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Connections

North Dakota State Library

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Your monthly news & updates

Expand Your Horizons with Talking Books

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Do you enjoy books and magazines but have difficulty reading? The North Dakota State Library Talking Book program offers an array of services for citizens of North Dakota who are unable to read standard print materials because of a visual, physical, or reading disability.

This past year, Rachel Sorenson was introduced to the program by her sister, Chelsea who began working as a Reader Advisor for the ND State Library in Bismarck, ND this past April. The Talking Book program is administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), a division of the Library of Congress. Any interested persons can apply for the program by filling out the application on the website. Talking Book machines are available at no charge to anyone with a qualifying disability.

When learning about the program, Chelsea said that she instantly thought of her twin sister who has always loved listening to books since she was little but relies on family or others to read to her. The Talking Book program allows Rachel to be in control and listen to books anytime with the push of a button. The state library has a catalog of over 100,000 books available that can be ordered by calling, emailing or mailing in the order form. A patron's profile is updated with their preferences and favorite authors and can be used for choosing books. Once chosen, books are duplicated onto a cartridge with a person able to borrow up to 5 cartridges at a time, even more if they are ND Titles. Cartridges are mailed to and returned by patrons at no cost. People can even check out sacred texts such as the Bible in different versions, Quran, Torah, etc. long term if they desire.

The Talking Book device is easy to use and reader-friendly. Users can customize the tone of voice and adjust the reading speed for their comfort level. Rachel has even used it at night to listen to books before going to sleep and the device will turn itself off. Chelsea stated that people taking advantage of this program vary from small children to the oldest patron being 109 years old! One of the most meaningful things for her has been hearing stories of how the program has impacted people's lives. New users to the program are contacted after a couple of weeks to ensure that they don't have unanswered questions or support needed. Many say that listening to books is the best part of their day, especially if their other activities are limited due to age or disability.

If you or someone you know might be interested in utilizing this wonderful program, don't hesitate to inquire through the website listed above or by calling the state library at 701-328-1408. You won't regret it!

Eligibility Requirements:

- An individual who is blind or has a visual impairment that makes them unable to comfortably read print books.
- An individual who has a perceptual or reading disability.
- An individual who has a physical disability that makes it hard to hold or manipulate a book or to focus or move the eyes as needed to read a print book.

For more information, please visit http://library.nd.gov/talkingbooks.html or call 701-328-1408.

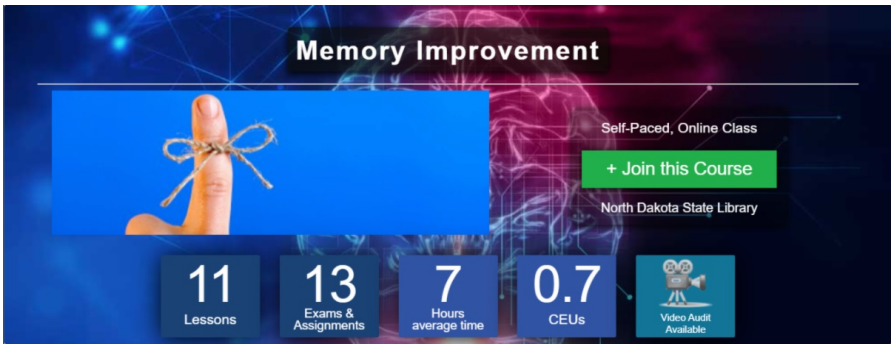
Learn over 60 languages with **Mango Languages**. Each language course immerses users in real-world situations using native speaker audio and includes a voice comparison feature to help you nail the pitch-perfect accent. Memory-building exercises strengthen critical thinking skills and empower you to break down words and sentences to build new phrases on your own.

This resource is also available as an app for your mobile devices.

ChILLin' with ILL

The North Dakota State Library currently has 182 book club kits available for checkout through **KitKeeper**, but if your School or Library has a different title in mind, let us know. The State Library's Interlibrary Loan (ILL) Department will request up to ten copies of a book available in-state for your Library. If you need large print or audiobooks to go with your requested Book Club Kit, we can do that too!

If you have any ILL requests or questions, contact the ILL Dept. at **ndslill@nd.gov** or 701-328-3252.



Want to Improve Your Memory?

Universal Class offers a class on memory improvement. Memory is one of the most basic and important functions of the human brain. In fact, without memory, we can't learn. Most people think of memory as how we recall past events, but it is also the building block for almost everything we do in the present and future. Communication, problem-solving, and relationships all rely to some extent on memories that we use to inform us as we function throughout the day. There are dozens of variables that affect how much we remember, how long we retain it, and whether we can recall it. Fortunately, we can learn the ways to improve how much we remember and enhance how long we remember it.

The class is self-paced, and you can take it when it fits your schedule. In this course, you will examine how memory works. Topics covered include:

- Strategies to Improve Memory
- Peg Memory Systems
- The Loci Method
- Memorizing Numbers
- Mnemonics
- SCAD: Learning to Become an 'Expert Witness'
- Faces and Names
- Powerful Public Speaking
- Everyday Memory Aids

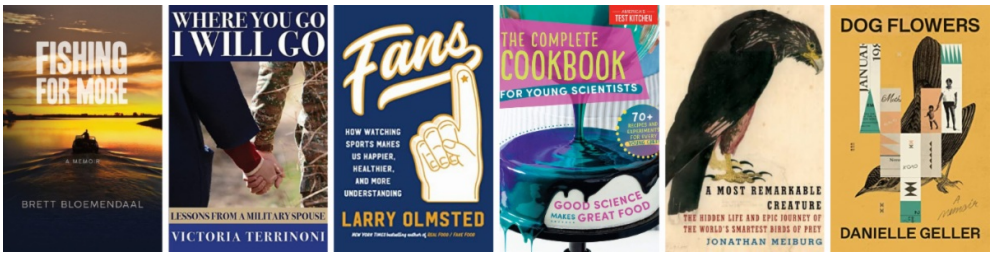
To sign up for this course, you can access **Universal Class** and search for Memory Improvement. If you have questions about Universal Class, please reach out to the Reference Staff at the North Dakota State Library at 701-328-4622 or **statelib@nd.gov**.

New Items Available at the North Dakota State Library

Most Popular E-Magazines

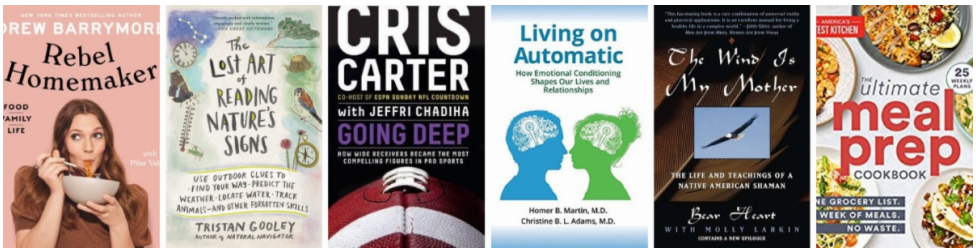
New Fiction Books

New Nonfiction Books



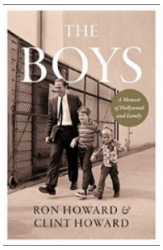
New Fiction E-Books

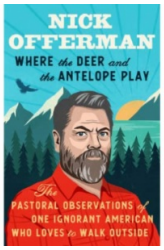
New Nonfiction E-Books

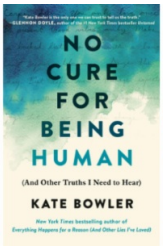


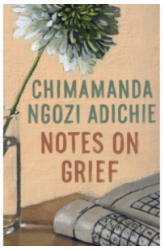
New Fiction E-Audiobooks

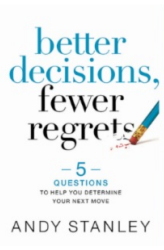
New Nonfiction E-Audiobooks

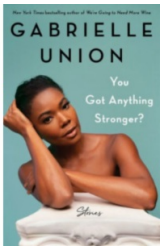








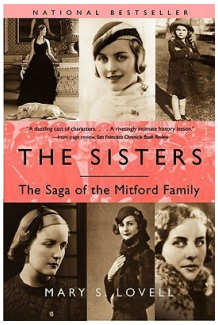




Book Review

"*The Sisters: The Saga of the Mitford Family*" by Mary S. Lovell

Reviewed by Jessica Robinson



A thorough biography of the Mitford family that went down easily despite the size. Although the author tries to give equal attention to the entire British upper-class family, anybody who knows anything about them knows that it was really about four of the seven siblings (six sisters and a brother who died in WWII).

Lovell skips around between the two far ends of the political spectrum with these four sisters, from the Communist rebel Jessica (Decca), who found enormous success in America as a liberal journalist and civil rights activist to the famous novelist Nancy with her Socialist leanings and sharp satire of the upper class, to Diana, devoted to her famous Fascist husband Sir Oswald Mosley, and, once considered the most hated woman in England all the way to Unity Valkyrie, born astonishingly in Swastika and even more astonishingly a devoted friend of Adolf Hitler.

Having just one of these women in a family would guarantee its notoriety; having all four of them together provides a microcosm of Great Britain during some of its most tumultuous decades.

"The Sisters" is available for check out at the North Dakota State Library.

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Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent
Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

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