

SHOW ME EXPRESS



State Library Newsletter

December 2025



Denny Hoskins, CPA
Missouri Secretary of State

Missouri State Library News

TeachingBooks and the Missouri Collection Analysis

As the year comes to a close, take this opportunity to celebrate, reflect on, and document the titles your library featured in 2025. Looking ahead to 2026, plan to use the tools and resources from the Missouri Collection Analysis Initiative to identify books you want to highlight in the new year.

The Missouri Collection Analysis Initiative brings ongoing professional development to library and school staff statewide—providing tools to affirm that your children's and young adult titles are meeting community needs.

Access tools, support materials, and training that can be easily integrated into your existing

collection management routines. Explore titles in your collections, featured in displays and on reading lists, and considered for purchase.

The tools, support, and training of this initiative are provided by the Missouri State Library at no cost to you.

Register for the initiative at TeachingBooks.net/MissouriRegistration.



TeachingBooks®



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: Puppies for Parole

Do you know someone in your community thinking of adopting a new canine friend? While the Missouri Department of Corrections may not be the first place that comes to mind, the [Puppies for Parole](#) program is a great opportunity to give a dog a second chance.

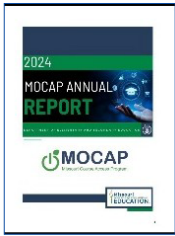
Since 2010, Puppies for Parole has successfully trained and placed over 7,000 dogs through partnerships with animal shelters and animal advocacy groups. Each rescue dog is transferred to a participating institution for 24-hour care by an offender trainer. Trainers focus on teaching their dogs essential socialization skills and basic obedience commands to help them learn

how to interact positively with both people and other dogs, ultimately making the pups more adoptable. The offender trainers can also earn a certificate in animal handling while developing personal skills to support their rehabilitation and reentry prospects.

Patrons can learn more about Puppies for Parole by following the program's activities on [Facebook](#), viewing [available adoptable dogs](#), or enjoying uplifting [videos](#).

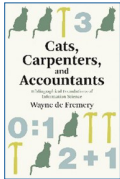
Questions? Contact Reference Services at (573) 751-3615, libref@sos.mo.gov, or mostate.libguides.com.

Featured Government Document from the State Library

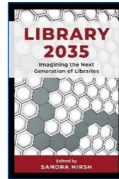


The [2024 Missouri Course Access Program Annual Report](#) by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education presents data and outcomes for online courses offered by the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP). Discover more government publications in our [Missouri State Publications Collection](#) to share with patrons. For assistance accessing government information or publications, please contact the Reference Services staff at the [State Library](#).

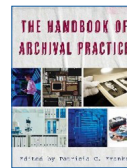
Featured Books from the State Library



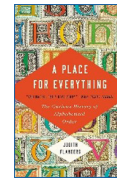
[Cats, Carpenters, and Accountants: Bibliographical Foundations of Information Science](#)



[Library 2035: Imagining the Next Generation of Libraries](#)



[The Handbook of Archival Practice](#)



[A Place for Everything: The Curious History of Alphabetical Order](#)

Discover more of our Library Professional Development titles as well as recorded webinars, government publications, and more on 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

Teen Night Sparks Curiosity with Gravity Maze STEM Kit

By Hannibal Free Public Library

Teen Night at the Hannibal Free Public Library was a hit as local teens gathered for an evening of fun, learning, and hands-on exploration using a STEM Kit provided by the Missouri State Library. The featured activity was the Gravity Maze, a marble-powered logic game that challenges players to build paths through a series of towers to guide a marble from start to finish. Participants worked in teams to solve increasingly complex puzzles, developing critical thinking and spatial reasoning skills along the way.

The colorful towers and satisfying marble runs kept everyone engaged, and the collaborative atmosphere made it easy for teens to share strategies and celebrate successes. We did several rounds together and then had timed races.



The competition was intense as cookies and stickers were on the line as prizes!

The Gravity Maze STEM Kit not only entertained but also introduced key STEM concepts in a playful, accessible way. Events like these continue to show how libraries evolve as dynamic spaces for learning and innovation. We already look forward to the next STEM kit we can borrow for Teen Night!

Welcome to New Library Directors

Please join us in welcoming some new library directors! We are excited to see all the wonderful things they'll accomplish in these roles. If you'd like to congratulate them or reach out, you can find their contact information below.

- **Bennett Tabor**, Director of Douglas County Public Library, docopubliclibrary@gmail.com

- **Karmen Spangler**, Director of Appleton City Public Library, acmolibrary@gmail.com

If you're a new library director, please reach out to mostlib@sos.mo.gov to receive an official welcome and information from the State Library to help you thrive in your new position.

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.

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.

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



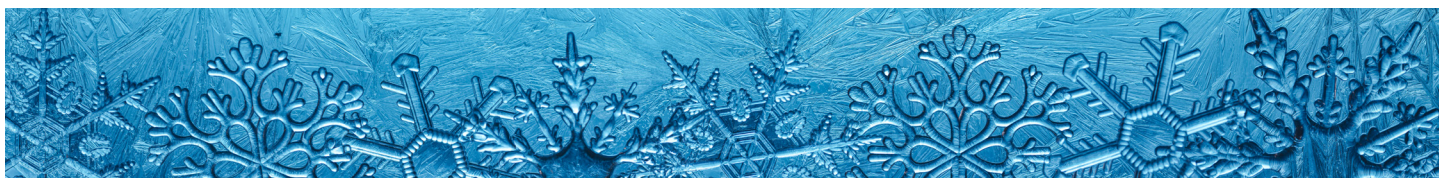
Missouri State Library grants are supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Missouri State Library, a division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

Grant Opportunities – National Grants

NEA Big Read • **Deadline: Jan. 29**

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read is a matching grant that provides \$5,000 to \$20,000 to awarded libraries for America250 programming inspired by a book from their list. Funded programs center around applicant's chosen book and its themes between Sept. 2026 and June 2027. Funds may be used for

books, tools to support partner work, public relations strategies, meaningful book discussion programs, and other programs related to the chosen book. NEA Big Read grant applications require an Intent to Apply by Jan. 15 and a final application by Jan. 29. Learn more at [NEA Big Read - Arts Midwest](#).



USDA Community Facilities Programs

This United State 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](mailto:rd.mo.general.inquiries@usda.gov) at rd.mo.general.inquiries@usda.gov or (573) 876-0976 for more information.

Other Grant Opportunities

Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries 2025–2026 Grant • Deadline: Dec. 31

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries 2025–2026 Grant provides funds to school libraries to extend, update, and diversify their book and print collections to encourage students to develop a love of reading and learning. Grantees may use funds to purchase school library books, e-books, and magazine

requests. Public school applicants along with neighborhood, charter, and magnet schools must be Title 1 eligible; private and parochial schools may apply if they have at least 50% of their student population qualifying for financial aid. Contact laurabushfoundation@bushcenter.org with any questions.

T-Mobile – Hometown Grants • Deadline: Dec. 31

Open to small US towns with less than 50,000 people, T-Mobile Hometown Grants provide funding to build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections and provide a community benefit when otherwise difficult to secure funding. The projects should be shovel-ready, physical builds, or improvements

that can be completed within 12 months of receiving the grant. Some examples of funded projects include technology updates, outdoor spaces, the arts, and community centers. Applications much include plans, budget, timeline, anticipated impact, and up to five letters of support.

Walmart Sparks Good Local Grants • Deadline: Dec. 31

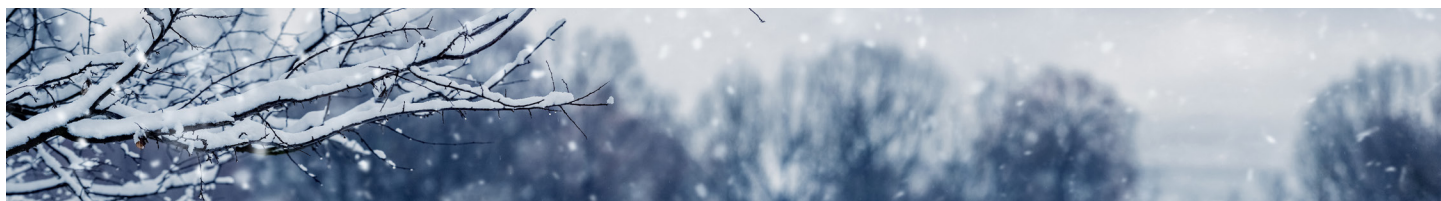
The Walmart Sparks Good Local Grants provides grantees with \$250 to \$5,000 to address specific community needs with a focus area of Creating Opportunity, Advancing Sustainability, and/or Strengthening Community. Eligible organizations include 501(c)(3) public charities, government

entities (non-501(c)(3)), schools, and church or other faith-based organizations with a proposed project that benefits the community at large. Eligible organizations must also be located within the same service area as a Walmart store, Sam's Club, or distribution center.

Snapdragon Book Foundation • Deadline: Feb. 8

The Snapdragon Book Foundation provides funding to schools in the U.S. to improve school libraries for children through increased access to books. Grant funds range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 per applicant and may be used books that will be repeated used by school-aged children, processing or cataloguing fees from book

vendors, reference materials for use by students, and magazine or newspaper subscriptions. If Snapdragon cannot award the total requested amount, they may offer a partial grant. Eligible organizations include public, private, and experimental schools.



Professional Development Offerings

CLiC Virtual Winter Workshop

The Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) is holding their 2026 Virtual Winter Workshop on Feb. 4, 2 – 4:30 p.m., and Feb. 5, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.. The CLiC Virtual Winter Workshop is designed for practical content geared toward rural communities.

[Registration](#) is open now until Jan. 30 for \$25, and registration gives you access to the live sessions as well as the recordings for one year. If you have any questions, contact clihelp@clicweb.org.

Amigos Library Services

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

- Introduction to Library Acquisitions, Dec. 4, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Know & Go: Documenting Library Work, Dec. 8, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- Introduction to MarcEdit, Dec. 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- The Essentials: Conducting the Reference Interview, Jan. 15, 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:

- ARSL Annual Member Meeting, Dec. 9, 2 p.m.
- December TRAIN: Page Turners, Dec. 11, 1 p.m.

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

Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP)

Speakers and trainings include:

- Scheming Wives and High-Stakes Hilarity with Author Sue Hincenbergs, Dec. 2, 1 p.m.
- Summer Symposium 2025, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- The Creative and Compassionate Art of Seeing Others Deeply with David Brooks, Jan. 13, 1 p.m.

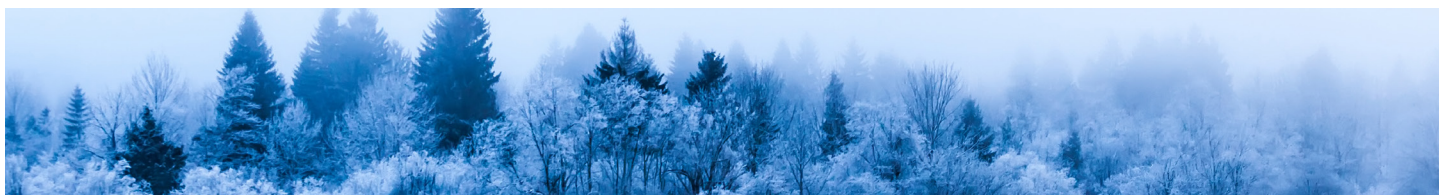
For the complete speakers list, visit [CSLP's Author Talks](#) and [Professional Development](#).

LibraryWorks

Trainings include:

- Misinformation and Conspiracy Theory Trends: Advice for Libraries, Dec. 4, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Everything Library School Never Taught You About Managing People, Dec. 11, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Leading from the Middle: Managing and Communicating Both Up and Down, Dec. 17, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Onboarding New Library Employees: Setting Up Staff for Success, Jan. 8, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Communicating with Elected Officials and Library Stakeholders, Jan. 15, 1 – 2 p.m.

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



MALA (Mid-American Library Alliance)

Trainings include:

- Looking Back and Looking Ahead: Best Titles of 2025 and Trends for 2026, Dec. 2, 2 – 3 p.m.
- "Teens Don't Read"... Or Do They? Rethinking What 21st Century Teen Literacy Might Look Like, Jan. 15, 10 – 11 a.m.

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

Missouri Association of School Librarians (MASL)

Events include:

- MASL Live – December 2025, Dec. 8, 6 p.m.
- [MASL Annual Conference: Creating Communities](#), April 19–21, Tan-Tar-A Conference Center in Osage Beach

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



MOREnet

Trainings include:

- Level Up: Learn How to Bring Game-Based Learning to Your Space (CS), Dec. 2, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., MOREnet Training Room – The Mill Columbia
- Empowering Students with Rosen: Digital, Financial, and Health Literacy, Dec. 15, 10 – 11 a.m.
- From ABC's to AI (CS), Dec. 3, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Google Gear Up: Google Vids (CS), Dec. 17, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Explore, Learn, and Read Your Way Through America's Parks!, Dec. 8, 9 – 10 a.m.
- What's New in AI for Missouri Education (CS), Dec. 30, 3:30 – 4 p.m.
- What are Chicken Jockeys?: Minecraft Education 101 (CS), Dec. 10, 1 – 2 p.m.
- GPN 2026 January Meeting, Jan. 13, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Hilton Kansas City County Club Plaza
- E-Rate Training: Competitive Bid Form 470, Dec. 11, 9 – 10 a.m.
- E-Rate Training: All Things E-Rate, Jan. 22, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM)

Trainings include:

- Effective Health Communication and Health Literacy: Understanding the Connection, Dec. 10, 1 – 2 p.m.
- Health Programming at Your Library, Jan. 14, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Connecting Older Adults to Health Information, Dec. 11, 11 – 12:30 p.m.
- ClinicalTrails.gov for Librarians, Jan. 15, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Telehealth 101: What Libraries Need to Know, Jan. 5, self-paced

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



Niche Academy

Trainings include:

- Recruiting and Engaging Volunteers, Dec. 3, 1 p.m.
- Libraries, Social Media, CIPA, and the Internet, Dec. 10, 1 p.m.
- Telling Your Library's Story, Jan. 7, 1 p.m.
- Welcoming All: Inclusivity in Library Spaces, Jan. 14, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [Niche Academy Upcoming Webinars](#).

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC)

Trainings include:

- 10 Practical Steps for Getting Started with Digital Preservation, Dec. 4, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Care and Reformatting of Microfilm, Dec. 9, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Caring for Scrapbooks, Dec. 16, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
- Moving and Renovating: Collection Concerns, Dec. 18, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Starting an Archive: Preservation Basics, Jan. 5, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Caring for Paper-Based Collections, Jan. 8, 1 – 3 p.m.
- Digitizing Scrapbooks, Jan. 13, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Digitization: Planning for Success, Jan. 15, 1 – 3 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [NEDCC Current Training Programs](#).

TeachingBooks

Trainings include:

- Timesaving Tips from TeachingBooks, Jan. 21, 1 p.m.

For the complete training list, visit [TeachingBooks Upcoming Webinars](#).

WebJunction

Trainings include:

- Libraries Supporting Small Business Skills for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals, Dec. 2, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Navigating New Building Projects, Dec. 9, 2 – 3 p.m.
- Generative AI and Collection Development Policies: A Proactive Approach, Jan. 8, 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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