



Webisode Chat with Jennie Stapp

Webinar Recording

- Recorded on February 13, 2026
- [Watch the Recording](#)

February Website Chat Highlights

Meeting Purpose

First Webisode Chat of 2026 to share updates from the State Library Commission, discuss continuing education and certification changes, gather input on resource sharing, and highlight upcoming opportunities.

Key Commission Updates

- **April Business Meeting:** Rescheduled to **April 8** (Zoom or Helena), not at MLA Conference.
- **October Meeting:** Will be held at **Miles City Public Library**; Commission considering formal rotation of October meetings across Montana libraries.
- **Public Library Standards – ARM 10.102.1159**
 - Language revisions for clarity and alignment with Montana law.
 - Potential addition of **AI literacy** requirements.
 - **Open hours standard** effective July 2026.

Artificial Intelligence Initiatives

- Presentation by **Chris Tarabochia**, Montana's Chief AI Officer:
 - AI as a productivity tool for state government.
 - Libraries recognized as key hubs for **AI literacy** and trusted community resources.
- State Library staff planning an **AI Coffee Talk** to explore tools and ideas.
- Emphasis on adopting a **learning mindset** due to rapid AI evolution.

Neutrality vs. Objectivity

- Commission discussion concluded libraries should strive for **objectivity**, not neutrality:
 - Focus on meeting community needs without personal bias.
 - Practical approach given resource constraints.
- Further exploration planned for April meeting.

Continuing Education & Certification Changes

- Transition from 3 tracks to **one track** for directors.
- Courses must be **Commission-approved** for credit.



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- New structure:
 - **Initial certificate:** 20 credits in 2 years.
 - **Renewal certificate:** 60 credits in 5 years.
- Credits earned before **June 30, 2026**, will count toward new certification.

Resource Sharing Study

- Legislative **Education Interim Budget Committee** studying resource sharing.
- State Library collecting survey responses to prioritize funding for shared services.
- Special focus on **school libraries**, especially small Class B and C schools.

Upcoming Dates

- **Feb 18:** Courier crate input deadline.
- **Feb 28:** Federation grant reporting opens.
- **Mar 4:** Montana Library to Go membership meeting.
- Ongoing webinars, including **Access and Usability series**.
- [Check the ASPeN Calendar](#) for details.

Next Webisode Chat

- [March 13, 2026](#)