**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Wisconsin Libraries launch statewide author contest***

*Wisconsin Author Project creates opportunities for self-published authors*

[Library name] is pleased to join in the announcement of a new statewide contest that will accept submissions of self-published Young Adult and Adult Fiction, to be recognized as the top self-published books in the state.

One winner of this contest will receive:

* $1,000 cash prize
* A write-up in the December print issue of *Library Journal*
* Honors at the American Library Association Midwinter 2019 THRIVE Reception in Seattle
* Opportunities to promote your work to Wisconsin public library staff and patrons
* A *Library Journal* Digital Review
* An invitation to speak at the Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference in October

One runner-up of this contest will receive:

* A *Library Journal* Digital Review
* An invitation to speak at the Wisconsin Library Association Annual Conference in October

Recent data from 2016 showed that 20% of the book market is composed of indie authors. The creation of the Wisconsin Author Project gives librarians not only a chance to engage with this growing group of authors, but also an opportunity to be active stewards for new works.

For self-published authors, the contest is a fantastic prospect to elevate their careers and business. Along with the accolade of the award and its perks, being recognized by librarians creates credibility and visibility in the growing marketplace of digital content and self-published books. Winning authors will reach hundreds if not thousands of new readers via the library, and can also leverage being an award-winning author for additional marketing opportunities.

[Quote from library on connecting with and supporting local, indie authors]

Each book that is submitted to the contest must be:

* Self-published
* In the genre of Young Adult Fiction or Adult Fiction
* Written by a Wisconsin resident
* Available in either PDF or ePUB format

Authors can submit at indieauthorproject.librariesshare.com/wisconsin.

Submissions are open until June 30th. A panel of Wisconsin librarians will judge the submissions.

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**Contact:**

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