries. Contact the [USDA Missouri Rural Development Office](#) at rd.mo.general.inquiries@usda.gov or (573) 876-0976 for more information.

Professional Development Offerings

Missouri Collection Analysis Initiative

Trainings include:

- School & Public Library Collaboration with Collection Analysis, April 21, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
- Building Winning Collections with Collection Analysis, May 19, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [Missouri Collection Analysis Initiative Webinars](#).



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Amigos Library Services

All Amigos continuing education sessions are free to Amigos members. Trainings include:

- Adaptive Services for Staff Success: An Amigos Community Conversation, April 9, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Cataloging & Classification Basics, April 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Know & Go: Tips for Cover Letters, Resumes, and Interviews, April 15, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Know & Go: Beyond the Books – Strengthening Rural Communities Through Library Engagement, April 22, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Book Repair Basics, April 29, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Know & Go: Understanding Creative Commons Licensing, April 30, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Soft Skills for Library Staff, May 7, 1 – 3 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [Amigos Continuing Education Services Schedule](#).



The Association for Small and Rural Libraries (ARSL)

Trainings include:

- April TRAIN: Neurodiversity in Libraries, April 16, 1 p.m.
- April Partner TRAIN: Palace Project: E-Book Licensing and Collection Development, April 23, 1 p.m.
- Midwest Forum, April 27, 4 p.m.
- May Partner TRAIN: Hoopla Marketing Makeover Reveal, May 14, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [ARSL TRAIN Workshops & Roundtables](#).

Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)

Speakers and trainings include:

- On Writing Beloved Characters and Powerful Portrayals of Resilience in Virtual Conversation with Jason Reynolds, April 30, 6 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [CSLP's Author Talks](#) and [Professional Development](#).

MALA (Mid-American Library Alliance)

Trainings include:

- HEAL at the Library: Healthy Eating & Active Living with Some Help from Our Friends, April 14, 10 a.m.

For the complete training list, visit [MALAPro Professional Development](#).

Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL)

Events include:

- MASL Live Message Featuring 25–26 Truman Nominated Author Jenn Bishop, April 13, 6 p.m.
- Spring Meetings – Executive Council & Board of Directors, April 18, 1 – 5 p.m., Tan-Tar-A Conference Center, Osage Beach

- [MASL Annual Conference: Creating Communities](#), April 19–20, Tan-Tar-A Conference Center, Osage Beach

For the complete event list, visit [MASL Community Calendar](#).

Missouri Library Association (MLA)

Events include:

- [MLA Youth Services Spring Training](#), April 24, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Daniel Boone Regional Library – Columbia

For the complete event list, visit [MLA Events](#).

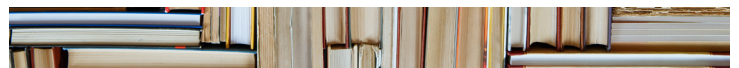
Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM)

Trainings include:

- Region 7 Presents: Creating a Data Dashboard with Power BI, April 9, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Introduction to APHA's Climate & Health Youth Education Toolkit for Programming, Engagement and Education, April 14, 12 – 1 p.m.

- Region 7 Presents: Funded Project Report Back on Indoor Air Quality Resources, April 29, 1 – 2 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [NNLM Training](#).





MOREnet

Trainings include:

- Google NotebookLM (CS), April 8, 1 – 2 p.m.
- AI Foundations for Libraries (CS), April 14, 10 – 11 a.m.
- Bring the Arcade to the Library: Designing Retro Games With Microsoft MakeCode (CS), April 21, 9:30 – 11 a.m.
- Open Educational Resources, April 27, 9 – 10 a.m.
- What's New in AI for Missouri Educators? (CS), April 29, 3:30 – 4 p.m.
- Magic Tools in Canva Design, May 1, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Using Scratch to Enhance All Content Areas (For Libraries and Classrooms) (CS), May 5, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Creating Custom GPTs and Gemini Gems (CS), May 6, 1 – 2 p.m.
- The App Gatekeeper: Stopping Shadow IT in its Tracks, May 11, 9 – 10 a.m.
- Raspberry Pi for the Library or Classroom, May 12, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The Mill, Columbia
- The Human Firewall: Stopping Data Leaks on Autopilot, May 18, 9 – 10 a.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [MOREnet Training Schedule](#).

Niche Academy

Trainings include:

- Tying Objectives to Practice: Making Sure Your Learners Succeed, April 8, 1 p.m.
 - Igniting the Brain: How Neuroarts Can Transform Your Library and Your Well-Being, April 15, 1 p.m.
 - Just Listen: Using Listening Tours to Improve Workplace Culture, April 29, 1 p.m.
 - From Data to Story: Communicating Nonprofit Impact That Inspires, May 6, 1 p.m.
 - Empowering Library Staff and Customers: Building a Culture of Teamwork and Trust, May 13, 1 p.m.
- For the complete training list, visit [Niche Academy Upcoming Webinars](#).

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)

Trainings include:

- Creating an Integrated Pest Management System, April 14, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - Celebrating with Collections: Last-Minute Preservation Reminders for the 250th, April 23, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - Writing Grants for Audio Preservation and Reformatting, April 22, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
 - Writing a Preservation Plan Workshop, April 22, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
 - Emergency Readiness in Collections Stewardship, May 6–7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Preservation During Renovation Projects, May 11, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- For the complete training list, visit [NEDCC Current Training Programs](#).



TeachingBooks

Trainings include:

- Using TeachingBooks Graphic Organizers, April 8, 1 p.m.
- Leveraging Nonfiction for All Learners with TeachingBooks, May 6, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [OverDrive's Resource Center: K-12 Schools Staff Training](#).



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WebJunction

Trainings include:

- Winning Library Grants: Turning Community Needs into Funded Projects, April 7, 2 – 3 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit the [WebJunction Webinar Calendar](#). Create a free account to access webinar archives and training in the [WebJunction Course Catalog](#).



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