www.library.nd.gov

North Dakota State Library
FLICKERTALE

Volume 39 Number 5 September/October 2009

DATES

September 23-26
NDLA Annual Conference - Dickinson

November 16-17
ND Library Coordinating Council Meeting - Bismarck

December 2-3
ND Library Coordinating Council Meeting - Fargo

Useful Information for Public Libraries

Public Libraries Data Digest

The State Library has produced a new publication featuring North Dakota public libraries. A limited number of brochures will be sent to each public library in North Dakota. You may also view the document online at www.library.nd.gov/publications/2008stats.pdf.

New Public Libraries Web Page

A new page on the State Library website provides links to individual North Dakota public library websites, as well as information about legislative districts. You may view the page at www.library.nd.gov/publiclibraries.html.

Rural Library Advocacy Tips

Take a peek at the American Library Association (ALA) publication *The Small but Powerful Guide to Winning Support for Your Rural Library* for helpful tips on securing funding by becoming an effective library advocate. See www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/olos/toolkits/rural_toolkit.pdf.

LearningExpress Library Debuts as a Popular New Online Resource

One of the exciting new Online Library Resources available is the LearningExpress Library. This resource offers practice tests, exercises, skill-building courses, and job hunting skills. LearningExpress Library is organized by topic or by learning center. There are learning centers for math, reading comprehension, writing and grammar, and vocabulary and spelling that span from elementary grades to college level. In addition to skills improvement tests, there are college preparation courses. For example, if you are preparing for a college entrance exam, the College Preparation Learning Center has practice tests, essays, and tutorial lessons for the SAT, ACT, and others. Under the College Students tab, you'll find practice tests for graduate school including the GRE, MCAT, and LSAT. Many of these tests have a timer set to the amount of time for the test, so the test takers can pace themselves according to the time allotted. Test results are e-mailed to the test taker after the test has been completed. The LearningExpress Library also has job and career testing such as commercial drivers license (CDL) tests, nursing exams, and the military ASVAB tests. Tips on writing resumes, interviewing techniques, and business writing are also included in the Job Skills and Workplace Learning Center. While you're looking over the LearningExpress Library, be sure to check out the 150+ e-books that are available as part of this resource. E-book topics include career guides, study guides, and test preparation. North Dakota's partnership with LearningExpress Library was featured in the August/September 2009 American Library Association's *American Libraries* journal.

LearningExpress Library can be accessed in any North Dakota library. It is also available to all North Dakotans via the Internet 24/7. For more information about LearningExpress Library, please contact your library or the North Dakota State Library at 800-472-2104 or statelib@nd.gov.

New Grants Available

The North Dakota State Library and the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council have released the competitive grant guidelines for fiscal years 2009-2011. Categories for this round of grants are: 1) participation in the statewide online library catalog through WorldCat, 2) an innovative partnership with a non-library entity, and 3) a training lab. Interested libraries who would like to apply will need to postmark application materials by October 31, 2009. For more information, please visit www.library.nd.gov/librarian.html or contact the State Library at 800-472-2104 or statelib@nd.gov.

September is National Library Card Signup Month

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, and the North Dakota State Library wants to make sure that every child has the smartest card of all – a library card. Studies show that children who are read to at home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

"A library card has always been the most important school supply of all," says State Librarian Doris Ott. "Children can come to the library to get homework help or check out books, but they can also check out music, DVDs, and use the Internet to make after-school life a little more fun. Children (and adults) can even use their library card to access the Online Library Resources from home."

Of course, library cards aren't just for children. A recent poll by the American Library Association shows that libraries continued to experience a dramatic increase in library card applications last year. In fact, 68 percent of American adults have a library card. Now more than ever, people are turning to their libraries for reliable financial information, job searching and career building resources, free computer and Internet access, and, of course, books, movies, and more.

Getting a library card is easy. For more information, visit your library or contact the North Dakota State Library at 1-800-472-2104 or email statelib@nd.gov.

State Library 2010 Spring Workshops

Mark your calendars. The dates for the 2010 Spring Workshops have been set. Workshops in Fargo will be April 12-13 and Bismarck will be April 15-16. The 2010 workshops theme will be *Let Your Voice Be Heard* and will focus on library advocacy, marketing, and promotion. More detailed information will be coming in the next few months. Mark these dates on your calendar and join us for another year of quality library-related workshops.

NDSL @ the NDSF

One of the goals of the North Dakota State Library is to promote and advocate library awareness. This is accomplished in a variety of ways, one of which includes hosting booths at various conferences and expos throughout the state.

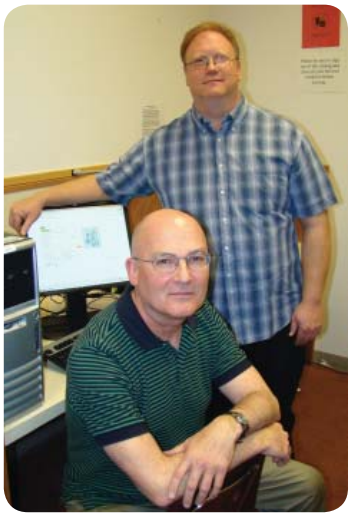
Recently, the State Library hosted its 4th annual booth at the North Dakota State Fair. Coordinating a 9-day booth takes quite a bit of effort, but the results are certainly worth the investment; over 296,000 people attended the State Fair in 2009. Using a live Internet connection, the State Library staff were able to demonstrate the Online Library Resources to fair attendees. State Library Training Coordinator Al Peterson believes the State Fair booth is a great library advocacy tool. "This booth allows us to reach so many North Dakotans at one time. It's one of our best outreach tools," reports Peterson. Look for the State Library booth at the 2010 State Fair.

The State Library booth at the 2009 State Fair

It's important that the State Library has your current library contact information. How else can the State Library keep your library up-to-date with important information? Please contact the State Library if any of your library contact information has changed. Changes include new staff, new board members, email or postal address, telephone or fax number, or library hours. Send updated contact information to the State Library Administration Office at 800-472-2104 or ndsladmn@nd.gov.

Attention School Librarians

The North Dakota State Library is offering free in-classroom training for schools. State Library training staff can travel to your school and conduct a free training on using Online Library Resources to students, as well as your staff, teachers, and administrators. Contact us today to schedule a professional State Library trainer at your school.



State Library Training Staff Steve Axtman and Al Peterson

- The training will focus on the content and demonstrate searching techniques.
- Students will learn how to properly cite resources, using easy and accurate methods.
- Trainings can be adapted to fit class schedules and multiple sessions can be presented on the same day.
- There is no charge for training sessions. The only requirement is an Internet connection.
- Online Library Resources provide information for all grade levels. Each training session will be tailored to the specific audience.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a training session, please contact either Steve Axtman or Al Peterson at 1-800-472-2104 or 701-328-3495.

North Dakota Libraries Benefit from Bill and Melinda Gates Grants

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded twenty-six public libraries in North Dakota Opportunity Online Hardware Grants totaling $196,250. Matching money of $110,500 is required and has been committed by the libraries.

The grants assist public libraries in upgrading their computers and in learning how to work with community supporters to sustain these upgrades. Three members of the grant library community are invited, with funding provided, to attend a "Turning the Page" conference in Sioux Falls, SD on November 17 and 18. The conference is a professional development workshop that will equip librarians and library supporters with the skills, confidence, and resources needed to create community partnerships, build alliances with local and regional decision makers, and create sustained support for the libraries.

The two-year Opportunity Online hardware grants will fund public computer workstations and associated training and technical support. The timeline for the grants includes disbursement during 2010 and 2011. The number of computers granted ranges from two to twelve per library. The criteria for the grants included the local poverty level, the need for new or upgraded computers, and the interest and ability of the public library to commit to the matching funds.

The libraries receiving grants include: Alfred Dickey Public Library (Jamestown), Carnegie Regional Public Library (Grafton), Aneta Public Library, Adams Public Library, Cavalier Public Library, Ellendale Public Library, Fargo Public Library, Garrison Public Library, Grand Forks Public Library, Griggs County Public Library (Cooperstown), Harry L. Petrie Public Library (Linton), Harvey Public Library, Heart of America Public Library (Rugby), Killdeer Public Library, Leach Public Library (Wahpeton), Linson Memorial Public Library (Stanley), Maddock Public Library, Park River Public Library, Rolla Public Library, Stutsman County Public Library, Turtle Lake Public Library, Valley City-Barnes County Public Library, Ward County Public Library, Kenmare Public Library, Williston Community Public Library, Elgin Public Library.

New Arrivals in Library Science

Encyclopedia of Adventure Fiction

So Many Books : reading and publishing in an age of abundance

Read On-Crime Fiction : reading lists for every taste

500 Handmade Books : inspiring interpretations of a timeless form

Crash Course in Collection Development

Editions & Impressions : twenty years on the book beat

The Organization of Information, 3rd ed.

Look, It's Books! : marketing your library with displays and promotions

The Small Public Library Survival Guide : thriving on less

Using XML : a how-to-do-it manual and CD-ROM for librarians

Crash Course in Library Supervision : meeting the key players

Cataloging and Classification : an introduction, 3rd ed.

Conversion Tables [Library of Congress / Dewey] Creating Your Library Brand : communicating your relevance and value to your patrons

Faith Reads : a selective guide to Christian nonfiction

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