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North Dakota State Library
FLICKERTALE

Volume 41 Number 6 September 2011

# Another Year of Summer Reading Programs Comes to an End

From Bismarck to Bowman, Fort Totten to Fargo, and many areas between, libraries throughout North Dakota wrapped up another successful year of summer reading programs. Many libraries used the theme "One World, Many Stories" to focus on different cultures throughout the world. "We had a blast visiting and learning about the countries in the world," said Andrea Mitchell, children's librarian at Williston Community Library.

*Native American Storyteller and Performer Joe McGillis entertained and told stories to over 175 children and adults during the Williston Community Library summer reading wrap up party.*

Although each library chooses a different format for their summer reading program, the emphasis is always on fostering a lifelong love for reading. At Parshall Public Library, the program featured reading, as well as hands-on activities. "A different country was selected each week and books and stories were read about that particular country. We also included arts and crafts from each particular country," reported librarian George Patten.

*Children at the Underwood Public Library studied China one week during their summer reading program. As part of the program, they decorated Chinese lanterns.*

Impressive attendance accompanied many of the summer reading programs in North Dakota. At the Lake Region Public Library 176 children and adults attended the story time events and 132 children registered for the program. In Hankinson, 50 children registered and 348 attended during the eight weeks of programming. Summer reading programs for school-age children at the Leach Public Library in Wahpeton had an average attendance of 91, with 46 attendees completing the entire reading program.

*Two children at the Parshall Public Library who participated in the reading program and a Ukrainian guest speaker who shared information about the Ukraine.*

In addition to diligent efforts from librarians, successful summer reading programs often require support from community volunteers and businesses as well. Bonnie MacIver, director of the Leach Public Library in Wahpeton reports, "Eighteen volunteers, five staff, and nine businesses and organizations were involved in the success of this program."

The themes for 2012 summer reading programs are: "Dream Big - Read!" (children); "Own the Night" (teens); and "Between the Covers" (adults).

## Evaluation and Planning Input Requested

*West Fargo*

The North Dakota State Library (NDSL) is presently engaged in a process to evaluate the usage of federal funds in North Dakota used to support libraries and library programs during the past five years. NDSL is also working to develop a plan for the usage of federal funds in North Dakota to support libraries and library programs during the future (2013-2018). The result of both the evaluation and the planning process shall be provided to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in Washington, D.C. next spring. IMLS is the administrative and funding agent for all federal funds provided to libraries nationally.

Part of the process to gain information for the evaluation and planning work has been a recently completed series of town meetings during the month of September. The State Librarian, the Assistant State Librarian and members of the NDSL Field Services staff have participated in town meetings at Bottineau, Williston, Dickinson, Grand Forks, West Fargo and Bismarck. All of the town meetings were held in the public libraries of the cited communities and NDSL expresses appreciation to each library's director and board members who served as hosts. The town meetings were designed to afford local citizens and librarians the opportunity to express their opinions on myriad issues and topics.

*Dickinson*

*Bismarck*

At each town meeting, a survey document was completed and oral discussions were engaged. The result of these meetings have provided NDSL with great insight as to the accomplishments of the past five years and an understanding of the desires of the state's library community regarding needs in the forthcoming years. NDSL appreciates the assistance of those individuals attending the Town Meetings.

North Dakota citizens who were unable to attend one of the six Town Meetings who would like to respond to the survey may still participate. **Until Tuesday, September 20, the survey will be available at: http://svy.mk/pw5nDh.**

## CALENDAR

*September 21-24*
*North Dakota Library Association Annual Conference - Minot*

*September 24 - October 1*
*Banned Books Week*

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

*November 12*
*National Gaming Day*

# Quotable Facts About America's Libraries

- There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the United States - a total of 16,604 including branches.
- Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school or work.
- Americans check out an average of more than seven books per year. They spend $34.95 per year for the public library - about the average cost of one hardcover book.
- Americans go to school, public, and academic libraries nearly three times more often than they go to the movies.

## Customizable Tutor ND Promotional Materials Available

By now, you've surely heard about Tutor ND, the new tutoring service provided by the North Dakota State Library and powered by the award-winning Tutor.com network of tutors. After you have the opportunity to explore the features and benefits of Tutor ND, you'll likely want to share the service with your patrons and your community. Thanks to a useful set of customizable promotional materials designed by the folks at Tutor.com, promoting Tutor ND is a snap!

To access the Tutor.com Client Resource Center, which offers those materials for download, visit www.tutor.com/clients and use the password TUTORND. Once you're connected to the Client Resource Center, simply click "Promotional Materials" and you'll be presented with an array of downloadable items that you can use to promote Tutor ND. If you'd like to add the Tutor ND logo to your materials, you may download it at www.library.nd.gov/images/tutorNDlogo.jpg.

Please contact Adam Emter at the State Library for more information or assistance. He may be contacted at 701-328-4656 or aemter@nd.gov.

*North Dakota State Library Field Services Representative Elizabeth Jacobs visited the Stanton Public Library in August.*

## North Dakota State Library : On the Road

*September 20*
*Student Training - Larimore High School*

*September 21*
*Site Visit - Ward County Library*

*September 21*
*Site Visit - Ward County Library, Kenmare Branch*

*September 21-24*
*ND Library Association Conference - Minot*

*September 27*
*Waterford Health Fair - Bismarck*

*October 6*
*Ancestry Library Edition Training - Fargo*

*October 13*
*Vocational Rehabilitation Conference - Mandan*

*October 20-21*
*ND Education Association Conference - Bismarck*

*October 28*
*ND School Boards Association Conference - Bismarck*

## Did You Know?

Your North Dakota State Library Field Services representative will work with you, in your library. The only requirement is an invitation!

Call 800-472-2104 for more information or to schedule a visit.

## New Library Science Publications at the State Library

**Radical reads :** 101 YA novels on the edge

**Radical reads 2 :** working with the newest edgy titles for teens

**Fundamentals of school library media management :** a how-to-do-it manual

**Evaluation of digital libraries :** an insight into useful applications and methods

**Moving materials :** physical delivery in libraries

**Museums, libraries, and 21st century skills**

**Connecting to collections [videorecording] :** a national initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services

**Between the covers :** the Book Babes' guide to a woman's reading pleasures

**Mistakes in academic library management :** grievous errors and how to avoid them

**Children's literature gems :** choosing and using them in your library career

**Information literacy :** essential skills for the information age

**This book is overdue! :** how librarians and cybrarians can save us all

**The Oxford companion to the book**

**Smart copyright compliance for schools :** a how-to-do-it manual

**Booktalking authentic multicultural literature :** fiction and history for young readers

**Writing and publishing :** the librarian's handbook

## Get Kids Excited About Books : Create Book Trailer Videos!

Looking for a new interesting way to get your kids involved in books? Help them create book trailers! A traditional book report asks students to read and critique the books they read. This will make some kids tune out and frankly, many revile the experience. Instead a book trailer is short video that is designed to entice people to pick up a book (much like movie trailers help to convince people to see a certain movie). Kids can add visual and audio elements to create a book talk to convince other kids to read a book and make it more exciting for themselves!

Some great book trailers can be found at http://www.booktrailersforreaders.com/. This site was created by Michelle Harclerode, a Teacher Librarian from Florida. She also includes tips on how to create book trailers and some resources for assistance.

Another resource is revealed by Richard Byrne who writes the great blog "Free Resources and Lesson Plans for Teaching with Technology." Byrne lists five free video tools that will assist your kids in creating book trailers. See his list at http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2011/08/5-free-tools-for-creating-video-book.html.

Happy trailers!

## E-rate Update and FAQ's

Have you ever thought about applying for E-rate and receiving discounts on your telecommunication and/or Internet bills? The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, commonly known as "E-Rate," is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Schools and Libraries Program provides discounts to assist most schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access. E-rate supports connectivity for telecommunications services and/or the Internet and funding is requested under four categories of service: telecommunications services, Internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance of internal connections. Applicants must provide additional resources including end-user equipment (e.g., computers, telephones, etc.), software, professional development, and the other elements that are needed to utilize the connectivity funded by the Schools and Libraries Program.

Now, some of you may have heard from your colleagues that E-rate is a big hassle. Let's take a moment to dispel some of the fears and worries that you may have.

- **Do I have to fill out all those forms?**

  Yes, and you must do it by their deadlines. However, the State Library E-rate coordinator will remind you about deadlines and provide assistance during the process.

- **I've heard that filling out all those forms and mailing them in is troublesome. Is this true?**

  There are now online forms that walk you through the application process. After you submit the signatures page once, you will receive an electronic signature that will enable you to file everything online. The online forms will expedite the process.

- **What are the changes in tech plans I heard about?**

  Technology plans are no longer required for Priority One services, which includes telecommunications and Internet services. Technology plans are still required for Priority Two services, which includes Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections. The budget section requirement from the technology plan has been removed. The four required elements to the technology plan are as follows:

  1. The plan must establish clear goals and a realistic strategy for using telecommunications and information technology to improve education or library services;
  2. The plan must have a professional development strategy to ensure that staff know how to use these new technologies to improve education or library services;
  3. The plan must include an assessment of the telecommunication services, hardware, software, and other services that will be needed to improve education or library services; and
  4. The plan must include an evaluation process that enables the school or library to monitor progress toward the specified goals and make mid-course corrections in response to new developments and opportunities as they arise.

If you have any questions about E-rate or wish to participate, please feel free to contact Al Peterson, the North Dakota State Library E-rate Coordinator, at 800-472-2104 or alpeterson@nd.gov.

# Gordon B. Olson Library at Minot State University Featured as Federal Depository Library Program Spotlight

**REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM**

Imagine serving a diverse community that includes a university, four Native American Indian reservations, and an Air Force Base, with no other depository within hours. Further imagine serving these communities in the wake of severe flooding that threatened not only the area, but your own library. This scenario has been a reality for this month's spotlight library, the Gordon B. Olson Library at Minot State University in Minot, North Dakota.

The staff of the Gordon B. Olson Library at Minot State University excels in providing depository services to its diverse population. The depository collection is visible and easy to use; library instruction services are provided to a variety of users; and the staff eagerly fulfills the mission of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

The library is not just for students. Anyone may enter, browse, and use the library's collections freely. The reference desk, Government documents, microfiche collections, and maps are all on the main floor of the library and located near one other. Visible signage points out the Government documents collection, so even new patrons can easily find the Government information they need. Depository items are incorporated into displays so library users can be made aware of what the depository has to offer.

Visibility is not limited to the physical building. A research guide of U.S. Government resources is available on the library's Web site. Depository Coordinator David Iversen generates monthly 'new book' lists that include all the new depository receipts and contain internal links so that patrons can go directly to the Government documents section and review new titles. Faculty benefit by regular notifications about new and potentially relevant Government documents that they can share with Minot State University's students.

The library's director, Stephen Banister, is dedicated to keeping the depository visible and community-friendly by providing instruction services to all patrons. The library instruction classes that are offered to students incorporate depository resources, so students become familiarized with Government documents just as they do with other collections. The depository coordinator also presented four 30-minute instructional sessions for students in grades four through six. The coordinator reached out to others for additional ideas, content, and suggestions for the event and then shared feedback after the event on GOVDOC-L.

Each of these actions demonstrates the dedication of the coordinator, director, documents assistant Donna Just, and the entire Gordon B. Olson library staff to fulfill the purpose of the FDLP by providing quality depository services to all users.

When Minot was threatened by severe flooding earlier this year, the library stayed open throughout the threat to serve the needs of their community. Staff members, many of whom suffered significant personal damage in the flooding, made sure that they were there to continue to provide services to the distressed community. The depository was especially helpful during this emergency allowing the National Guard to use maps from the collection to assist them in diverting floodwaters.

A lot can be learned from a depository operation, such as the one at Gordon B. Olson Library. Rain or shine, the staff serves a vast and diverse community of users with the same dedication it has to the students, faculty, and staff of Minot State University. This dedication, combined with the eagerness of the director and coordinator to promote and utilize the depository, makes this library one to look to for inspiration and ideas.

## Using Facebook as a Marketing and Communication Tool

Like it or not, social media sites are no longer just for friends to reconnect; they now provide a platform to expose your library to the community. Facebook is a great social site to consider implementing at your library. Not only is this type of promotion free, but it will help you connect with patrons on a different, but familiar level.

The key to having a successful Facebook page is keeping it updated, responding to questions, and keeping your patrons involved. Facebook allows free and easy promotion of your library and it gives your patrons easy access to information about your library.

For questions about using Facebook at your library, please contact Krista Kurtz at krkurtz@nd.gov or 701-328-3252.

## Genealogy Workshop Opportunity for Librarians

The Minnesota Genealogical Society, Hennepin County Library, and the Minnesota Historical Society will offer a Genealogy Workshop for Librarians—Locating Specialized Databases on the Internet, with genealogical author and podcaster George G. Morgan—at Minneapolis Central Library the morning of October 6.

The workshop is aimed at librarians serving genealogists and family historians. Volunteers at libraries and Family History Centers are also welcome to attend. George G. Morgan is the author of eight genealogy books, including How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy and The Official Guide to Ancestry.com. A popular speaker at genealogical and library conferences, George co-hosts The Genealogy Guys podcast—the longest-running genealogy podcast in the world—with his partner Drew Smith.

Early Bird pricing for the Genealogy Workshop for Librarians is $20 through September 29. For more details and registration, go to: http://www.mngs.org.

## Research Project Calculator Available

Looking for a tool to help students create and adhere to a research project schedule? A new project funded jointly by MINITEX and MnLINK offers students a simple and comprehensive five-step model for navigating and managing the research process. The online calculator is available at http://rpc.elm4you.org/ and may be customized to fit your school or library by using the open-source code that's available for download at http://sourceforge.net/projects/research-calc/.

RPC
Research Project Calculator

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

## Library Staff Changes in North Dakota

### OUTGOING

Jean Hertsgaard - Kindred Public School Library

Lori Grohs - Emerado Elementary School Library

Deb Huber - Beulah Elementary/Middle School Library

Bridget Greff - Richardton/Taylor School Library

Judy Brackel - Mott/Regent School Library

### INCOMING

Polly Roe - Kindred Public School Library

Amy Havelka - Emerado Elementary School Library

Kathy Jo Cline - Beulah Elementary/Middle School Library

Bridget Greff - Mott/Regent School Library

Misti Vogle - Richardton/Taylor High School Library (Richardton)

Pat Disrud - Richardton/Taylor Elementary School Library (Taylor)

## Digital Dialects: An Online Resource for Language Learning

Konnichiwa! Ogenki desu ka? Nihongo ga hanasemasu ka? Dareka eigo ga hanasemasu ka?

Or, Hello! How are you? Do you speak Japanese? Is there someone here who speaks English?

If you or your patrons need help in learning a language you might want to try out Digital Dialects. http://www.digitaldialects.com

This free site offers a nice selection of educational games and activities for learning 55 different languages. The games are designed to help you learn and then practice the basics of the languages offered. The intent is to provide a relaxed way of acquiring basic language skills. The games are aimed at learners with beginner to intermediate levels of the language. Many offer phrases and greetings, numbers, useful words, spelling, verb conjugation and alphabets. Quite a few include audio!

So, go out and try this free resource today. Sayōnara!

## *Did You Know?*

Home-school students can use Tutor ND on their home computer or mobile internet device. Visit www.tutorND.com for more information.

## E-Rate Puts Spotlight On Internet Safety

The Federal Communications Commission released an order (PDF file) August 11 that will require schools to educate students about internet safety in order to comply with the federal e-rate program, which provides funding for schools to achieve online connectivity. The measure will require schools to provide education around appropriate online behavior in chat rooms and on social-networking websites, as well as information about cyber-bullying. More information can be accessed in Education Week, "Digital Education," -- Aug. 18 issue.

## LC appoints Philip Levine Poet Laureate

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced August 10 the appointment of Philip Levine as the Library's 18th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry for 2011–2012. Levine will take up his duties in the fall, opening the library's annual literary season with a reading of his work at the Coolidge Auditorium on Monday, October 17. He succeeds W. S. Merwin in the post. Levine is the author of 20 collections of poems, including most recently *News of the World* (2009).

## Win Big Support for Your Rural Library

A newly updated version of the popular *Small but Powerful Guide to Winning Big Support for Your Rural Library* is now available as a free print or digital edition. This new revision features strategies for advocating for and promoting library services to rural communities, tips for utilizing technology in advocacy efforts, and examples of essential marketing and promotion tools.

The following are a few excerpts from the guide :

> *You don't need to be a great speaker, but you do need to be convincing. Whether you are speaking to an elected official or in front of a group, remember that they are people too with families and constituents who look to them for leadership. Also remember that you are on an important mission, not just for the library, but for everyone who depends on it and could potentially benefit from library services.*
>
> *The library must make its case like anyone else. Community leaders are bombarded by many competing needs. Your goal - make it easy for them to understand and support the library.*
>
> *Newspapers, radio and TV outlets may be few and far between where you live. If so, you will need to look for other opportunities such as newsletters (print and electronic) published by schools, local governments, religious and community groups. If you do have local media, don't hesitate to approach them. Many newspapers with small staffs welcome news items and columns that you write. Local talk shows may be looking for topics of interest to discuss. Remember that even very small publications/stations take their role seriously. Whatever you can do to make their job easier will make your job easier.*
>
> *A fact sheet is a good way to present key points quickly. Keep narrative to a minimum. Use bullets to highlight key facts/statistics. Shorter is better—no more than two pages. Use with public officials, community groups, reporters or anyone who wants information fast.*

Download a digital copy or request a print copy at http://bit.ly/nbrzvi. Print copies are only available to ALA members. *Content used by permission of OLOS, ALA.*

# Noteworthy Online Resources

## CREATE ONLINE BOOK CLUBS

Bookclubit allows you to set up a book club within seconds. Create your very own customized book club and invite friends or connect with friends online who have similar book interests. Manage your book club by creating meetings and polls of interest. See: http://www.bookclubit.com.

## POLLMO POLLS

Looking for a simple, online poll solution? Consider Pollmo Polls. Simply type in your questions, answers, and cut/paste the code to your website or blog. This provides a quick poll of an issue of interest to you or your library. Visit http://pollmo.com for more information.

## DISCOVER NEW BOOKS!

Whichbook does exactly that. It employs a sliding scale on a set of 12 variables such as happy/sad, easy/demanding, short/long, beautiful/disgusting, safe/disturbing and so on. You can also switch to choosing a book based on character, plot or setting. See: http://www.whichbook.net

## DOCUMENTARIES TO WATCH FOR FREE

Documentary Heaven is a free site that has organized more than 1,600 documentary films found across the internet. You can find documentaries covering all kinds of topics in science, history, politics, business, and many more categories. The videos are sourced from a variety of services. Please note: the site does have some videos in the lifestyle category that might not be appropriate for K–12. Visit www.documentaryheaven.com.

## IF THIS, THEN THAT

"Put the Internet to work for you." So goes the mantra for the online service If This Then That (ITTT). Users of ITTT create tasks that fit the alluded structure: when something happens (this), then do something else (that). One example would be for ITTT to automatically save Facebook photos in which you are tagged to your Dropbox folder.

This beta project currently supports about 35 different online services and web apps, which you can link and integrate to fit your lifestyle. Also, you may simply use a growing list of popular "recipes" that have been created by other ITTT users. Visit http://ifttt.com to check it out.

# Top 10 Sports Books

Looking at the list of the year's top sports books as selected by Booklist (September 1 issue, Bill Ott, author);there are several "firsts" that have not been included in prior years. Among the "firsts" are the first graphic novel to make the list, the first poker book by a Laotian immigrant, and, the first memoir by a female river guide. The selections are: *21: The Story of Roberto Clemente; 56:Joe DiMaggio and the Last Magic Number in Sports; All In; Cardboard Gods: An All-American Tale; Crazy Basketball: A Life in and out of Bounds; In the Blink of an Eye: Dale, Daytona, and the Day That Changed Everything; The Last Boy: Mickey Mantle and the End of America's Childhood; No Shortage of Good Days; The Perfection Point: Sports Science Predicts the Fastest Man, the Highest Jump, and the Limits of Athletic Performance;* and *River House*.

## Multi and Meta Search Engines : A Brief User Guide

There really are several choices as a beginning point for an internet search. These search engines are useful if you need to run a comprehensive search quickly across a number of different engines, to compare results, or to suggest search engines that you may not have tried before. The majority do a Google, Yahoo, MSN, and Ask search, but there are differences.

Browsys — 18 search engine options. Formerly intelways – http://www.browsys.com/

Forelook — for Google, Bing, Flickr, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Wolfram Alpha – http://www.forelook.com/

Goofram — for Google and Wolfram Alpha – http://www.goofram.com/

Heapr — for Google, Twitter, Wolfram Alpha, Wikipedia – http://www.heapr.com/

iZito — 6+ standard free text search engines used – http://www.izito.com/

Joongel — 10 engines in multiple categories – http://www.joongel.com/

Kedrix — Provides options for Bing, Yahoo, Twitter, Indian and Chinese engines – http://www.kedrix.com/

Mamma — been around forever, good reputation – http://www.mamma.com/

Scour — vote and comment on results – http://www.scour.com/

Search!o — wide variety of different engines; 10 in total – http://search.io/

Searchboth — Compare 2 search engines at once, eight options – http://us.searchboth.net/

Searchzooka — allows for complex searches across 7 different engines – http://searchzooka.com/

Soovle — for Google, Wikipedia, Answers, YouTube, Ask, Yahoo, Amazon – http://soovle.com/

Symbaloo — visual and multi engine, add your own engines as well – http://www.symbaloo.com/

Zuula — 11 different search engine options – http://www.zuula.com/

## IMLS Offers Museums for America Grant

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is accepting applications in the grant program entitled Museums for America. Prospective applicants are invited to participate in one of two pre-application Webinars to learn more about the program, ask questions, and listen to the questions and comments of other participants. The Webinar schedule for the Museums for America program is as follows: Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at 3-4 p.m. Eastern Time and Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 3-4 p.m. Eastern Time. The Application Deadline is November 1, 2011. Program guidelines, contacts, and webinar access information are available at http://www.imls.gov/applicants/detail.aspx?GrantId=11.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the IMLS, please visit www.imls.gov.

## Technology Tidbits

### SONY ANNOUNCES 6-INCH, LIBRARY-READY E-READER

Sony Corporation has recently announced what it calls the lightest touch-screen, 6-inch e-reader ever, Reader Wi-Fi (PRS-T1), providing a natural and immersing reading experience. Reader Wi-Fi is smaller than an average paperback book and can easily fit into a bag or pocket. It is also the first e-reader to offer wireless connectivity to public libraries in the U.S. and Canada via a dedicated icon on the device to allow convenient borrowing of free e-books with a valid library card.

### BEST FREE SECURITY AND PRIVACY UTILITIES

If you need to ensure that your PC and all of your files and data stay safe, secure, and private, you should consider the 11 free security and privacy utilities that shield you against malware, protect your data at Wi-Fi hotspots, encrypt your hard drive, and do everything in between that are suggested in the August 3 issue of PC Magazine.

### AMAZON'S NEW KINDLE TABLET

Pre-pub information reveals that the upcoming new Kindle will be unlike any Kindle before. It will display content in full color; have a 7-inch capacitive touch screen; run Android; and be back-lit. The target release date is the end of November with a projected cost of $250.

### THE LIBRARY CORPORATION RELEASES LS2 MOBILE FOR ANDROID

The Library Corporation has released a version of its LS2 Mobile app for Android smartphone users. Originally released in November 2010 for the Apple iOS, LS2 Mobile allows users to connect with their public or school libraries 24 hours a day from any place with mobile or Wi-Fi internet service. It can search a library catalog, place or cancel holds, and check account balances.

# THE MYSTERIOUS WEB

COURTESY OF MARY ELLEN QUINN
POINTS OF REFERENCE (BOOKLIST ONLINE)

Those who enjoy reading mystery fiction will find much to enjoy on the web as well. Here are a few mystery-related sites for readers and for librarians involved in readers'-advisory service.

## DOROTHY L

This is one of the oldest mystery lover's sites, founded by a group of ACRL members in 1991. It is a discussion forum offering FAQs, best-of lists, and related websites. Registration is free.

## THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT

Maintained by Lee Lofland, a retired police detective, police academy instructor, and author, this blog deals with police procedures and investigative techniques, perfect for checking up on what you read or see on TV. Lofland also runs the Writers' Police Academy.

## LAW AND FICTION

Leslie Ann Budewitz, an attorney who also writes mysteries, provides information about the law and legal procedures for writers and curious readers. She offers her services as a consultant, but there are questions and answers posted for anyone to look at, as well as useful web links.

## MYSTERY BOOK LOVERS

This is a readers'-advisory site with reviews, lists of authors and their detectives, links to publisher and bookseller websites, quotations, and "if you like . . . then try" recommendations.

## MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

This is the place to find out about new mystery books, get information for book clubs, or find out about authors. MWA awards the Edgars, the most prestigious award for a mystery writer, every year. Go to TheEdgars.com to learn about this year's winners.

## SISTERS IN CRIME

This organization supports mystery writers and provides information about the publishing industry. It also has a speakers' bureau and a book-club directory. Check out their We Love Libraries project for a chance to get some free books. Some areas on the site are for members only.

## STOP, YOU'RE KILLING ME

A great place for readers'-advisory information. It lists more than 3,500 authors, with chronological lists of their titles, and also has lists of subgenres (historical, cozy, etc.) as well as lists by occupation of the sleuth, diversity, and location.

## Free Booklist webinars in September

Booklist editors host leading practitioners, authors, and publishers' representatives at least once a month in webinars on a variety of topics offering immediate tips, tools, resources, and new ideas for collection development and readers-advisory work. The webinars are recorded and archived. There is also information about upcoming offerings. See: http://www.booklistonline.com/webinars

## 2011 Ned Kelly Awards

The 16th annual Ned Kelly Awards for Australian Crime Writing were presented by the Crime Writers Association of Australia on August 31 as part of the Melbourne Writers Festival. The *Diggers Rest Hotel* by Geoffrey McGeachin (Viking) won in the best fiction category, while *Prime Cut* by Alan Carter (Fremantle Press) was awarded the best first fiction prize.

## News from the American Library Association

### TEEN READ WEEK PUBLICITY TOOLS

With Teen Read Week just around the corner, ALA is offering online resources to help public and school libraries publicize their activities. YALSA and the Public Information Office coordinate publicity efforts for Teen Read Week 2011, October 16–22. Librarians can find a publicity toolkit featuring free tools that libraries can use to publicize Teen Read Week activities.

### UPCOMING AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCES

2012 Midwinter Meeting, Dallas: January 20–24, 2012

2012 Annual Conference, Anaheim, California: June 21–26, 2012

**Flickertale**
a monthly publication of

**North Dakota State Library**
604 East Boulevard Avenue – Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

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

ISSN : 1068-5383

This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services
under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library.