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Connections

North Dakota State Library

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Your monthly news & updates

Reference Services at the State Library

The North Dakota State Library provides reference services from professionally trained librarians to state employees. We can assist state employees with professional research, such as locating scholarly articles, conducting extensive research using state documents, conducting training on using databases or using the catalog, and providing resources for professional or personal development. One source recently created is the North Dakota State Employee Academy at https://my.nicheacademy.com/stateemployee.

This collection of tutorials touches on topics, such as customer service, managing conflict, and using the State Library catalog or explore databases provided by the North Dakota State Library. There is even a tutorial on how to sign up for a North Dakota State Library card.

Some of these tutorials come from a library-oriented angle, but the information, such as grant writing, can be used by anyone who's applying for grants. Not only can our reference staff assist you with professional information requests, but we can help you find a good summer read, assist you with signing up for and downloading e-books and audiobooks, and help gather resources for your kids' school projects. We can even check out a state park pass to you, so you can visit one of our fabulous state parks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us. We would love to help you out. We can be reached at 701-328-4622 or statelib@nd.gov.

Online Resources for Homework Help

Are you looking for some fun resources to help your kids learn? School is just around the corner, and cardholders can access many online resources to help make this a great year at library.nd.gov/onlineresources.html.

This month, we'll be going through some of the available databases for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Britannica School
Reliable reference content for students

Explora Primary
Content includes full-text magazine and reference articles for young researchers

Gale In Context: Elementary
Includes premier content and magazines

National Geographic Kids
Includes high-quality informational texts

PebbleGo & PebbleGo Next
Includes informational articles, ready-made activities, and literacy support

If you have any questions, contact us at 701-328-4622 or statelib@nd.gov.

State Park Passes Available

In partnership with the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, the North Dakota State Library has State Park Passes available for check out. These passes get you in the park for free. Any additional charges, such as camping and rentals, are the responsibility of the pass holder. These passes are also available at your local public library.

For more information, please contact the State Library at 701-328-4622 or statelib@nd.gov.

Do you need to brush up on your interpersonal communication skills? Universal Class offers a course titled Mastering Conversation Skills.

This self-paced course, consisting of twelve lessons, will review and strengthen the skills needed to communicate effectively in social and business settings. Mastering Conversational Skills starts with an overview of the building blocks of communications and explores such skills, such as active listening, empathy, and non-verbal communication. Additional topics include speaking like a leader, initiating conversational flow with any person in any setting, and managing anxiety in a social environment.

Check out this course through Universal Class if you want to polish your conversation skills at **https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com/start.htm**. If you have any questions, contact the State Library at 701-328-4622 or **statelib@nd.gov**.

New Items Available at the North Dakota State Library

North Dakota Books

New Fiction Books

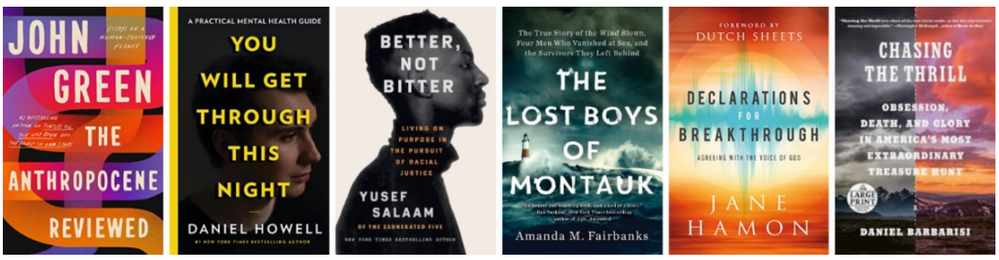
New Nonfiction Books

New Fiction E-Books

New Nonfiction E-Books

New Fiction E-Audiobooks

New Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



ND Library Photography Contest

The State Library is looking for photo submissions! When you see a North Dakota library, bookmobile, or book bike, take a photo and send it to the North Dakota State Library on social media using @NDStateLibrary or #NDLibraryPhoto, or by filling out the Google Form found at **https://forms.gle/ibtJ5VkpZ56rdsaY8**. The photos can be of the outside, inside, unique features, etc., but please include the name and location and a brief description.

Submissions will be accepted through August 31, 2021.

Voting will take place in September 2021.

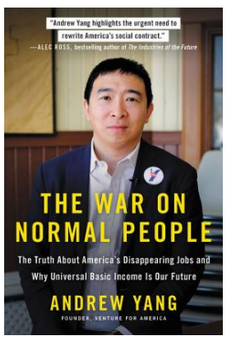
Only North Dakota residents are eligible for prizes.

By submitting photos to the State Library, you are authorizing the use of them on social media and in promotional materials (both electronic and print).

Book Review

"The War on Normal People" by Andrew Yang

Reviewed by James Murphy



"The War on Normal People: The Truth About America's Disappearing Jobs and Why Universal Basic Income Is Our Future" is a book written by former 2020 presidential primary candidate Andrew Yang. The concept of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) is an interesting one but was an idea I thought was ahead of its time. As the novel coronavirus arrived on our shores, UBI became a topic of bipartisan discussion. This piqued my interest enough to take a closer look at the idea.

Yang's book examines UBI, but much of it discusses why he thinks it will be a necessity. I found the first and second sections of the book to be the most interesting but a bit terrifying. Yang describes how many jobs have already been automated and predicts that anything that can be automated will be. This will eliminate most blue-collar work. Although truck drivers will likely disappear, the number of professionals like doctors and lawyers will also decrease. Yang puts a positive spin on automation and people not having to work but stresses that a new distributive system is necessary so that everyone can benefit directly from automation. He also gives examples of how people are already adjusting to underemployment and that many people would pursue other endeavors rather than work if income were not critical to survival.

The third section starts with a quote from an early reviewer that sums up how the book has gone so far, "Reading this feels like I'm getting punched in the face repeatedly," to which I agree. Yang's proposal to remedy this beatdown is a UBI of $1000 a month for every adult paid for by a ten percent VAT (tax) on automation, goods, and services. He has some additional proposals to increase quality of life, but they are only given cursory treatment. I

cannot say whether UBI is our future, but with looming economic uncertainty, I no longer think it is an idea that is still ahead of its time.

"The War on Normal People" is available for check out at the **State Library**.

Connections is a monthly publication of the North Dakota State Library, a Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

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