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North Dakota State Library
FLICKERTALE

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State Library Spring Workshops Presented in Bismarck

The North Dakota State Library hosted its annual Spring Workshops in Bismarck on April 2nd and 3rd. Ninety-four North Dakota librarians and library board members attended the workshops.

Workshop attendees had the opportunity to learn about many topics related to the library profession. State Library staff presented workshops on Ebooks, weeding a library collection, and American graphic novels. Shari Haskins, Young Adult Librarian from the Fremont County Library System in Wyoming, spent an entire day focusing on library services to teens, while Sgt. Pedro Armendariz, Director of Security at the State Capitol for the North Dakota State Patrol, educated librarians about effective techniques for workplace safety and security.

New News and Thoughts...

from State Librarian Hulen E. Bivins

"What Have You Done for Me Lately?"

Recently as the North Dakota State Library worked to complete an evaluation document for the past five years, it was very apparent that many things have been done lately at NDSL. Indeed, in looking at the tasks accomplished, the answer to the question of "what has been done lately" would be, "a very great deal of work."

It is the commitment of the North Dakota State Library to provide quality information services and equitable access to resources for all of the state's citizens. Efforts made to accomplish this commitment include:

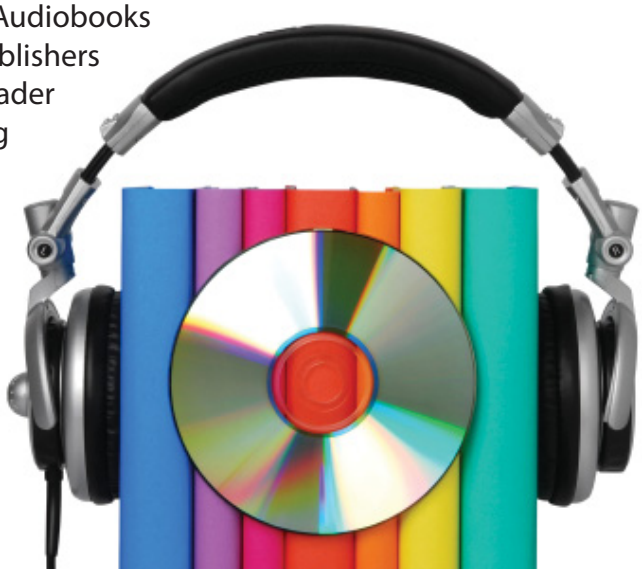
1. The distribution of State Aid to public libraries, which has been increased 78% in the last 6 years;
2. Work to provide shared electronic resources (ODIN plus other databases) accessible throughout the state for use in the library, at school, on the job, and at home;
3. Work to make training available in the use of electronic and other informational resources to any library staff in the state as well as to the general populace;
4. Providing for the continued development and availability of a comprehensive statewide online library catalog that includes linking OPACS and sustaining cataloging, circulation operations, and ILL functions to improve both access and an efficiency of operations;
5. Supporting the needs of special populations having difficulty using a library;
6. Making accessible the planning and the support materials for a Summer Reading Program for children and youth;
7. Providing continued efforts using current technologies to enhance the ability of local libraries to distribute notice of their services and programs (website design, etc.);
8. Establishing and maintaining statewide programs that improve the life of the local community (ex: TutorND);
9. Sustaining a grant program for special projects available through the ND Library Coordinating Council; and,
10. Supporting the teaching and instructional work of a professional Field Services staff who provide to libraries statewide information in a group setting or in a one-to-one meeting.

NDSL in this commitment works to enhance all libraries in the state - libraries in the big cities and libraries in the small towns; libraries that are urban and libraries that are rural; and, libraries with strong budgets and libraries who depend on volunteers and contributions to pay for their library needs and services to patrons.

"What Will You Do for Me in the Future?"

The question of what NDSL shall do in the future is to be answered by the librarians and the citizens of North Dakota. NDSL, as noted in the last issue of *Flickertale*, is presently working on a new plan for the use of federal dollars during the years of 2013-2017 and the use of state funds in the next biennial budget. Ideas and concepts of services that might be undertaken continue to be welcomed and their submission to the Administration of NDSL is encouraged.

Meet the Collection : Audiobooks



Do people often tell you that they don't have time to read? Audiobooks are a solution to that problem. According to the Audio Publishers Association, "The audiobook customer is a frequent book reader who sees audiobooks as a way to 'read' more while pursuing other lifestyle activities." Audiobooks can be a great way to pass the time during road trips. They can also be read while doing other activities like cooking, cleaning, or exercising.

In addition to helping busy people keep up with their reading goals, audiobooks can also be a great way to help reluctant readers. These readers can follow along in the book while the narrator reads, thereby increasing both reading comprehension and vocabulary.

The North Dakota State Library currently has nearly 800 titles in audiobook format on both cassette and CD. Recent audiobook acquisitions include *A Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin and *The Great Hunt* by Robert Jordan. If we do not have the title for which you are looking, we can order it through Interlibrary Loan.

If you have any questions about the audiobook collection at the North Dakota State Library, please contact a reference librarian at 800-472-2104 or via email at statelib@nd.gov.

Happy listening!

Free Webinars for Teachers & Librarians

The North Dakota State Library hosts one-hour webinars twice daily on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM Central Time. If you would like to learn more about library-related topics and resources, check out the online webinar scheduling calendar at http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=9851. Simply click on the webinar title and input the required contact information to register online. After you submit your registration you will receive a confirmation email with the direct webinar link.

The State Library uses GoToMeeting to deliver webinars. The only requirement is a computer with an Internet connection and a set of speakers or headphones. For optimum sound quality and interaction, a USB headset with an integrated microphone is recommended. If you do not have a microphone, you can use the integrated chat feature to ask questions.

If the workshop dates or times do not work with your schedule, please call 800-472-2104 to setup a custom webinar schedule. The NDSL training staff can be flexible and may even be able to provide workshops on custom library-related topics and resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Steven Axtman at 800-472-2104 or saxtman@nd.gov.

Public Library Association Conference Report

BY NDSL FIELD SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE SARAH MATUSZ

The Public Library Association (PLA) is a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The PLA biennial conference was held March 13-17 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It included many informative sessions for those working in public libraries. Since funding is an issue for most public libraries, many sessions focused on ways to increase support for libraries, both in terms of raising funds and also developing friends in the community who will advocate for the library.

In "Creative Funding: How to Afford the Services Your Community Wants," Jinny Baeckler, Linda Raymond, and Cathy Deane presented strategies on raising money for your library. Jinny highlighted how important it is to friend-raise before you fundraise, emphasizing that you must get outside the library to reach those who don't use the library. Linda shared how to use media to publicize library funding cuts and how to gain sponsorships with those who want to share the media spotlight. She emphasized the importance of knowing how supporters can help you and providing ways for them to help or donate. Cathy shared how she worked with community businesses to create partnerships beneficial to the business and the library by demonstrating how the library programs and services would meet the needs of their employees, such as literacy and computer skills programs.

"Building Your Base (& Your Budget)" continued the theme of community partnerships with Rebekkah Aldrich explaining the Mid-Hudson Library System's "Build Your Base" program. First, choose a community group that is not using the library. Next, explore the group to learn about their needs. After that, contact the chosen community group and explain that you would like to find ways to better serve them. Finally, partner with them, having identified a way that the library can meet a need of the group. This doesn't have to be a lot of work on your part; in many cases, you may only need to tweak services you are already offering or simply make sure the groups are aware of the services that would be of use to the community group you have selected to work with. More information on how to implement each step of the process is available at http://midhudson.org/byb/.

Many libraries also have local history sections that require additional care and support. The session "I've Got These Historical Materials - Now What?" addressed these issues. Leslie Waggener stressed the importance of a collection development policy to make sure the collection meets the needs of the community. Mary Mannix also emphasized only keeping items that "tell the story you're trying to tell." Elizabeth Joffrion of the National Endowment for the Humanities shared details about their Preservation Assistance Grants for Small Institutions. These grants award up to $6,000 for general preservation assessments and consultations, equipment, furniture, or supplies, or preservation education and training opportunities. You can find all the details at http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html.

The next PLA conference is scheduled for March 11-15, 2014 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

TutorND powered by tutor.com™
www.tutorND.com
Live tutors are available Sunday through Thursday
6:00pm to 10:00pm (Central Time)
A service of the North Dakota State Library.

Library Technology Conference Report

BY NDSL FIELD SERVICES
REPRESENTATIVE ERIC STROSHANE

I'm extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend the 2012 Library Technology Conference at Macalester College in St. Paul. In the past year, I've seen predictions made at the 2011 conference come to pass, and put many things I learned there to use. This year, there were inspirational keynotes from heavy hitters like Andrew Mclaughlin and Dr. Larry Johnson. There was programming tailored to all manner of library: academic, public, school, special, and archives. Sessions ran the gamut of library technology functions and issues, including mobile apps, social networking, E-Books, web design, digital privacy, and searching beyond the filter bubble. For the adventurous, there were also sessions that provided hands-on coding opportunities with jQuery, open API's, and Javascript.

Every librarian needs to carefully consider the roles that new technologies can play in their library and the impact of emerging technologies on the services they offer. What's more, we need to play an active role in the development of library tech. That may sound daunting, but it is easier now than it ever has been before, with the tools and training becoming accessible, affordable, and ubiquitous. Conferences like this help us make sense of our rapid technological evolution and plan for the future.

As a sign of these changing times, while I was attending this conference Encyclopædia Britannica announced they would discontinue their practice of printing tangible encyclopedias, shifting their business entirely online. It's a momentous change, one that's been a long time coming and one that reverberates throughout every aspect of our professions. In a brilliant display of flexibility on the part of speakers like Chad Mairn, slideshows and presentations were adapted and updated to incorporate this change within hours of the announcement. Only at a library technology conference, right?

So what did I attend while I was there? I took part in a workshop where I learned to program Google forms using Javascript and Google's APIs. I sat in on a session on promoting library collections through blogging. I attended a session on the ways content farms, search personalization, and black hat search engine optimization have undermined the reliability of search results—and what can be done about it. I took in a presentation on using open API's to do some really cool things like streamline reporting and publish up-to-date stats and update your website to reflect current book displays using only a barcode scanner. I was one of the few nonschool librarians attending a session on developing curricula teaching safe, responsible, and respectful online behavior—significantly, it had lessons appropriate for all ages and all people intellectually or emotionally unprepared to be digital citizens. Finally I attended an interesting session on privacy, online personally identifiable data, and how to be appropriately paranoid of technology.

You can learn more about the conference sessions and download presenter slides and presentation notes online at http://bit.ly/I51dOo. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions on my experiences at LibTech2012 (estroshane@nd.gov)!

Your North Dakota State Library Field Services representative will work with you, in your library.

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

Summer Reading in North Dakota

Libraries across North Dakota and the U.S. are busy gearing up for another season of summer reading programs. As those librarians who have worked with summer reading programs will attest, planning and executing an effective summer reading program can prove to be a time-consuming task. For questions about planning and promoting a summer reading program at your library, please contact Adam Emter at the North Dakota State Library. He may be reached at 701-328-4656 or aemter@nd.gov.

The Bismarck/Mandan Summer Reading Kickoff will be Friday, June 1st from 10:00am to 4:00pm. This annual event is hosted by the Bismarck and Mandan libraries and the ND State Historical Society and the ND State Library. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in the live entertainment; storytime readings by notable North Dakotans including First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle, Bismarck Mayor John Warford, and State Librarian Hulen E. Bivins; and many other activities.

Adam Emter of the NDSL staff recently traveled to Hershey, Pennsylvania to represent North Dakota at the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) annual meeting. During the meetings, the slogans for 2014 were chosen. They are : "Fizz, Boom, Read!" (children); "Spark a Reaction" (teens); and "Literary Elements" (adults). Emter is the North Dakota representative to CSLP. Please direct all questions or concerns about CSLP to him using the contact information provided above.

Best wishes for your 2012 summer reading programs!

Effective Online Research

The North Dakota State Library is offering classes in two locations for one graduate credit this summer. Classes will be in Grand Forks at the Grand Forks Public Library on June 11th and 12th and in Bismarck at the Bismarck State College in the library computer lab on June 14th and 15th.

Effective Online Research will focus on the need for students to find reliable sources for research. Attendees will explore searching methods for the Online Library Resources and other features on the databases that are useful for conducting research. In addition, there will be time devoted to examining the ODIN UFind catalog and WorldCat.org. The resources being explored will have a practical application to your classroom instruction and provide your students with reliable information to use in research papers and other school work.

Credit for Effective Online Research is available for teachers from Minot State University, University of North Dakota, and North Dakota State University. Credit is available for Library Media Specialists from Valley City State University. NOTE: The content of this course is the same as the course taught in 2011.

For additional information or to register, please visit www.library.nd.gov/training.html#tab_6. You may also contact Steve Axtman or Al Peterson at the North Dakota State Library at 800-472-2104 or 701-328-4622.

ND Library Tidbits

- A 7th grade student at the Fessenden Bowdon School recently participated in the WrestleMania Reading Challenge. Josh Hoffer traveled to Miami, FL to compete against six other 7th and 8th grade finalists in the national competition. Sandra Olschlager, Library Media Specialist at Fessenden Bowdon School, sponsored Hoffer and attended the final competition in Miami. Each year, students are encouraged to read a book and write a letter to their favorite WWE to persuade them to read the book also. Hoffer wrote to Randy Orton to ask him to consider reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain.

- The twenty-first annual "Elwyn B. Robinson Lecture" was held at the Chester Fritz Library on the campus of the University of North Dakota on April 11. Elizabeth Jacobs, Stephanie Baltzer Kom, BreAnne Meier, and Hulen Bivins attended as representatives of the North Dakota State Library. The featured presentation was given by Jay Jordan, President and CEO of OCLC. The presentation centered on the topic of the future of libraries, the perceptions of library service both real and presumed by the library patron, and the changes/opportunities offered by future technologies as reflected in library services. Hosts for the event were Wilbur Stolt, Director of UND libraries, and Dr. Steven Light, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, UND.

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

State Library Staff Update

Peggy Zimmerman has resigned duties in the Statewide Cataloging Department at the State Library.

Best wishes, Peggy!

CALENDAR

April 19-21
ND Reading Association Conference
Dickinson

May 1-7
Choose Privacy Week

June 21-26
ALA Annual Conference - Anaheim, CA

UND Exhibit Explores Race to the South Pole

The University of North Dakota invites the public to view "Cold Recall: Reflections of a Polar Explorer" – a traveling poster exhibit that presents images from one of the greatest adventures of the early 20th century: the race to the South Pole. The exhibit will be on display April 2-27 in the UND Chester Fritz Library.

Norwegian polar explorer Roald Amundsen reached the South Pole on Dec. 14, 1911, only a few weeks before Englishman Robert Falcon Scott. Amundsen was celebrated in his native Norway and throughout the world for his achievement, considered one of the great triumphs of human endurance of the age.

Created by the Fram Museum (Oslo, Norway), in partnership with the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the exhibit marks the 100th anniversary of famed polar explorer Roald Amundsen's expedition to the South Pole from 1910-1912. The exhibit is touring the United States under the sponsorship of the Royal Norwegian Embassy; this will be the only showing of the exhibit in North Dakota.

The exhibit "Cold Recall" is a collection of 48 posters that features hand-colored lantern slides taken by Amundsen crew member Olav Bjaaland during the expedition. Accompanying texts on the posters stem from Amundsen's writings from these journeys. Because the majority of his own photos had been damaged, Amundsen used Bjaaland's images to illustrate his expeditions to the South Pole and through the Northwest Passage at public lectures that doubled as fundraising events for future explorations.

The exhibit and programming are supported in part by the University of North Dakota, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, and the North Dakota Humanities Council.

For additional information, contact Dr. Melissa Gjellstad at 701-777-0487 or Wilbur Stolt at 701-777-2189.

Measure 2 Information

On the June 12, 2012 statewide ballot will be a voter issue known as Constitutional Measure 2. This measure proposes eliminating all North Dakota property taxes as levied by local governments. Many library patrons may ask for information concerning this voter issue. Property taxes presently fund local services such as school districts and city/county departments, including libraries. Research has been done by North Dakota Library Association members Theresa Norton (Webmaster), Christine Kujawa (Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair), and Kelly Steckler (Legislative Committee Chair) who have created a webpage containing information regarding Constitutional Measure 2. The direct link to this information and much more is http://ndla.info/announcements/measure_2.htm.

2012 Notable Children's Books Announced

Each year a committee of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) identifies the best of the best in children's books. Notable children's books are books of especially commendable quality, books that exhibit venturesome creativity, and books of fiction, information, poetry and pictures for all age levels (birth through age 14) that reflect and encourage children's interests in exemplary ways.

According to ALSC policy, the current year's Newbery, Caldecott, Belpré, Sibert, Geisel, and Batchelder Award and Honor books automatically are added to the Notable Children's Books list. To view the complete list, separated by age, visit www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb.

Did You Know?

The Brothers Grimm didn't write much of Grimm's Fairy Tales. They simply recorded the stories they were told by locals, and gathered them together in a collection.

Economic Growth in North Dakota

On March 28, 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released its latest state personal income statistics. The report shows good news for most states as personal income rose by an average of 5.1 percent in 2011, compared to only 3.7 percent the year before. Personal income is defined by the BEA as "the income received by all persons from all sources…the sum of net earnings by place of residence, property income, and personal current transfer receipts." North Dakota ranked first in the nation, with growth of 8.1 percent. Most states in the region fared better than the national average. Personal income growth rates in the region were 6.2 percent in South Dakota, 5.9 percent in Nebraska, 5.1 percent in Minnesota, 5.1 percent in Montana, and 5.9 percent in Wyoming.

North Dakota ranked third in the nation in terms of population growth with 1.4 percent, double the national average of .7 percent. Also, North Dakota ranked first in the nation in per capita personal income growth. Per capita personal income is personal income divided by population. Per capita personal income grew 6.7 percent in North Dakota, compared to a national average of 4.3 percent.

Earnings, a component of personal income, also grew the fastest in North Dakota. From 2010 to 2011, earnings grew by 9.5 percent in North Dakota, more than double the national average of 4.4 percent. The BEA reported that earnings have "recovered their pre-recession levels and reached new peaks in 45 states." Earnings are categorized by the BEA by industry sector.

ODIN Reports to NDUS

At the April meeting of the North Dakota University System (NDUS) Board held at Williston State College, representatives of the Online Dakota Information Network (ODIN) provided an update report that noted the cooperative arrangement of multiple types of libraries that are working together to benefit the educational process in the state as well as providing support for the informational needs of the states' citizens --- all accomplished with cost savings done by cooperative funding and cooperative expenditures. The report was given by Wilbur Stolt, Director of UND libraries, Tim Dirks, Director of Fargo Public Library and Chair of the ODIN Board, as well as, Hulen E. Bivins, ND State Librarian.

Director Stolt's comments centered upon the cooperative arrangements that allowed for the creation of ODIN by NDUS in 1988 and the growth of the capabilities and the services that have been provided for more than 20 years. Mr. Dirks spoke of the specific benefits of the ODIN resources for more than 100 individual libraries in the state with special consideration regarding the resource sharing (ILL functions) and the electronic database capabilities offered in ODIN's cooperative efforts. State Librarian Bivins noted that by the cooperative nature of ODIN which extends services to K-12 school students, public libraries, and the enrollees of the universities and colleges, there is a uniform world of knowledge and library services available in North Dakota so that the K-12 student who uses ODIN resources remains comfortable in the usage of ODIN resources as they age physically and intellectually. All three speakers noted the cost efficiencies provided by the ODIN operation as well as the "economy of scale" factors that are illustrated in the high value of informational knowledge and assistance made available relative to the dollars spent in expenditures.

Also attending the NDUS meeting were Rosalinda Kloberdanz, Executive Director ARLT NDUS CIO, and Tony Stukel, ODIN Director.

North Dakota Sights and Scenes - *David Thompson Monument*

There is a monument dedicated to David Thompson near the former town of Verendrye, North Dakota, located approximately two miles north and one mile west of Karlsruhe, North Dakota in McHenry County.

David Thompson (April 30, 1770 - February 10, 1857) was a British-Canadian fur trader, surveyor, and cartographer. Over his career he mapped over 3.9 million square kilometers of North America and was the first person to map North Dakota. The collection of Thompson's 77 field notebooks, documenting 28 years in the fur trade were published in 1916 as *David Thompson's Narrative*. To view the ODIN library holdings, please visit http://bit.ly/JbRaqx.

Photo Credit : Wikipedia user "Elcajonfarms"

The granite ball is approximately five feet in diameter and mentions that David Thompson "passed near here in 1797 and 1798" while making the first map of North Dakota. The monument was placed in 1925 and overlooks the former town of Verendyre.

When visiting the monument, say hello to the area librarians at the Velva School and Public Library!

Choose Privacy Week (May 1-7, 2012) resources are available from ALA at www.privacyrevolution.org. Start planning now for your library's participation and programming! Promotional materials are also available from the ALA Store at http://bit.ly/Ij5IDC.

Did You Know?

The Baltimore Ravens is the only National Football League team to be named after the title of a poem - "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe. Poe was not from Baltimore, but he lived there for short periods. In 1849, he died in Baltimore while visiting the city on business.

Apps for the Visually Impaired

For the blind or those with poor vision, mobile devices are opening up a whole new world. Now, with the aid of an iPhone, the blind can virtually see color, light, paper money and much more. Here are some of the most innovative apps available for those with vision impairments.

ARIADNE GPS - $3.99

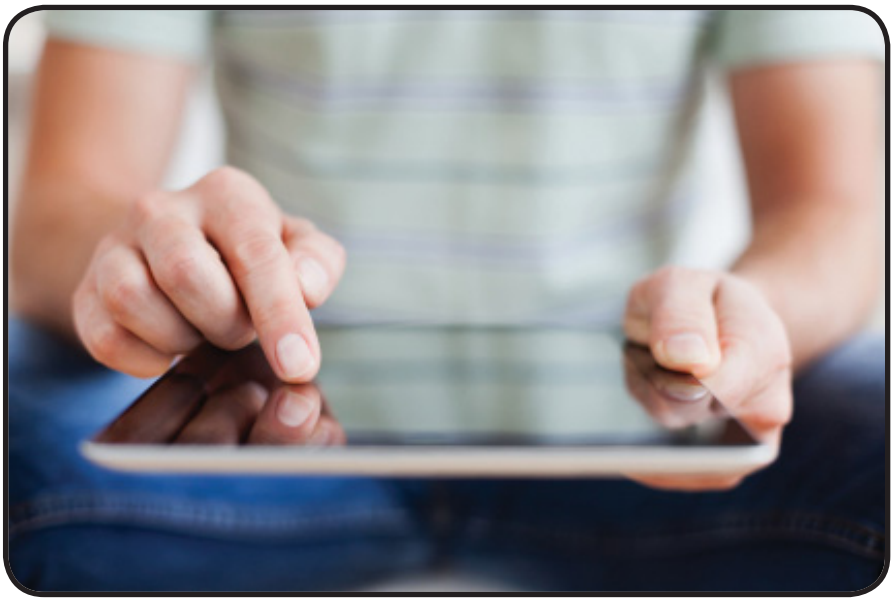
Exploring a city or taking a solo walk is no longer a challenge for the visually impaired with Ariadne GPS. Talking maps allow you to explore the world around you by moving your finger around the map. It has a favorites feature and can be used to announce stops on the bus or train. Rotating maps keep you centered, and Ariadne GPS works anywhere Google Maps are available. This is a must-have application for the visually impaired.

LOOKTEL MONEY READER - $1.99

Before the iPhone, the visually impaired would have to rely on a sighted person to tell them the denomination of each paper bill, then they would employ a special fold or other tactile technique to remember. This is no longer necessary thanks to an amazing application called LookTel Money Reader. Using just the camera on the iPhone, Look-Tel flawlessly announces the denomination of paper money. The developer is also working on other applications that will expand the technology to reading labels and more.

COLOR ID FREE - FREE

What color are the pants I just tried on? Does this tie match? Is the tomato ripe yet? Color ID Free is here to answer all these questions and more. Just point the iPhone camera at any item and it will announce the color for you. Brilliantly simple and easy to use, this application will open a new world to those who cannot see. It is amazingly accurate and can even find very subtle differences in color.



LIGHT DETECTOR - $0.99

This is a very handy app that simply emits a sound which intensifies as a light source is found and approached. Light Detector will help find any lights left on or locate windows and exits. Basic but functional, this application does what it says and does it well.

VOICE BRIEF - $3.99

Voice Brief is a great utility for anyone, but for the visually impaired it is particularly useful. With the touch of a button,Voice Brief reads your email, Twitter feed, weather, stock prices, RSS feeds, and Facebook feeds. This time-saving app is fully configurable and works flawlessly, and the voices are natural and clear.

Free Online Talking Children's Storybooks

MeeGenius is a source of free and paid ebooks for kids. There are lots of sites that offer the same thing as MeeGenius but MeeGenius distinguishes itself with one excellent feature. That feature is automatic word highlighting to accompany the narration of each book. When children open the ebooks online, on an Android tablet, or on an iPad or iPod, they can choose to have the story read to them or to read the story on their own. When the story is read to them, each word in the story is highlighted on the page. This helps children follow along with the story. For additional information, visit http://meegenius.com/store/books/free for additional information.

The Hunger Games by the Numbers

From the humble beginnings of a 200,000-book first run, *The Hunger Games* has become one of the bestselling books in recent years, with sales growing exponentially over the past year as anticipation for the film has mounted. And early surveys for the movie are showing that the adaptations could be some of the largest grossing films of all time, even rivaling the record-breaking *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings* movie series. Even with all this buzz, some of the numbers are astounding.

142 minutes: The length of the movie.

4: Number of movies they're planning on making in *The Hunger Games* series; *Mockingjay*, following in the style of *Harry Potter* and *Twilight*, will be split into two movies.

$78 million: The final budget for the movie after subsidies.

84 days: The approximate amount of time spent filming the movie in and around Asheville, North Carolina between May 23, 2011 and September 10, 2011.

200,000: The number of copies in the first print run of *The Hunger Games*.

9.2 million: The number of *The Hunger Games* series books sold in the United States in 2011.

7.5 million+: The number of books sold in the United States just since the trailer was released on November 14, 2011.

25: The number of Interlibrary Loan requests received by the North Dakota State Library for *The Hunger Games* since January 1, 2012.

609 days: The amount of time fans will have to wait until the second movie, *Catching Fire*, is released on November 22, 2013.

For more stats about *The Hunger Games* series, visit the YALSA "The Hub" website at http://bit.ly/IUMNmo.

Pen Name or Real Name?

Here is a short list of some famous authors who use pen names that readers believed to be real names.

1. Anne Rice (Howard Allen O'Brien)
2. George Orwell (Eric Arthur Blair)
3. Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson)
4. Voltaire (Francois-Marie Arouet)
5. Pablo Neruda (Neftali Ricardo Reyes Basoalto)
6. Ayn Rand (Alisa Zinovyevna Rosenbaum)
7. Stan Lee (Stanley Martin Lieber)
8. George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)
9. Joseph Conrad (Jozef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski)
10. Agatha Christie (Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller)

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

Google Account Stats

Google now has an interesting feature that shows stats for services like Google Latitude, Gmail, and Google Search. If you go to the Account Activity page (requires login), you can opt in for a monthly report that provides a summary of your account activity across many Google products. It's like a personal Google Analytics, but it's less detailed. More information is available at http://bit.ly/IXFZlT.

10 Spell-Checker Secrets for Microsoft Word

Helen Bradley in the March 13 issue of *PC World* writes: "You use Word's spelling checker every day, and probably just as often encounter some of the tool's puzzling behavior. But do you know how to get rid of a word that you mistakenly added to its dictionary or how to hide the red wiggly lines that appear all over your document? The following 10 tricks will help you to work more efficiently in Word 2010, and they will even make you and your documents look smarter." For the complete list, please visit http://bit.ly/J8X9cV.

Justice Department Suspects Book Price Fixing

The Justice Department (as reported in the March 9 issue of the *Wall Street Journal*) has warned Apple and five of the biggest US publishers that it plans to sue them for allegedly colluding to raise the price of electronic books. Several of the parties have held talks to settle the antitrust case and head off a potentially damaging court battle. If successful, such a settlement could have wide-ranging repercussions for the industry, potentially leading to cheaper ebooks for consumers. The full story may be found online at http://on.wsj.com/HFYEjs.

Six Streaming Media Services Compared

In a recent article, Matt Smith writes: "Streaming media has become the way of the future for many consumers, and as a result there's no shortage of services to pick from. But this is sure to leave some people wondering: Is one clearly superior? Is there a point to subscribing to more than one at a time?" The article makes a comparison of six of the best streaming media services to see exactly what they have to offer and which is the king of this crowd. For the full comparison, please visit http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/6-streaming-media-services-compared.

Random Facts About Popular Dr. Seuss Books

THE CAT IN THE HAT

In countless pieces of literary criticism and academic papers, *The Cat in the Hat* has been considered a Christ figure - he arrives suddenly; turns the world upside-down; performs some miraculous feats; can't win over everyone (the fish here, ironically); and leaves the impressionable flock permanently changed.

FOX IN SOCKS

For a brief period, this book was considered the most complicated tongue twister ever. The *Guinness Book of World Records* now says the most difficult tongue twister in English is "The sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick."

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

The singer who performed the famous "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" theme song is a guy named Thurl Ravenscroft. He was also the voice of "Tony the Tiger."

GREEN EGGS AND HAM

Seuss won a $50 bet with his publisher by writing this book using only 50 words. Forty-nine of them are one-syllable words (only "anywhere" extends into multi syllable range). Using the standard Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level formula, the short sentences and even shorter words put *Green Eggs and Ham* at a 1.3 grade reading level.

HOP ON POP

According to an interview with Laura Bush, this was one of the Bush family's favorite books, and George used to read this to their daughters.

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

According to *Publisher's Weekly*, this remains one of Seuss's best sellers, mostly because it's evolved into a go-to graduation gift.

Federal Digital System (FDSsys) Goes Online

As of March 16, 2012, the transition from GPO Access to GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) is complete. FDsys now is GPO's only website for online official and authentic government information from all three branches of the federal government. After ushering GPO into the online world 16 years ago, GPO Access has been archived and taken off line. As part of the transition process, no new content has been added to GPO Access since November 2011.

FDsys boasts key enhancements to GPO Access that allow users to:

- Easily search across multiple Government publications.
- Perform advanced searches against robust metadata about each publication.
- Refine and narrow searches.
- Retrieve individual government documents and publications in seconds directly from each search result.
- View more information about a publication and access multiple file formats for each search result.
- Access metadata in standard XML formats.
- Download content and metadata packaged together as a single ZIP file.
- Browse FDsys alphabetically by collection, by Congressional committee, by date, and by Government author.

Please update your bookmarks to reflect the new FDsys page at www.fdsys.gov.

American Horticultural Society Announces Gardening Book Awards

Each year, the American Horticultural Society (AHS) recognizes outstanding gardening books published in North America. Nominated books are judged by the AHS Book Award Committee on qualities such as writing style, authority, accuracy, and physical quality. The 2012 Book Award Committee was chaired by Susan Appleget Hurst, a garden communicator in Winterset, Iowa. Other committee members were Fiona Gilsenan, freelance garden writer and book editor based in the Pacific Northwest; Brandy Kuhl, head librarian at the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture in San Francisco, California; Kathy LaLiberte, Vermont-based marketing consultant and garden writer; Rand B. Lee, a freelance writer and editor; W. Gary Smith, an award-winning garden designer and author in Toronto, Canada; and Greg Williams, producer of HortIdeas newsletter in Gravel Switch, Kentucky.

This year's five recipients, selected from books published in 2011, are listed below.

The Holistic Orchard by Michael Phillips

This richly illustrated, comprehensive guide is "like spending a weekend with the guru of organic orcharding. He helps his readers truly understand fruit trees and berry bushes by putting them in context as part of the larger ecosystem," notes Kathy LaLiberte. "No other author covers the subject so completely, understands it so well, and still manages to make it accessible," says Susan Appleget Hurst. "This book offers a fresh perspective on growing food in harmony with the natural world," says W. Gary Smith.

Putting Down Roots by Marcia C. Carmichael

"Not only does this book provide an outstanding template for what other regionally oriented, historical gardening books should aspire to," remarks Rand Lee, "but it also has immense emotional, intellectual, practical, and gustatory appeal for a wide audience." Greg Williams says "it is both fun to read and authoritative, with interesting illustrations, terrific recipes, and informative notes." Hurst agrees, calling it a "fascinating window into the courage, resourcefulness, and adaptability of our immigrant past."

Small Green Roofs by Nigel Dunnett, Dusty Gedge, John Little, & Edmund C. Snodgrass

Written by world-class experts on green roofs, "this book is a real trailblazer because it is the only in-depth guide to do-ityourself green roofs, with plenty of case studies to build confidence and provide ideas for homeowners," says Williams. One factor that makes the book feel so accessible is its "consistent, simple, easy-tofollow layout," notes LaLiberte. Fiona Gilsenen was impressed with the authors' "approach, ethos and emphasis on using green roofs to encourage biodiversity, plus making it doable in a wide range of places."

Writing the Garden by Elizabeth Barlow Rogers

Sampling from the last two centuries of Western garden writing, this "delicious historical survey of writing gardeners and garden writers is rich with anecdote, writing excerpts, and illustrations," says Lee. Smith appreciates the "unique voice and engaging perspective" the author provides as she weaves together her analysis with excerpts from each featured writer, both famous and unknown. The resulting scholarly work is "so well done, interesting, and readable that I couldn't put it down," says Brandy Kuhl.

The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener by Niki Jabbour

Among the many books on growing edibles flooding the market lately, this book stood out in all ways. The author's "infectious enthusiasm fills every page," notes LaLiberte, who also found the "fun, colorful layout" irresistible. Gilsenan agrees, saying "the design deserves special commendation because it is so user-friendly yet so packed with information." Hurst sums up: "It's so much information, so clearly presented, and so very inspiring!"

AFB Launches New Website

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), the national nonprofit working with and providing for people with vision loss, has launched a redesign of its main website, www.afb.org. The new site offers a more interactive, engaging experience, making it easier for visitors to locate information on the topics that interest them.

New Website for Library Services for Youth in Custody

Across America, youth are incarcerated or detained with little or no access to high-interest, culturally relevant library materials or engaging programming. Yet, research studies have shown that free and independent reading is the number one tool to improve literacy, a vital component to reducing recidivism. To help satisfy a need, a newly launched website of Library Services for Youth in Custody (ASCLA) at www.youthlibraries.org is designed to share best practices and facilitate networking between people providing library services to incarcerated and detained youth.

YALSA Announces Virtual Mentoring

YALSA will accept applications for its virtual mentoring program through April 30. The program will pair an experienced librarian (five years experience or more) with a new librarian (fewer than five years experience) or an LIS graduate student. This is a virtual mentoring program, so there is no requirement to meet face to face. The program runs from August 1, 2012, to July 31, 2013. For more information, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/profdev/mentoring.

4 Key Qualities for Rural Librarians

John D. Hales writes: "In my 35 years as a library director of a multicounty rural library system (Live Oak, FL), I believe being engaged, setting an example, being enthused, and embracing the community are all key elements of being a successful library leader. In small towns, a vast majority of the public knows (or knows of) the library director. One must engage and accept, even relish that position." A thoughtful read is available by visiting http://olos.ala.org/columns/?p=376.

Upcoming Events at Fargo Public Library

April 23 - Early Literacy Workshop for Parents and Caregivers (Main Library at 6:30pm - preregistration required); April 26 - Toddler Dance Party (Main Library at 10:00am - ages birth to age 6); April 28 - Arbor Day Tree Planting (Main Library at 10:00am - call 241-1495 for details); May 3 - Crafts for Teens (Main Library at 4:00pm - register by e-mail at teens@cityoffargo.com).

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