Conducted LIVE and ONLINE, Wednesday, February 4, 2026
Session recordings available February 5 – March 5

_____9:00 am - 10:00 am Sessions_____

How To Steal a Brainrot and Other Top Trending Roblox Games for Tweens and Teens

Katie Donahoe, *Teen Librarian, Mt Lebanon Public Library*

Roblox is a popular free online gaming platform popular with kids and teens alike. Take a peek behind the curtain at the current trending games you constantly see on library computer screens and hear about from the kids!

Expected Take-aways: *Understand what kids, tweens, and teens are currently playing; be able to engage with kids about popular Roblox games; gain insight into this library gaming activity and how it relates to youth culture.*

Sensory Programs for Adults

Debbie Jack, *Executive Director, Lower Macungie Library*

This session will talk about how to offer low-cost programs for adults in your community who have developmental disabilities. We will discuss why consistency is important and how to partner with local organizations to reach those in need.

Expected Take-aways: *Where to start when thinking about offering programs for adults with disabilities; How to partner in your community with those who serve the same population; What are the goals for those you serve in your community.*

Cybersecurity Starts with You: Practical Tips to Protect Your Library and Your Patrons

Joseph Harford, *Reclamere*

Libraries play a vital role in keeping communities connected, but even the smallest library can become a target for cybercrime. In this session, we'll explore how everyday actions by staff can make the biggest difference in keeping systems, data, and patrons safe. Designed for non-technical staff, this session breaks down cybersecurity into simple, practical steps that work even in resource-limited settings. Through real-life examples, including ransomware incidents that have impacted libraries, participants will learn what to watch for, what to do when something seems suspicious, and how to strengthen their own defenses both at work and at home. We'll also share

a *Top 10 Cybersecurity Best Practices* checklist created specifically for library staff and provide free access to Reclamere's monthly cybersecurity newsletter for continued learning after the event. The session concludes with an open Q&A, giving attendees the chance to ask questions and get advice tailored to their daily challenges.

Expected Take-aways: Attendees will leave this session with: A clear understanding of how human behavior impacts cybersecurity — both as a risk and as the first line of defense. Real-world awareness of how ransomware and phishing attacks affect libraries and how to respond effectively. A simple, actionable Top 10 Best Practices checklist to improve security habits immediately, even with limited resources. Practical guidance on creating and managing strong passwords, recognizing suspicious emails, and safely browsing online. Confidence in where to turn for help — including a free ongoing resource for cybersecurity tips and updates. Inspiration to share what they've learned with coworkers and patrons, helping strengthen cybersecurity awareness across their communities.

_____10:15 am – 11:15 am Sessions_____

Libraries and AI: An Opportunity for Exploration and Collaboration

Sylvia Orner, Collections and Resource Management Librarian, University of Scranton - Weinberg Memorial Library
Kate Cummings, Research and Instruction Librarian for Business University of Scranton - Weinberg Memorial Library

Generative AI is everywhere, and it can be overwhelming. Maybe you've dabbled with it, maybe you haven't, but in either case this session is for you! We will briefly discuss generative AI and then we will dive into what tools are available to aid in your work as librarians and library staff.

Expected Take-aways: Attendees will learn the what generative AI is, how it can assist in day-to-day tasks, and what its limitations are. They will learn about several popular generative AI tools and how to effectively use them.

Recognizing Signs of Human Trafficking

Jordan Pine, Founder & CEO, Greenlight Operation

We are a group of everyday people on a mission to strategically combat human trafficking through educational initiatives and serve sex trafficked women through a continuum of restorative care. We invite you to join our efforts to end human trafficking and restore survivors. Together, we are making a difference. What topics are discussed in our seminars? Local and national statistics on

trafficking Signs of trafficking Victim profile Survivor stories What recruitment looks like How to report trafficking Our solution Ways to get involved

Expected Take-aways: *What topics are discussed in our seminars? Local and national statistics on trafficking; Signs of trafficking; Victim profile; Survivor stories; What recruitment looks like; How to report trafficking; Our solution; Ways to get involved*

Community Engagement: Building Home Libraries and Promoting Library Awareness

Carrie Lane, *Youth Service Coordinator, Allegheny County Library Association*

Studies have shown that access to books in the home helps school performance and build vocabulary among other things. The Allegheny County Library Association is trying to help children build home libraries, as well as create library awareness through four different initiatives: 1) Baby Bags: Distributing bags to new and expectant parents that promote early learning and include books and other manipulatives. 2) Book Vending Machines: Placing book vending machines in locations where children are in challenging situations, like visiting a loved one at the Allegheny County Jail. 3) Books & Beyond: Featuring Allegheny County libraries and programs monthly on the local TV show, Pittsburgh Today Live and offering the opportunity for viewers to complete a survey and receive the Book-of-the-Month. 4) Community Events: Distributing books to children at large scale events, such as Kindergarten, Here I Come at the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.

Expected Take-aways: *Attendees will learn more about these programs, how they can replicate them and hear from some of the collaborators*

_____11:30 am – 12:30 pm Sessions_____

Legal Research for Non-Lawyers

Loren Nocheck, *Law Librarian and Instruction Librarian, State Library of Pennsylvania*

This is a session geared at teaching librarians about the free legal research resources that are available to them. It is geared at helping librarians learn how to assist with legal research and how to show patrons how to access resources themself. It will also include an overview of PA legal research resources and showcase the resources available specific to PA laws as well as how to find those resources for other states as well. This session will also have some focus on the kind of legal research assistance librarians can provide and include some tips and advice to help with patrons seeking actual legal advice vs. legal research assistance.

Expected Take-aways: *Awareness of legal research resources available for PA laws; Ability to access and navigate systems used for legal research; Tips and tricks for finding similar resources for other states.*

Tough Interactions: Preserving Access Rights in Public Library Service Behavior Response

Daniel Hensley, *Coordinator, Training and Development, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh*

Anyone working in library public service can tell you that it is not uncommon to experience patron behaviors and attitudes that make us uncomfortable or are unpleasant. The challenge for library workers is that unlike in many public-serving professions, community members have a well-established right to access the library, a right which prohibits their access from being denied because of origin, age, background, or views. For library workers, this means that there is a whole category of behaviors that, however unpleasant or uncomfortable, are allowable under the library's policies. We call these "Tough Interactions," and it is more important now than ever that frontline library staff are clear about what kind of speech or behavior is grounds for exclusion from library services, what is not, and how to minimize the stress that comes from handling tough interactions that do not clear that bar.

Expected Take-aways: Learn what the ALA Bill of Rights has to say about patrons' right to access library services; Discuss simple ways to think about determining the appropriate response to tough interactions when they occur; Learn and practice effective techniques for pausing interactions, setting limits, and successfully completing even the most difficult interactions with patrons.

Engage Your Community through Storytelling

David Hicks, *PhD, Author and Director of Creative Writing, Wilkes University*

Libraries host readings, book clubs, and writing workshop groups to connect with their communities. But many patrons see such events as intended for literary types and thus don't consider attending. An alternative strategy is to ask a local author to offer a workshop in which attendees are instructed in the basics of how to tell a story, with the assumption that everyone has the innate ability to tell a story. Author and professor David Hicks has done just this at over a dozen libraries, using a familiar and accessible formula: "Once upon a time . . . .Then, one day . . ." Patrons learn how to identify a story (an event that changed them) in their own lives; the central elements of a story, and how to structure their own story based on that event. They will finish the workshop with the first few paragraphs (character, setting, and plot) of a new story, and the confidence that comes with telling their own story and knowing it matters, both to themselves and the larger community. In this conference session David will describe this activity, demonstrate it with your participation, and explain how such an event can be hosted at your own library.

Expected Take-aways: Participants will leave the session with an expanded ability to see themselves as storytellers, to see their own lives as "story-worthy," and to make meaning of a seemingly insignificant event; Receive a simple template and pedagogical model for librarians to

employ with their patrons so they can tell their own stories; bridge the gap between literate and literary, between authors and readers.

_____**12:30 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch Break**_____

Lunch Break

Take advantage of this brief opportunity to grab lunch before sessions begin again at 1:15 p.m.

_____**1:15 pm – 2:15 pm Sessions**_____

Introducing the PA CareKit

Nathan Lampenfeld, *Special Assistant to the Secretary of Aging, PA Department of Aging*

As part of Aging Our Way, PA, the state's 10–year strategic plan, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging has created a dynamic, interactive, and comprehensive "caregiver toolkit" to address the key challenges faced by caregivers and provide practical solutions and resources to support their entire caregiving journey. Join us for an overview of the PA CareKit – a collection of tools, information, and support to help caregivers learn more, plan ahead, or catch their breath.

Expected Take-aways: Librarians will have an overview and demonstration of the PA CareKit, have an understanding of the development process, and be able to assist library attendees in navigating this resource. We will also be sending printed materials to every library in the state. This session will help explain those materials.

Your Work Matters: Frontline Workers' Impact on Impactful Library Assessment

Christina J. Steffy, *Director of Institutional Assessment, Accreditation, and Compliance, Alvernia University*

Frontline library workers can provide valuable information to assess library resources and services. Whether you're collecting formal usage metrics or informal qualitative information, frontline workers are uniquely positioned to provide stories to enhance data to accurately assess library resources and services help tell the library's story to stakeholders.

Expected Take-aways: Attendees will learn how the formal methods of data collection they engage in can be used in library assessment. Attendees will also learn how they can engage in informal methods of assessment via conversations with patrons in their daily work and how this informal collection of information helps supplement assessment metrics.

Connecting Communities through Great Books and More: Free Resources from the Pennsylvania Center for the Book

Ellysa Stern Cahoy, Director, Pennsylvania Center for the Book, Penn State University Libraries
Casey Sennett, Outreach and Social Media Coordinator, Pennsylvania Center for the Book, Penn State University Libraries

Frontline library workers are at the heart of connecting Pennsylvania patrons with stories that inspire and inform. The Pennsylvania Center for the Book offers free statewide programs, book awards, and educational resources designed to help you strengthen your readers' advisory, family literacy programming, and community engagement. Discover how to promote Pennsylvania authors and books through our PA Great Reads picks and the Literary & Cultural Heritage Maps of Pennsylvania; support family literacy and storytime programming with The Baker's Dozen: Thirteen Best Books for Family Literacy; engage readers of all ages with the Lynd Ward Graphic Novel Prize and Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award winning titles. Participants will gain practical, ready-to-use ideas and resources to enhance displays, programs, and patron interactions—all while celebrating Pennsylvania's vibrant literary culture.

Expected Take-aways: After attending this session, participants will be able to: Identify free Pennsylvania-focused book and literacy resources available for public libraries; Incorporate award and program materials into readers' advisory, displays, and community programming; Connect patrons to Pennsylvania authors and stories that build pride, awareness, and engagement in local and state-level literary culture.

_____2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Sessions_____

Leading from the Frontline: Building Your Conflict Resilience Toolkit

Tina Hertel, Director, Pella Public Library

Conflict shows up in everyday work, whether with coworkers, patrons, or in tough conversations, and it often lands first on the frontline. This interactive workshop helps participants build conflict resilience: the ability to stay grounded, constructive, and connected in the middle of tension. In just one hour, we'll build a toolkit you can apply right away because leadership isn't about your title, it's about how you show up when it matters most.

*Expected Take-aways: Participants will learn how to: *Lead through conflict moments, even without formal authority *Stay calm and centered when emotions run high *Listen with empathy to deescalate situations *Reframe disagreements into opportunities for solutions*

Defending Ideas, Empowering Communities: Intellectual Freedom in Libraries

Kate Cummings, *Research and Instruction Librarian, University of Scranton*

This talk discusses intellectual freedom through three core themes: 1) Library workers as advocates for access and inclusion, including intellectual freedom in practice, advocacy as a community effort, and balancing advocacy with empathy, 2) libraries as inclusive spaces including the power of inclusive collections and fostering dialogue and understanding, and 3) looking ahead to prepare for continued challenges to intellectual freedom. This is a call to action for all library workers to hold on to our professional values and fight for intellectual freedom for all.

Expected Take-aways: This talk is meant to be more inspirational/aspirational in regards to IF and our efforts to protect it. Attendees should walk away feeling better about their continued efforts as library workers and feel motivated to continue to fight the fight.

Using Feedback Frames to Evaluate Your Youth Services Programs

Rob Lesher, *PA Forward(R) Program Manager, Pennsylvania Library Association*
TBD - Youth Services Staff Member

Evaluating children's programs is really challenging. Many of our libraries choose not to evaluate their programs and miss a great opportunity to explain their value to the public. This session will describe how youth service staff can easily evaluate their programs with Feedback Frames and some simple questions targeting the youth and parents who attend your programming.

Expected Take-aways: Attendees will be able to articulate why evaluation is important to telling our library stories. Attendees will learn about an easy, sustainable, and versatile product to carry out evaluation in youth services. Libraries will receive a starter kit of feedback frames to implement an evaluation program in their library.