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North Dakota State Library
FLICKERTALE

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ND Library Association 2011 Annual Conference Roundup

This year's North Dakota Library Association annual conference was held September 21-24 in Minot. Attendees from across the state enjoyed four days of quality programming, enlightening speakers, networking opportunities, and entertaining events.

Technology topics were prominent throughout the conference. Two programs on E-readers helped attendees gain understanding of the current landscape of e-readers, e-content, and what it means for libraries. Two other programs focused on utilizing technology to make life easier. Libraries serve many patrons who could benefit from the services of the Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT). IPAT staff discussed how they can help people of all ages find assistive technology that will aid them in daily activities, making tasks safer or easier to perform. Visit the IPAT website at www.ndipat.org for more information. A presentation on web apps introduced attendees to a wide array of freely available websites and applications to help increase productivity, enhance online security, and connect with the online world. The slides from the Web App Gong Show may be accessed at www.prezi.com/0j4dkeqkynfb/web-app-gong-show/.

The NDLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, recent recipient of a grant from the Freedom to Read Foundation, did an excellent job of spreading awareness about banned books over the course of the conference. One of their conference activities was the Living Banned Books program, which featured NDLA members dressed in t-shirts depicting banned books. The Living Banned Books presented short readings and summaries of those books, and discussed the reasons why the book has been banned.

A number of other programs focused on both career and library development. Development topics included panel discussions on the NDLA organization and mentoring, dealing with change, and school libraries and leadership. A representative from the USDA Rural Development Office discussed funding opportunities available for rural libraries. The USDA is committed to "increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life" in rural communities and one way they do this is by supporting libraries through grants and loans. Visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ND_Home.html for more information on funding opportunities. Keynote speakers Janet McAllister and

Michelle Peterson of the Glen Carbon Centennial Library (Glen Carbon, Illinois), discussed the important role of the library in the community, and the progressive approach to librarianship that helped their library to receive the 2010 Best Small Library in America award.

Authors figured prominently in this year's conference. Wednesday night's activities featured a local author meet and greet, where attendees were able to visit with authors and peruse their works. Conference book club author Brenda K. Marshall, author of *Dakota, or What's a Heaven For?* and Sarah Weeks, Flickertale Book Award winner for *Sophie Peterman Tells the Truth*, spiced up lunches with their enlightening, entertaining speeches about their books and the writing process.

For the second consecutive year, Minitex offered a half-day preconference on RDA (Resource Description and Access). These new cataloging rules will replace AACR2 and are tentatively scheduled for approval by the Library of Congress in early 2013. This presentation, geared for catalogers, focused on the FRBR-based structure of the new rules, navigating the online user manual, and new fields that allow for expanded item description. Minitex also offers an ongoing variety of webinars to help all kinds of librarians understand and prepare for these changes at www.minitex.umn.edu/Training/.

Check out a photo slideshow of the 2011 NDLA annual conference at www.ndla.info/photos.htm. State Library staff look forward to next year's programming in Fargo for the 2012 conference!

STATE LIBRARY INVOLVEMENT IN NDLA

North Dakota State Library staff serve active roles on the North Dakota Library Association Executive Board. Al Peterson, Public Services Coordinator, was recently elected President-Elect. Kristen Northrup, Head of Technical Services, is serving as Government Documents Roundtable Chair and Stephanie Kom, Statewide Development Department Cataloger, is serving as chair of the Technical Services Roundtable. The Mountain Plains Library Association representative to NDLA is Eric Stroshane, who works full-time in the Field Services Division. State Librarian Hulen Bivins also serves on the Executive Board.

Online Library Resources Subscription Payments Due

Most North Dakota school and public libraries subscribe to the Gale, EBSCO, & Proquest Online Library Resources (OLR). The payment for these Online Library Resources is due to ODIN now. The cut off for access to the OLR for those who have not paid will be November 1, 2011. If you have any questions, or want to know if you have paid, please contact the ODIN office at 701-777-6346.

CALENDAR

October 16 - 22
National Friends of Libraries Week and National Teen Read Week

November 1 - 2
North Dakota Library Coordinating Council Meeting - Bismarck

November 3 - 4
ODIN Meeting - Bismarck

November 11
State Library Closed for Veteran's Day

November 12
National Gaming Day

November 24
State Library Closed for Thanksgiving

January 20-24
ALA Midwinter Meeting

North Dakota State Library Marks Forty Years as Federal Depository

This year, the North Dakota State Library is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its participation in the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). The State Library was designated as a federal depository library on April 15, 1971 by Senator Quentin Burdick. This designation was made possible when Assumption College in Richardton relinquished its depository function upon the closing of the college.

Today, the State Library houses a circulating federal depository collection of over 13,000 documents on a range of topics, including census data, agriculture, energy, transportation, and education, with a special focus on North Dakota and regional information. The library also provides access to over 800 federal documents, databases, and websites through its online catalog. Two recent additions to the collection are:

Keeping America Informed: the United States Government Printing Office: 150 Years of Service to the Nation

Freedom by the Sword: the U.S. Colored Troops, 1862-1867 by William A. Dobak

For more information about the State Library federal depository collection, please visit www.library.nd.gov/govdocs.html.

The Federal Depository Library Program is a system of over 1,250 libraries located across all 50 states, which strives to ensure public access to Federal Government information through collection, organization, preservation of federal documents. Eight North Dakota libraries are part of the national program. For more information, please visit www.fdlp.gov.

North Dakota State Library : On the Road

October 17 - 18
ExLibris Upper Midwest User Group - Fargo

October 18
Field Services Site Visit - Maddock and Minnewaukan

October 18
Teacher Training - ND School for the Blind

October 19
Field Services Site Visit - Harvey

October 20
ND Council of Educational Leaders Presentation - Bismarck

October 20 - 21
ND Education Association Booth and Presentations - Bismarck

October 25
Training - Fessenden

October 26
Independent Living Fair Booth - Minot

October 26
Training - Fort Totten

October 28
ND School Boards Association Booth - Bismarck

November 1
Training - ND School for the Deaf

November 14
Ancestry Library Edition Training - Bismarck

State Library Collection Development Change

The North Dakota State Library is no longer accepting donations for the Last Copy Collection. Items that have been added to the Last Copy Collection throughout the previous years will remain in the collection; however, we will not be adding anymore titles to this collection. Please refrain from sending materials to the North Dakota State Library to be added to the last copy collection. We are still interested in any donated materials that are North Dakota related. If you would like to donate North Dakota related materials, please e-mail statelib@nd.gov or call 800-472-2104.

Tips for Weeding Your Fiction Collection

For whatever reason, weeding fiction just seems to be more difficult than weeding non-fiction. Since stories are immersive, we tend to view them less objectively than non-fiction works. It seems harder to view things that "aren't real" as being out-of-date. That being said, some fiction ages very badly indeed. Having an effective weeding policy can help keep shelves clean and turnover rates high. These guidelines will help you find the balance that's right for your library!

GENERALITIES:

- Don't rebind. Paperbacks are affordable and book covers influence fiction circulation far more than they do non-fiction. Replace books in poor condition if literary merit or circulation warrants and withdraw them otherwise.
- Don't replace older titles in poor condition by popular genre authors. No offense intended to James Patterson or Nora Roberts, but when you write a dozen formulaic novels a year, they do tend to blur together. Your patrons will typically be interested in their latest works, anyhow.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EASY TARGETS ON YOUR FICTION SHELVES:

- Older single title authors (aside from Harper Lee)
- Obscure and older genre titles
- Obscure foreign authors (consult the Fiction Core Collection for guidance—we'll even loan you a copy if you ask us to)
- Earlier or lesser works by dead folks
- Series books when you're missing titles—especially if you lack volume one
- Duplicate copies of former bestsellers and book club titles

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES:

Adult Fiction

- Withdraw titles that have not circulated in two years
- Withdraw series with missing volumes if the books do not stand alone
- Replace worn copies of works of high literary merit with new editions (again, the Fiction Core Collection can assist you here if you're unsure)

Graphic Novels

- Withdraw titles that have not circulated in one year
- Replace worn copies of classics, such as Maus: a Survivor's Tale, with new editions

Easy Readers and Picture Books

- Withdraw titles that have not circulated in two years
- Withdraw books with racial or gender bias

Children's Fiction (Chapter Books)

- Withdraw award-winning titles that have not circulated in three years
- Withdraw other titles that have not circulated in two years
- Withdraw titles with biased or stereotypical views of gender, race, people with disabilities, or the elderly
- Withdraw abridged and simplified classics

YA/Teen Fiction

- Withdraw titles more than three years old
- Withdraw titles that have not circulated in two years
- Replace worn classics (Harry Potter) with new editions

Those who are interested can access the ultimate guide to public library weeding (otherwise known as the CREW Manual), here: www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/crew/index.html.

For additional assistance with weeding or other collection development issues, please contact your North Dakota State Library Field Services representative.

One ND Librarian's Experience at the ARSL Conference

SUBMITTED BY SUSIE SHARP, NEW ROCKFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

I had the honor to receive a scholarship from Web Junction to attend the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference in Frisco, Texas. What I experienced was a wonderful community of rural and small librarians from across the country that face the same challenges we do, no matter where in the country they were located. One of my favorite quotes from the conference was by Pat Tuohy of the Central Texas Library System who applauded rural librarians' ability to, "run a small, unfunded, shoestring operation that can take a dime and squeeze it into a dollar because they know how important library services are to a community and they know how to change lives."

The Project Compass workshop put on by Web Junction was so enlightening and gave me some great ideas of how better to help my job-seeking patrons. I have already contacted some other organizations in my community to get a comprehensive community resources guide to help job seekers and new members of our community. It was such a great opportunity to discuss these challenges with other librarians and to hear new ideas and solutions to similar challenges we all face.

The conference itself was a great one, Gene & Bill from Unshelved put on a great program and Gene gave me some great ideas on how to start a Graphic Novel collection at my library and took the time to email me a selection of his favorite graphic novels. The Reel Reads program was very helpful because it dealt with having an event about books to movies even when you can't afford to buy the movie license but can still have a program celebrating books to movies.

What I came away with from this conference was a great sense of community. ARSL is an association that immediately made me feel at home. The ability to network with other small and rural librarians from around the country is a great opportunity and I am proud to spread the word about it.

If you would like to become a member of ARSL, please visit www.arsl.info. Membership price ranges from $9 to $49. If you would like more info you can email me at nrpubliclibrary@gmail.com.

McVille Community Rallies Behind New Library

In December, 2010 a group of volunteers came together to discuss and visualize a community library for the McVille area. After many hours of discussion and several months of hard work by community members, the McVille Community Library was born.

During the early stages, the library committee members approached the mayor and city council for directions and support of the vision. The city council overwhelmingly approved the concept and granted use of the lower level of the City Auditorium for library space, which also included the utilities used during the operation of the library. After this location was approved, focus shifted to finding equipment, supplies, books, and additional volunteers. The grand opening occurred on July 16, 2011 during the McVille Days celebration. Over 100 adults and children attended the event!

Future plans for the McVille Community Library include: establishing a regular operating schedule, increasing fundraising, writing grants for operating expenses and collection development needs, creating a memorial fund, and establishing additional programs for community members of all ages.

The library board members would like to thank all who have supported the establishment of the McVille Community Library. A special thank you goes to the Enderlin Library for their support with books, suggestions, and encouragement. You may contact the McVille Community Library at PO box 426, McVille, ND 58254 or 701-322-5541.

Reapportionment in North Dakota

North Dakota's legislators shall return to Bismarck on November 7 for the purpose of the establishment of new legislative districts. Presently, each district is represented by one senator and two members of the house. In fulfilling this task of creation of new districts, the reapportionment must comply with the requirements of the North Dakota Constitution which sets the minimum and maximum number of state legislators for each chamber of the legislature. At this time, there are 47 legislative districts but the legislature could vote to change this number of districts.

A United States Supreme Court ruling in 1964 established a one-person, one-vote principle. This was a ruling under the "equal protection" clause of the 14th Amendment and the rule, as applied to the forthcoming reapportionment session in Bismarck, means representatives and senators must represent "equal" numbers of citizens. In following this ruling and using the recent 2010 census numbers for North Dakota, each legislative district should represent approximately 14,311 people.

The upcoming session may evoke questions for North Dakota's librarians and it is hoped that this brief explanation shall help as a basis of knowledge. Certainly, to know of the Constitutional requirement and the 14th Amendment ruling is a beginning to understanding the task to be undertaken.

Quick Facts and Trivia: North Dakota Edition

- Did you know that, at 506 miles in length, the Sheyenne River is the longest river in North Dakota?
- Did you know that North Dakota's 39th Legislative District which covers 6 counties is larger than the total square miles contained in the states of Delaware, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined?
- Of the 50 states North Dakota is 17th in size, with 70,665 square miles. North Dakota is 212 miles long north to south and 360 miles wide east to west.

Instructional Resources for ND Studies

Resources to help teach learners about North Dakota's prehistoric past may be obtained from the North Dakota Geological Survey by contacting John Hoganson at jhoganso@nd.gov. Activity sheets regarding the state's Native American population, early settlements, state facts, and dinosaurs are available for download at www.history.nd.gov/activitysheets.html.

Minitex Sponsors Digital Image Workshop at UND

Minitex Bibliographic and Technical Services is pleased to sponsor the workshop, Understanding Digital Images: Basic to Intermediate Concepts. The workshop will be presented by Wayne Torborg, The Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Saint John's University at the University of North Dakota, Chester Fritz Library, Grand Forks on Monday, Oct. 24th. The day-long series of presentations will guide participants from the very basics of digital images to intermediate-level concepts, giving them the essential knowledge to embark upon further exploration. The session will also cover the basics of digital image files, the mechanics of digitization, intermediate concepts such as colorspace and profiles, and suggestions for setting up computers for imaging work.

For registration information, visit http://bit.ly/mVX9U3.

Please submit North Dakota library news to Adam Emter at ndslpa@nd.gov.

Library Staff Changes in North Dakota

INCOMING

Jenny Curlee - Parshall High School

Betty Lahn - Williston State College Library

Dalrymple, Sanstead Name 2012 North Dakota Teacher of the Year

Governor Jack Dalrymple and State Superintendent Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead recently named Brenda Werner, an English teacher at Bismarck High School (BHS), North Dakota's 2012 Teacher of the Year.

"Competent and caring teachers make the real difference when it comes to educating our youth and preparing them for the future," Sanstead said. "Brenda is a great example of our teachers who are making a difference in North Dakota's schools."

"North Dakota has one of the best educational systems in the country and that is due in large part to the great work that is going on in classrooms across our state," Dalrymple said. "Brenda exemplifies North Dakota's outstanding teachers who are dedicated to education excellence and to helping our young people achieve their full potential."

Werner has been teaching at BHS since August 2001 and currently teaches Advanced Placement and English composition and literature courses to grades 10-12. She serves as advisor of the Writer's Club and Literary Magazine, technology integration mentor and district curriculum mapping coordinator, and is active with the District Literacy Committee, District Essential Mapping Team, KAPLAN Curriculum Committee, School Improvement Team, and NCA Accreditation Team.

She is also a part-time assistant professor of education and online coordinator with the University of Mary in Bismarck, teaching graduate level courses, supervising practicum students and mentoring student teachers. Werner graduated from Minot State University with a double major in English and Physical Education and received her doctorate from the University of North Dakota in Education.

"I view teaching as a calling and a privilege," Werner said. "I have always had a passion and natural curiosity for learning and it is rewarding, indeed, to play a role igniting in students the desire and confidence to learn."

The Teacher of the Year program recognizes and honors the contributions of America's classroom teachers. The program is the oldest and most prestigious commendation to focus public attention on excellence in teaching. The state's Teacher of the Year program is sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction in conjunction with the Council of Chief State School Officers and ING.

Nominations for Teacher of the Year must come from a teacher, school administrator, school district trustee, local education association, student or parent, and are reviewed by an eight-member selection panel. Werner will now advance to the national Teacher of the Year program.

American Association of School Librarians Position Statement on Labeling Books with Reading Levels

Librarians use spine labels to organize and identify library resources by call number to help patrons locate general subject areas or specific fiction, non-fiction, reference, audiovisual, or other items. Viewpoint-neutral directional labeling in libraries increases students' access to information and supports their First Amendment right to read. Best practice in school libraries includes books and other resources being shelved using a standard classification system that also enables students to find resources in other libraries, such as a public library, from which they may borrow materials.

One of the realities some school librarians face in their jobs is pressure by administrators and classroom teachers to label and arrange library collections according to reading levels. Student browsing behaviors can be profoundly altered with the addition of external reading level labels. With reading level labels often closely tied to reward points, student browsing becomes mainly a search for books that must be read and tests completed for individual or classroom point goals and/or grades. School library collections are not merely extensions of classroom book collections or classroom teaching methods, but rather places where children can explore interests safely and without restrictions. A minor's right to access resources freely and without restriction has long been and continues to be the position of the American Library Association and the American Association of School Librarians.

Labeling and shelving a book with an assigned grade level on its spine allows other students to observe the reading level of peers, thus threatening the confidentiality of students' reading levels. Only a student, the child's parents or guardian, the teacher, and the school librarian as appropriate should have knowledge of a student's reading capability.

Non-standard shelving practices make it difficult for library staff and patrons to locate specific titles. More importantly, students may have no understanding of how most school and public libraries arrange their materials, thus further affecting book selection in other libraries.

It is the responsibility of school librarians to promote free access for students and not to aid in restricting their library materials. School librarians should resist labeling and advocate for development of district policies regarding leveled reading programs that rely on library staff compliance with library book labeling and non-standard shelving requirements. These policies should address the concerns of privacy, student First Amendment Rights, behavior modification in both browsing and motivational reading attitudes, and related issues.

For additional supporting information about this topic, please visit the American Association of School Librarians website at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslissues/positionstatements/labeling.cfm.

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Planning for Cultural Programs and Events

The ALA Public Programs section provides ideas for the planning of cultural programs and events at its website www.ProgrammingLibrarian.org which can also be found on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. Help aids are also available at www.programminglibrarian.org/posteratr.

Grant, Scholarship, and Award Opportunities

PEPSI-COLA GRANT

Libraries who have an existing 501(c)(3)designation are eligible to make an application for a self-designed grant which would support, in part, a project designed to make a difference in one of four categories. The categories are: Arts; Music; Communities; and Education. Grant funding may range from $5,000 to $50,000. This grant program, with a rolling application deadline, is provided by the Pepsi-Cola Company. Official grant application guidelines may be examined at the website www.refresheverything.com/official-application-guidelines.

AUDIO MUSIC/VIDEO PRODUCTS GRANT

The Public Library Association (PLA) and Baker & Taylor offer grant funds in the amount of $2,500 for audio music and video products. Application deadline for this grant opportunity is December 1, 2011. For more information, please visit http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/awards/btaudiomusicvideoproductaward/index.cfm.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

The American Library Association has more than $300,000 for students who are studying library science or school library media at the master's degree level. Scholarships typically range from $1,500 to $7,000 per student per year. The application and instructions are available online at www.ala.org/ala/educationcareers/scholarships/index.cfm. The application deadline is March 1, 2012.

LIBRARY & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are being accepted for three LITA scholarships: Christian Larew Memorial Scholarship, LSSI Minority Scholarship, and OCLC Minority Scholarship. The scholarships are designed to encourage the entry of qualified persons into the library technology field. The deadline is March 1, 2012. Application forms and instructions are available online at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/lita/awards/index.cfm.

MARGARET E. MONROE LIBRARY ADULT SERVICES AWARD

Established in 1985, the Margaret E. Monroe Award is a citation presented to a librarian who has made significant contributions to library adult services. The individual may be a practicing librarian, a library and information science researcher or educator, or a retired librarian who has brought distinction to the profession's understanding and practice or services for adults. The criteria for "significant contributions" will be judged by such factors as publications, leadership, measurable effectiveness of programs, influence on others, and creative and innovative concepts. You may access the nomination form at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/awards/monroe/index.cfm. The deadline for a nomination is December 15, 2011.

CARNEGIE-WHITNEY AWARD

The American Library Association Publishing Committee provides a grant of up to $5,000 for the preparation of print or electronic reading lists, indexes or other guides to library resources that promote reading or the use of library resources at any type of library. Funded projects have ranged from popular, general-reader proposals such as "ReadMOre," a reading list for Missouri's state-wide reading program, to more specialized, scholarly proposals such as "Librarianship and Information Science in the Islamic World, 1966-1999: An Annotated Bibliography."

Applications must be received by Nov. 4, 2011. Recipients will be notified by the end of February 2012. For more information, please visit http://bit.ly/q3nqXj.

Improve Your Website User Experience Using Web Analytics

Are your website visitors doing what you expect them to do or what you want them to do? Are they following the path you thought they would follow when you designed your navigation menu? Are visitors to your electronic resources page finding the research and informational tools they are seeking? These are some of the questions you should be able to answer by using a web analytics program. For more information about implementing website analytics on your site, visit http://bit.ly/qWnxZW.

Seven Good Screen-Capture Tools for Teachers

Introducing new technology tools to students or to colleagues can become a frustrating exercise if you end up repeating the same step-by-step directions over and over again. You can avoid that by creating annotated screen captures of the tools you are introducing or screencast videos in which you explain each step of the process. For a look at seven tools that will help, please visit www.freetech4teachers.com/2011/09/7-good-screen-capture-tools-for.html.

Want to win stuff? Enter these library contests!

BEEKMAN 1802 HEIRLOOM RECIPE CONTEST

Through a new relationship with Sterling Epicure, publishers of *The Beekman 1802 Heirloom Cookbook*, the American Library Association is supporting the Beekman 1802 Heirloom Recipe Contest held in honor of the book's release. The contest will offer library patrons a chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to meet the book's authors, Planet Green reality-TV stars Josh Kilmer-Purcell and Brent Ridge. All entries must be received by November 1. Contest rules may be viewed at www.beekman1802.com/contest-terms-condition.

DEMCO GAMING GEAR PACKAGE

DEMCO is again giving away a gaming gear package to one lucky library that participates in National Gaming Day 2011. To qualify, register for National Gaming Day, download the contest entry form, participate in gaming events on November 12, and send in the form by December 14. The gaming gear package is worth more than $3,000, and includes a DEMCO Triple Play Kiosk, a 42-inch LCD TV, and an Xbox 360 Kinect Bundle. Visit www.demco.com/goto?gameshopspree for contest details.

Creating a Positive Professional Image

As professor Laura Morgan Roberts (Harvard Business School) sees it, if you aren't managing your own professional image, others are. "People are constantly observing your behavior and forming theories about your competence, character, and commitment, which are rapidly disseminated throughout your workplace," she says. "It is only wise to add your voice in framing others' theories about who you are and what you can accomplish."

There are plenty of books telling you how to "dress for success" and control your body language. But keeping on top of your personal traits is only part of the story of managing your professional image, says Roberts who presents the results of her research, called "Changing Faces: Professional Image Construction in Diverse Organizational Settings," in the October issue of *The Academy of Management Review*. She also discusses her research in the interview available at http://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/4860.html.

Public Libraries Asked to Participate in Internet Use Survey

ALA is encouraging public libraries to participate in the 2011–2012 Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study online survey. The survey provides an opportunity for libraries to share information on computer and internet resources and infrastructure, as well as funding, technology training, and other uses of public libraries, such as providing public access technology centers in their communities. The survey will be available through November 11 at www.ala.org/ala/research/initiatives/plftas/index.cfm.

New Knowledge Quest Website

The AASL journal *Knowledge Quest* now has a new website. Coinciding with the newly released September/October 2011 issue on "Educational Gaming", the newly-launched site features a variety of content and resources related to the theme of the issue, including a new podcast series, a new webinar series, and other online features. The new website may be accessed at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/knowledgequest/knowledgequest.cfm.

Book Club Choices

The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations has made its collection of Book Club Choices available to the public. More than 40 book reviews, originally featured in ALTAFF's member newsletter, *The Voice*, are available on the division's website. This is a great resource for Friends and/or library book clubs, as well as for library patrons looking for advice on book club selections. Check them out at http://bit.ly/oJ3Vqa.

Ezra Jack Keats Minigrants

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation minigrants of $500 are given to public schools and public libraries for projects that foster creative expression, collaboration, and interaction with a diverse community. They represent an opportunity for educators, whose efforts are often inadequately funded or recognized, to create special activities outside the standard curriculum and make time to encourage their students. The deadline for minigrant proposal submissions is March 15, 2012. For more information, visit www.ezra-jack-keats.org/news/minigrant/.

Starting a Library Blog

A blog is an effective way to communicate information to your library users, supporters, and community. Want to start a blog for your library, but don't know where to begin? The following resources may be useful to you when starting a library blog.

www.wikihow.com/Start-a-Blog
This "how-to" article provides a step-by-step introduction into blogging software, themes, privacy, and promotion.

www.bit.ly/omqOfK
The books listed here are available for loan from the North Dakota State Library. Titles include: *Blogging and RSS : a librarian's guide* (2006); *Microblogging and lifestreaming in libraries* (2010); and *Effective blogging for libraries* (2010)

ALA Initiative Allows Authors to Speak Out for Libraries

"Our Authors, Our Advocates: Authors Speak Out for Libraries", a project initiated by current American Library Association president Roberta Stevens, enlisted well-known authors from around the nation to become articulate and powerful spokespeople for libraries. The resultant author videos are available for sharing and download at www.ourauthorsouradvocates.org/.

A web toolkit entitled "Cultivating Your Local Notables" allows library supporters to do the same at the local level. The toolkit is available at www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advleg/advocacyuniversity/localnotables/index.cfm.

Salary/Pay/Compensation Considerations for Public and Academic Librarians

In addition to providing compensation data in every Salary Survey: Librarian – Public and Academic, the ALA-APA section also collects and publishes supplemental data on different topics. The survey for 2010 looked at the issue of compensation strategies used by public and academic libraries and the issue of compensation apart from wages. The respondent pool of the survey included 350 public libraries and 233 academic libraries. Merit pay was the primary form of wage increase noted in the survey while supplemental professional activities such as continuing education was the primary form of compensation apart from wages. The full report is considered by Suzanne Sager in the September 2011 issue of *Library Worklife*. Visit online at www.ala-apa.org/newsletter.

University of North Carolina to Launch Digital Innovation Lab

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is launching a virtual lab that will encourage collaborative, interdisciplinary, and innovative digital humanities projects. The Digital Innovation Lab will encourage the production of digital public goods - projects and tools that are of social and cultural value, can be made publicly available, are scalable and reusable, or serve multiple audiences. One immediate focus will be the use of maps, newspapers, city directories, and public records data by scholars and the public in understanding the history of communities.

Flickertale
a monthly publication of

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A Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead, State Superintendent
Hulen E. Bivins, State Librarian —— Adam Emter, Publication Editor

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