

## Announcements

### APLA Conference 2025: Breaking Barriers

Evelyn Trainer, APLA Conference Co-Chair



### Breaking Barriers

Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – Friday, June 13, 2025

Mount Saint Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, NS

Libraries have always been at the forefront of democratizing knowledge, fostering inclusion, and supporting their communities in overcoming obstacles. With our theme, **Breaking Barriers**, we aim to explore how libraries are challenging traditional boundaries, embracing innovation, and empowering individuals and communities. The APLA 2025 Conference seeks to address the challenges and opportunities in breaking down barriers, whether they are cultural, economic, digital, or educational.

### Call for Proposals

**Proposal Deadline: Monday, February 10, 2025**

The APLA 2025 Conference Team invites proposals for consideration for presentation at the 2025 in-person Annual Conference from June 10-13, 2025.

**Presenters are responsible for their own registration, lodging, and travel.**

We want perspectives from students, public libraries, academic libraries, school libraries, health libraries, special libraries, archives, non-profit organizations, student support departments/organizations, community groups and more!

We are seeking presentations in the following format categories:

- Pre-Conference Workshop (time to be determined)
- Hour Presentations (45 mins with additional 15 mins for questions)
- Half-hour Presentation (20 mins with additional 10 mins for questions)
- Interactive panel discussions (60 minutes)
- Micro Talks (5-10 minutes)

Proposals that do not fit the above timeframe and structure will be considered by the team but selection is dependent on schedule, logistics and other proposals. We also encourage students to join Micro Talks or give presentations to discuss previous or on-going research.

**Submit your proposals, via PheedLoop, [APLA Conference 2025](#) by Monday, February 10th, 2025.**

Include the following information:

- Title
- Type: Pre-Conference Workshop, Hour Presentation, Half-hour Presentation; Panel, Micro Talk
- Name, title, institution of presenter(s)
- Two-sentence bio of the presenter(s)
- Abstract (250 words or less)
- Language of presentation
- Suggested track, (Public library, Cataloguing, School library, etc.)
- Contact information including email, address, and phone number.

Presenters will be notified by Monday, February 24, 2025 via email if they are selected to present at the conference. We request that presenters make their presentations available on the conference website. Questions? Email [conference@apla.ca](mailto:conference@apla.ca) for more information.



## Opening Keynote:

**Rebecca Thomas, BA, MA | Aboriginal Student Services Coordinator at NSCC**

**Rebecca Thomas** is an award-winning poet, activist, and Mi'kmaw Cultural Educator. She was the Poet Laureate for Halifax 2016-2018. Her family has roots in Lenno Island First Nation. Rebecca is the child of a residential school survivor – inspiring *I'm Finding My Talk* and *Swift Fox All Along* (nominated for a Governor General's Literary Award), and the poetry collection, *I Place You Into the Fire* (CBC Books' Best Canadian Poetry Pick in 2020). Rebecca was selected as a 2021 Writers' Trust Rising Star by Sue Goyette.

Rebecca uses her voice as a poet to inform the world about such topics as poverty and racism.

## Closing Keynote

**Benjamin Mitchell, MA, MI, PhD | Campus Librarian at Williams Lake Campus, Thompson Rivers University Library**

**Dr. Ben Mitchell (he/they)** is a librarian, educator, and researcher with a background in the history of science and medicine, science and technology studies, and neurodiversity studies.

Committed to making scholarship more accessible, as an assistant curator at the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre, they helped design public programming related to the history of mental health and neurodivergence at the site of the former Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital in Etobicoke, Ontario. They also help to organize the Neuro-GLAM-erous Discord server and yearly NeuroGLAM conference for neurodivergent gallery, library, archives, and museum (GLAM) workers. Learn more about Ben [here](#).

**We look forward to seeing you at the conference!**

## APLA Funding & Awards Information

Shannon Bateman, APLA Communications Coordinator

The graphic is a vertical rectangle with a light blue background. On the left side, there is a white vertical bar containing the APLA logo, the application deadline information, a QR code, and the website URL. The right side of the graphic features a dark blue header with the title 'FUNDING & AWARDS' and five award categories, each with an icon and a brief description.

**apla**

Application  
Deadline:  
March 31st, 2025

More info at  
[apla.ca/funding-awards](http://apla.ca/funding-awards)

### FUNDING & AWARDS

 **SOMERS SCHOLARSHIP**  
Provides financial assistance to a Canadian citizen and resident of the Atlantic provinces to undertake or complete their MLIS/MIS.

**FIRST TIMERS CONFERENCE GRANT**   
Available to members of APLA residing in Atlantic Canada who are planning to attend their first annual conference.  
**Students who are not working full-time can join APLA for free!**

 **APLA MERIT AWARD**  
Honours an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to library service.

**MEMORIAL AWARD**   
Provides funding for projects that contribute to career development and are of benefit to the library profession.

 **ADVOCACY AWARD**  
Recognizes exemplary library promotion, advocacy, and outreach.

## Obituary of Julia Stewart, Director of the Fredericton Public Library

It is with great sadness we share the passing of librarian Julia Stewart on November 16, 2024. Julia was the Director of the Fredericton Public Library, and had previously worked in various Nova Scotia libraries. She was a well-loved member of the Atlantic Provinces library community, and will be missed.

You can read Julia's full obituary [here](#).