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North Dakota State Library

FLICKERTALE

Volume 42 Number 12 December 2012

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

December 24 (12pm - 5pm)

State Library Closed for Christmas Eve

December 25

State Library Closed for Christmas

January 1, 2013

State Library Closed for New Year

New News and Thoughts...

from State Librarian Hulen E. Bivins

The end of a calendar year always brings change. For the State Library, the end of calendar 2012 means that the State Library begins a transition prompted by the retirement of Dr. Sanstead as Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction and the election of Ms. Kirsten Baesler as the new Superintendent of DPI. While the opportunities for the State Library to work with Dr. Sanstead shall be missed, the future prospects of working with Ms. Baesler to provide library services designed to benefit the people of North Dakota are exciting.

With the conclusion of 2012, the thanksgivings offered for our country's freedoms, for our families, and for friends - all this merges with the holiday season's joys of warmth and peace, and the season's appreciation of good. It is at this time of year that many think of stories of trust and truth that both motivate and bring contentment. The following is such a story.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes." The professor then produced a pitcher of water from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students remained attentive. Now, said the professor, I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions - and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, he continued, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children, your parents, and remember to visit with others - greet them with a smile. There will always be time to clean the house, cut the grass and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first - the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand. One of the students raised their hand and inquired what the water represented. The professor smiled and said, I'm glad you asked. The water just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always time for a new friend, a new experience, a new joy.

The North Dakota State Library extends to all our hope for a wonderful holiday season and a new year filled with success!

This column last month discussed "Big Data" and questions that would need answers regarding the format, ownership, storage, and cost of handling Big Data. Recently, an article in the Harvard Business Review has discussed the right combination of skills, technologies, and a new delivery model to achieve "Knowledge Discovery" which may be a final step is the handling of Big Data. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/VgDjSO.

A Tribute to Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead

On President's Day in February of this year, Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead announced that he had decided to not seek another term as the Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction for North Dakota. With this decision, Dr. Sanstead, a former classroom teacher in Minot, concludes a tenure of 46 years of public service to the State of North Dakota. This remarkable tenure includes ten years in the ND Legislature, and two terms (1972-1980) as the state's Lieutenant Governor in addition to his 28 years of work as the state's Superintendent of Education. In the role as Superintendent, Dr. Sanstead is the nation's longest serving, popularly elected, education leader.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has a legal administrative responsibility to work with the state's School for the Blind, the state's School for the Deaf, and the North Dakota State Library. The relationship of DPI with the State Library has been in effect since 1989 and the primary task of the Superintendent is to appoint the State Librarian who is charged with the direct oversight of the operations and services of the State Library. As Superintendent, Dr. Sanstead has worked with the following State Librarians: Pat Harris (1987-1991); William R. Strader (1992-1995); Mike Jaugstetter (1996-2000); Doris A. Ott (2002-2010); and Hulen E. Bivins (2010-present).

A few of the accomplishments made under the administration of Dr. Sanstead by the North Dakota State Library, during the years of 1989 to present, are: an almost doubling of the per capita state aid provided to public libraries; the establishment of book grants and grants for the cataloging of library materials; enhancement of a union catalog for all formats of library materials made available throughout North Dakota by different public and school libraries; expansion of Talking Book services to the visually and physically impaired; the creation of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council and concurrence of the Library Vision plan benefiting libraries in North Dakota; development of resources that aided the development of a collection of electronic databases (ODIN) for use by all citizens; and, the acquisition of a statewide tutoring program for K-Adult users made available online at the local library or in one's home.

The North Dakota State Library, established in 1890, operates with the mission of providing quality library materials and information for all citizens of North Dakota. During the tenure of Dr. Sanstead much has changed while the library's mission has continued to be met. The card catalog has been replaced by electronic records, shelves of reference materials are now contained in databases; professional trainings are accomplished via online webinars, and many library users now "curl up" with a Nook, Kindle, or iPad, rather than a printed publication. Yet with all these changes, constants like the support of Dr. Sanstead as an advocate for education and for libraries has remained. Appreciation is expressed by the North Dakota State Library to Dr. Wayne G. Sanstead for his unwavering and steadfast support of education and for libraries!

Edna Ralston Public Library in Larimore hosted a holiday open house that was a great success. They had 70 people attend and had at least 5 new patrons sign up for library cards. They used old books to make rose-accented garland, which decorate book stacks and a Christmas tree. Instructions for roses made from book pages may be found at http://bit.ly/Rl0sIm.

Library Staff Changes in ND

INCOMING

Kimberly Herring - Mott Public Library

The Lidgerwood Library received a gift from a resident of Lidgerwood. A painting titled "North Dakota Wild Prairie Rose" by Josephine Aarfor was given as a Christmas gift to the library. The library board and librarian are thankful for receiving such a beautiful gift. Josephine also has two other paintings on display at the library.

Rita Loibl, president of the McVille Community Library Board receiving a $4,000 check from the North Dakota Community Foundation. The funds will be used toward an ADA-compliant bathroom and library shelving. The North Dakota Community Foundation mission is to improve the quality of life for North Dakota's citizens through charitable giving and promoting philanthropy.

The Library Foundation, Inc. of the Bismarck Public Library was the proud recipient of a Verizon "Check Into Literacy" grant this past spring. Funds from the grant purchased shelving and a portable puppet stage for the children's library and funded the teen Mini Golf @ Your Library event on Friday, July 13. Recently more of the funds were used to purchase furniture for the library's Teen Zone. Library tables with cozy seating and colorful swivel chairs with computer tables now fill the area. Verizon customers funded the "Check Into Literacy" grants by indicating on their monthly phone bills they wished to make a $1 tax-deductible donation.

Credo Reference Now Available in North Dakota

The North Dakota State Library is pleased to announce the current availability of the Credo Reference resources in North Dakota. The Credo General Reference Collection is an online reference solution for librarians, educators, and learners of all ages.

The Credo collection contains more than 500 authoritative titles, which stand in contrast to the abundant, but not always reliable, information that is so prevalent on the Internet. To help users discover trustworthy information, Credo's Literati service provides users with a single-search format that is both intuitive and engaging. Literati includes more than three million full-text articles and over 500,000 images, videos, and audio files to enhance research. In a recently published case study at Columbia University 87% of students said Literati improved the quality of their work.

"With this new service, North Dakota libraries are providing access to a wealth of trusted resources," said Hulen E. Bivins, State Librarian. "By utilizing the Credo Reference Collection and Literati discovery tool, librarians and educators will be better equipped to teach skills all people need to succeed in today's world - the ability to find and evaluate information."

All North Dakotans may access Literati at http://public.literati.credoreference.com.

The Grand Forks Public Library recently acquired two Early Literacy Stations (ELS). The ELS offer children a safe, standalone computer not connected to the Internet that is age-appropriate, engaging, and academically relevant for children ages 2-8. The educational software covers seven curricular areas: reading, math, science, social studies, writing, arts and music, and reference. The ELS has a colorful keyboard and tiny mouse to promote easy learning and self-discovery. The system is designed to attract and educate toddlers through early elementary school ages. The ELS were made possible through a generous technology-centered donation from a family of local longtime library supporters.

ND Library Tidbits

- Patrons of the Grand Forks Public Library can now check out Simple Touch Nooks that are pre-loaded with approximately 20 books in different categories, including best sellers, mysteries, romance/inspirational, science fiction/fantasy/western, biographies/non-fiction, teen fiction, and fiction. Taking one home is as simple as filling out and signing a Lending Policy Agreement. The library has twenty Nooks available and all have a three week check out. For more information please contact the Grand Forks Public Library at 701-772-8116.
- The Lidgerwood Library recently had two fundraisers. The Beautiful Child Contest entries, with photography by Elena K Photography, are displayed at Popp's Hardware for people to vote. All of the money made from voting went to the Lidgerwood Public Library. The other fundraiser was the Tour of Homes, which hosted 96 people touring the homes. The homes were all decorated by the homeowners except for one home that was decorated by Julie's Home Décor. The library board served coffee, cider, and goodies after the tour.

New MINITEX Director

On December 5, Valerie Horton began her service as the new Director of MINITEX. She advances to the position formerly held by Bill DeJohn who retired after years of meritorious service. Ms. Horton most recently was the Executive Director of the Colorado Library Consortium which coordinated library support services for 450 public, school, and special libraries. Prior to her eight year tenure in Colorado, she was the Library Director at Mesa State College and she also served as the Assistant Library Director at New Mexico State University. In 1994 Ms. Horton was a technology consultant under the American Library Association's International Library Fellow program working with Trinidad and Tobago. Her educational background features studies at the University of Utah and a Masters of Library Studies at the University of Hawaii.

MINITEX is a publicly supported network of academic, public, state government, and special libraries working cooperatively to improve library service for their users in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The MINITEX program is funded through the Minnesota Office of Higher Education. Libraries in North Dakota participate in MINITEX programs and services through a contract between MINITEX and the North Dakota State Library. The libraries of North Dakota join the North Dakota State Library to welcome Ms. Horton! A productive and enriching work relationship is anticipated.

ND, MN Libraries Join to Host Introductory Community Project

Submitted by Elizabeth Madson, Fargo Public Library

During the month of October 2012, Fargo Public Library, in partnership with West Fargo Public Library and Lake Agassiz Regional Library Moorhead, launched an inaugural One Book One Community project. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, was selected for the first community reading project serving 170,000 residents in the Fargo/Moorhead area. While originally published in 1993, themes explored in *The Giver* continue to prove relevant in 2012, resulting in meaningful conversations around important issues. Project planning began in January, and committee members met monthly, except during June and July due to summer reading program commitments. In August, billboard displays and early marketing teasers were released to the media while full details were released on the first day of October launching the month-long project.

Each library hosted three core events during the month of October: a book discussion, a film showing of *Atlas Shrugged*, *Pleasantville* or *Hunger Games*, and one related event, including a presentation on Understanding Memory Loss, a panel discussion on Dangerous Literature: Challenging Authority (with Concordia College), and an outdoor radio controlled airplanes flying demonstration. In addition, the partner libraries developed a shared website, www.fmareaonebook.org, to highlight events, and encourage participation in an online photo contest with the theme "Black and white with a splash of red." Winning photos in two categories, 8th grade and younger and high school to adult, were selected by three local photographers, and honored with prizes of Amazon Kindle devices. "Memories need to be shared," a multi-generational craft activity, was held over one weekend in which participants created photo scrapbooks together.

Participating libraries initially estimated providing a small number of free copies to the public, but as the marketing campaign spread the news, a noticeable buzz grew throughout the community. Nearly 900 copies of *The Giver* were shared with members of the community! This One Book One Community project would not have been possible without the enthusiasm, ideas, and contributions of the partner library planning committee members, and funding by the Friends of the Fargo Public Library and the Friends of the West Fargo Public Library.

Gift Ideas From State Library Staff

'Tis the season of decision making and gift giving. We all know how hard it can be to select a perfect gift for each person on your shopping list. Surely, not every gift can be as entertaining as instant snow (www.snowinseconds.com). Hopefully, the following items, recommended by the staff at the North Dakota State Library, will make finding that perfect gift a little bit easier.

Stacey Goldade (Statewide Cataloging)

Listening is an act of Love: a celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project is a great book for those who love to read short stories. StoryCorps is a non-profit organization dedicated to recording oral interviews of ordinary people from all backgrounds. StoryCorps is run by Dave Isay, the editor of this book. The excerpts included in this book are from interviews recorded in a mobile recording booth that travels across America. The short chapters range from stories about how people met their spouse to recollections from the September 11th attack. Biography lovers will enjoy these powerful, inspiring, and humorous stories that shed light on the lives of ordinary, but not boring, people from all over.

Krista Kurtz (Interlibrary Loan)

I recommend *The Duck Commander Family: How Faith, Family, and Ducks Built a Dynasty* by Willie Robertson. Perfect for the hard-to-buy-for person on your Christmas list. It's a mix of humor and life lessons ranging all the way from hunting, business, raising kids to dealing with difficult relatives. P.S. The "Duck Dynasty" show is hilarious!

Eric Stroshane (Field Services)

Cinephiles know that Criterion releases are unrivaled in picture and sound quality and always feature robust, meticulously researched supplemental materials. If you've got a film lover on your shopping list, consider getting them one (or more!) of Criterion's recent releases (http://www.criterion.com/library/expanded_view?f=2&s=release_date). There are some real gems on the list, including classics from Godard, Polanski, Kurosawa, and Pasolini, as well as beloved contemporary features from the likes of David Fincher and Wong Kar-Wai. They also just released a super cool box set of Shochiku horror films from the late sixties! ($24 - $48)

Adam Emter (Public Awareness)

Want to please the book-lover on your shopping list, but don't want to take the easy out by going straight for their Amazon.com wishlist? You're more clever than that! Instead of purchasing books, why not purchase the smell of books? Yes, you need to purchase the "In The Library" fragrance from Christopher Brosius, award-winning perfumer from Brooklyn, New York. This year, don't settle on the safe bet, place your order ($12 for 2ml or $90 for 15ml) for the scent that promises "a warm blend of English novel, Russian and Moroccan leather bindings, worn cloth and a hint of wood polish." Visit http://www.cbihateperfume.com/in-the-library.html.

Elizabeth Jacobs (Field Services)

Most in-ear headphones have disappointing sound quality and pop out of your ears every time you turn your head, but the Bose IE2 in-ear headphones are light years better than traditional earbuds on both counts. They have great sound clarity and fantastic bass for in-ear headphones, and they are comfortable and stay securely in place inside the ear, even during exercise and other physical activities. A great gift for active audiophiles, runners, or anyone who's attached to their mobile gadgets. $85.95 on Amazon; $89.99 at Best Buy.

Mark Your Calendar!
2013 Spring Workshops

Make plans to attend the 2013 State Library Spring Workshops, slated for April 8-9, in Bismarck.

Here's a peek at workshop topics:

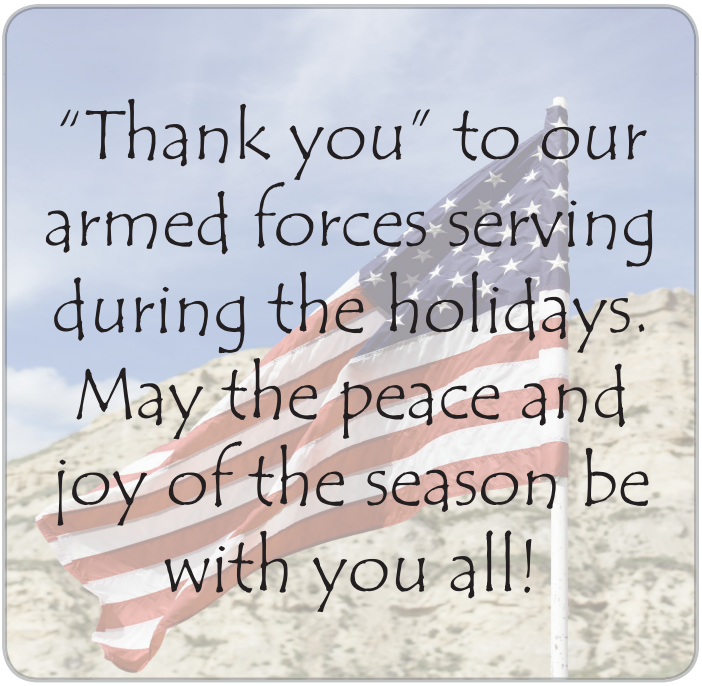
- Children's librarianship, with a focus on storytelling and bullying
- Social media identity and security
- Census and demographic facts from the State Data Center
- Literati Public/Credo Reference
- Crafts in the library
- Open source software

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Bismarck Comfort Inn. Please request the "State Library Conference Rate" when making your reservation; the conference rate is $69/single and $79/double. The hotel is located at 1030 East Interstate Avenue in Bismarck and may be reached by telephone at 701-223-1911.

Please make plans to attend and stay tuned for additional details.

"The chief cause of failure and unhappiness is trading what you want most for what you want right now."

- Zig Ziglar



Foundation Corner

The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation
www.loislenskicovey.org

Lois Lenski, author and illustrator of over one hundred children's books and the 1946 Newbery medalist for *Strawberry Girl*, had a life-long concern that good books be available to all children. In pursuit of this goal, she established a foundation to provide grants to public libraries, school libraries, and non-profit agencies serving disadvantaged populations. The foundation is a charitable institute in operation for more than forty years. During that time the foundation has assisted over 400 organizations in their efforts to provide books to children who might otherwise lack access to children's literature. The Foundation provides grants to libraries and agencies that serve economically or socially at-risk children, have limited book budgets, and demonstrate real need. Funds are earmarked for purchasing books for young people, and are not intended for administrative or operational use. Grants for 2012 ranged from $500 to $3000. Successful applicants have proposed purchases to update their children's book collections generally or to expand their holdings in specific areas.

ND Library Coordinating Council Grant Reminder

The North Dakota State Library and the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council encourages public schools and public libraries to apply for grants in the following categories: 1) Innovative Partnership with a Non-Library Entity; 2) Technology to Provide Access to Information; and 3) Participation in the Statewide Online Catalog through WorldCat. Complete guidelines are available online at http://1.usa.gov/XCeaI7. The application is available at http://1.usa.gov/UF2A8T. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 2, 2013. For more information, please contact the State Library at 701-328-2492.

A Song in Our Heart

The Muzak Heart and Soul Foundation has a grant program for non-profits, music education programs, and public school programs. Grant objectives revolve around the view that a music education aids the personal and educational growth of a child. More information is available at http://heart.muzak.com.

Continuing Education Opportunities

The North Dakota State Library, Gale, and Minitex offer free online trainings. These webinars are live and interactive. In order to participate, you will need a computer with Internet access, a headset or speakers, and a microphone. If you don't have a microphone, the chat feature may be used to ask questions.

North Dakota State Library webinars and registration information is available at http://bit.ly/2kBbOM.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context

Friday, December 14, 2012, 9:00 – 10:00 AM (Central Time)

From climate change to immigration, find thousands of thought-provoking pro/con arguments in Gale's Opposing Viewpoints in Context. Balanced overviews and opinions from curriculum-focused references combine with multimedia resources to deliver an engaging way for students to develop the critical-thinking skills vital to 21st Century learning. Register online at http://bit.ly/11soaUo.

Turning Points in History: Fitting Government Information into History Day Projects

Tuesday, December 18, 2012, 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM (Central Time)

The 2013 History Day theme provides a huge number of topics centering on state, national, and international history. This session, led by Kirsten Clark, Government Information Librarian at the University of Minnesota Libraries, will provide freely available resources to do history projects. Register online at http://bit.ly/XiVmO9.

CatExpress: Copy Cataloging with CatExpress

Friday, January 11, 2013, 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM (Central Time)

This session provides instruction on copy cataloging using the CatExpress interface. The training will cover the copy cataloging workflow including searching, holdings maintenance, exporting and downloading records. The course will also touch on some options for customizing the interface. Register online at http://bit.ly/TBG6H1.

Library Grant Opportunities

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Deadline: March 15, June 15, September 15, December 15

The Great River Energy Corporate Contributions team will, through its funding decisions, strive to do the greatest good for the greatest number of its member consumers and their communities, as well the communities in which its facilities are located.

http://bit.ly/11scrW5

MDU RESOURCES GROUP

Deadline: by October 1 for the following year

MDU Resources gives back to the communities it serves through contributions to worthwhile charities and organizations. MDU Resources is proud to support qualified organizations that enhance quality of life. MDU Resources' philanthropic goal is to be "a neighbor of choice."

http://bit.ly/Ssw3ED

XCEL ENERGY

Deadline: varies based on grant category

Through focus area grants, Xcel Energy supports non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations that improve science, technology, engineering, economics and math education; improve and enhance the natural environment; help individuals achieve economic self-sufficiency; and that provide access to arts and culture. In addition, Xcel Energy will look for opportunities to partner with organizations that share its commitment of promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion.

http://bit.ly/TBVA0b

BASIN ELECTRIC

Deadline: ongoing

Giving to the organizations that help keep communities strong and growing is important to Basin Electric. Community growth and sustainability are vital to its mission. Without charitable programs and non-profit services, the communities where members live and work would not thrive as they do. Financial contributions are important to helping organizations grow and function efficiently.

http://bit.ly/TI1clX

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

Deadline: ongoing with quarterly deadlines

The Otter Tail Power Company mission is to connect with our rural communities to support young minds, invest in our current and future workforce, create vibrant culture and vital communities, improve health and human services, and protect natural resources. Otter Tail Power Company makes donations for qualifying organizations that directly impact the local communities served by Otter Tail Power Company.

http://bit.ly/VgEvW1

MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATIONS

Deadline: January 10, 2013 for Spring 2013

Organizations that serve Midcontinent Communications communities are encouraged to apply for future grants for special projects, facilities improvements, equipment, and programs (not operational costs). Priority is given to organizations that operate within the Midcontinent Communications service area.

http://bit.ly/TBVoht

Please submit North Dakota library news and Flickertale "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" requests to ndslpa@nd.gov.

A Holiday Quiz

1. What American state was the first to make Christmas an official holiday?

a. Connecticut

b. Alabama

c. Alaska

d. North Carolina

2. What is the shape of the candy cane modeled after?

a. A fish hook

b. A constellation

c. The cane St. Nicholas used

d. A shepherd's crook

3. What was the name of the dog that belonged to the Grinch in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*?

a. Rudolph

b. Toto

c. Max

d. Cerberus

4. What was the name of Scrooges' dead business partner in *A Christmas Carol*?

a. Jacob Marley

b. Bob Cratchit

c. Tiny Tim

d. Bill Sykes

5. Where did the real St. Nicholas live?

a. In Holland

b. At the North Pole

c. In Turkey

d. In Germany

6. What brought Frosty the Snowman to life?

a. Pixie dust

b. An old silk hat

c. A kiss

d. A fresh snowfall

7. When you go wassailing, what is it that you are doing?

a. Giving out gifts to friends and neighbors

b. Going out in the woods to cut down a tree

c. Challenging your neighbors to a snowball fight

d. Going to visit neighbors and receiving goodies

8. In the movie *It's A Wonderful Life* how do you know that an angel has received his wings?

a. A light flashes

b. It starts raining

c. A trumpet sounds

d. A bell rings

9. Who was the author of *A Christmas Carol*?

a. Hans Christian Anderson

b. Charles Dickens

c. Thomas M. Sawyer

d. Mark Twain

10. What was pictured on the first stamp printed for the Christmas season?

a. Santa Claus

b. An Angel

c. A Star

d. A Rose

Check your answers on page 14!

North Dakota Sights and Scenes : Tommy the Turtle

If you're in Bottineau, North Dakota, be sure to stop by the city's winter-themed attraction, Tommy the Turtle. The fiberglass turtle was built in 1978 and stands 30 feet tall. According to local authorities, Tommy is the world's largest turtle. Naturally, he is seated on the world's largest snowmobile, which measures 34 feet end-to-end.

Tommy was supposedly built to recognize the nearby Turtle Mountains. Interestingly, Tommy the Turtle is only one of three giant turtles in the region. Nearby Dunseith, North Dakota, is home to the Wheel Turtle (featured in the October 2012 *Flickertale*). In addition, Boissevain, Manitoba, a small city just a few minutes north of the Canadian border, hosts a 28 foot turtle (without snowmobile), also named Tommy.

Don't let the photo fool you - Tommy usually has plenty of snow for riding! Photo by Wikipedia user Bobak Ha'Eri.

Winter Activities at Your Library

American Libraries News notes that across the nation, many school age children will be away from school for almost two weeks. Many will visit the library looking for interesting activities. From Minnesota to Florida, ideas are shared for fun, in-library, activities. Visit http://bit.ly/W3FNWW for the full story and activity ideas.

Take the Global Libraries Initiative Survey

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation needs your help. Take a five-minute survey to help fine-tune the Foundation's Global Libraries Initiative. The purpose of the survey is to help the Global Libraries Initiative identify opportunities to focus its current support of public libraries in ways that foster innovation and dramatically accelerate positive and lasting change in libraries throughout the US and around the world. You are allowed to eat holiday cookies while taking the survey! Visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W3DBZ96.

New Guides Aim to Assist Online Course Selections

Library users who want to win their next trivia game contest as well as students looking for increased knowledge need to check out the offerings of massive open online courses (MOOC's). With a growing number of providers and course titles available on the web, selecting courses can be a challenge. However, the review process and quality and compatibility of course selections has improved. The selection process, as examined in the December 4 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, now has a few solutions available that let students review the MOOC's they've taken, incorporating their views into the sites' overall guidance.

For more information, please read the full article, which features a selection of *Chronicle of Higher Education* articles related to online education, at http://bit.ly/U4pTK5.

Your Opinion, Please

The Association for Rural and Small Libraries is engaged in an effort to more fully understand the important work of small and rural libraries and learn from people who work in these libraries. Please take a short survey available at http://svy.mk/XKrCKf to give your feedback.

Enhanced "Public Libraries Online" Launches

The Public Library Association (PLA) has completely revamped Public Libraries Online, the digital companion to the bimonthly print publication *Public Libraries*. The site features selections from the print magazine as well as unique content such as op-ed pieces, ebook reviews, and author interviews. It also allows online interaction through comments and social media sharing. Check out the new platform at http://bit.ly/VMq4z0.

2012 Irish Book Awards

The winners of this year's Irish Book Awards were announced by the Royal Dublin Society on November 22. The Irish Novel of the Year Award went to *Ancient Light* by John Banville. Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl: The Last Guardian* was selected for the Irish Children's Book of the Year.

Rochester New York Library on Ghost Hunters

Cameras at the downtown Rochester Public Library (New York) have caught an auditorium door opening and closing repeatedly with no mechanical explanation. Staff have reported elevators moving on their own and "creepy figures" playing hide-and-seek. A crew from the Syfy channel's Ghost Hunters came to investigate, and their report, "Due Date with Death," was broadcast on November 28. You can watch a preview of the show at http://bit.ly/UQ4eYU. And, did you know that some believe that the North Dakota State Library Building also has a ghost?

An Online Resource for Fantasy Readers

If you have a question about the literary history of the fantasy genre, *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy* may indeed be the source that you want to check. Written by John Clute and John Grant, it's an excellent compendium of information and it's free and searchable online, joining its companion volume, *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*. Visit online at http://bit.ly/YUfrvR.

Audio Interviews With Music Greats Available From LOC

Record-label president Joe Smith interviewed more than 225 celebrated singers, musicians, and industry leaders from 1986 to 1988 in an effort to document the oral history of popular music. This past summer, Smith donated his recordings, a tremendous assembly of primary-source oral histories, to the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress is presently making a series of these revealing, unedited recordings available for listening free to the public on its website. The oral history project releases include interviews with Tony Bennett, Paul McCartney, Yoko Ono, Ray Charles, B. B. King, Bo Diddley, and Linda Ronstadt. For more information, visit http://1.usa.gov/UbUhTe.

Booklist Announces Top Science and Health Books for Children

Booklist's top science and health books for children for 2012 are listed online at http://bit.ly/TPLfOi. All selections received starred reviews in the print *Booklist* publication.

The Atlantic Chooses Top Books of 2012

Benjamin Schwarz, writing for *The Atlantic* has selected the 15 best books reviewed in *The Atlantic* or published in 2012. Check out the list online at http://bit.ly/X0X0yW.

Tips to Prevent Online Hacking Attacks

To help protect against hacking, individuals should practice good password hygiene. Here are some tips for setting passwords that are more secure than the "name of your pet" variety.

1. Forget the dictionary. The worst passwords are dictionary words or a small number of insertions or changes to words that are in the dictionary.
2. Never use the same password twice. If one password that you use for multiple accounts is compromised, attackers will have access to all of those accounts.
3. It is always good to come up with a passphrase because the longer your password, the longer it will take to crack. Consider using a passphrase, such as a favorite movie quote, song lyric, or poem, and string together only the first one or two letters of each word in the sentence.
4. Always store your passwords securely, preferably on an encrypted USB drive that also has a strong password.
5. It is a good practice to ignore the "correct" answer for any security questions used to access an account. If a hacker discovers your mother's maiden name or your favorite color, how many accounts will they then have easier access to?
6. If possible, use different browsers for different activities. A study in 2011 of Web browsers by Accuvant Labs found that Google Chrome was the least susceptible to attacks.
7. Consider using a password manager, such as LastPass or KeyPass. These solutions only require one master password; the software remembers your other passwords. One great benefit to this setup is that the software can remember extremely complex passwords.

For more information on ways to protect against hacking, please visit http://nyti.ms/TyikuE.

How Private Is Your Data When Browsing Online?

Would you like to know how anonymous you are when browsing online? If your answer is "Yes" then visit http://bit.ly/TUIGts which provides an immediate online privacy test revealing what identifiable information is being collected in your browser. The site displays the location (via IP address) and language collected, possible tracking cookies, and other browser features that could create a unique fingerprint of your browser.

Nine Ways to be Happier During the Daily Grind

Consider the suggestions offered in the November 5 issue of *Inc.* magazine, in which Geoffrey James argues, "Making other people happy is the highest expression of success, but it's almost impossible to make others happy if you're not happy yourself." Visit http://bit.ly/QSIJpY for helpful suggestions for daily habits to make you happier!

365 Day YA Calendar

The newly formed 365 Days of YA Task Force needs tried and true ideas as it creates an online calendar full of teen service resources aimed at librarian generalists and paraprofessionals. YALSA is looking for ideas big and small on easy-to-implement programs, services, and activities. Email all your ideas to YALSA at: 365daysofya@gmail.com.

ANSWERS TO THE HOLIDAY QUIZ ON PAGE 11:
1. B 2. D 3. C 4. A 5. C
6. B 7. D 8. D 9. B 10. D

Websites to Entertain and Inform

Looking to avoid another animated holiday film or the forced consumption of another glass of eggnog? Escape the mundane this holiday season and entertain and inform yourself using the websites listed below.

AdViews: Archive of Vintage TV Commercials
Duke University Libraries

http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/adviews

All Recipes

http://allrecipes.com

BBC Country Profiles
Compiled by BBC Monitoring

http://bbc.in/TSSeFw

The Big Cartoon Database

http://www.bcdb.com

Current Value of Old Money
Roy Davies, former Librarian at University of Exeter

http://bit.ly/VQCDJA

Encyclopedia of Earth

www.eoearth.org/

How Products Are Made
Thomson Gale

www.madehow.com

Invention Dimension
Lemelson-MIT Award Program

http://web.mit.edu/invent

KIDS Count Data Center
Annie E. Casey Foundation

http://datacenter.kidscount.org

LIFE Photo Archive Hosted by Google
LIFE/Google

http://images.google.com/hosted/life

MIT OpenCourseWare
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm

National Jukebox
Library of Congress

www.loc.gov/jukebox

Open Congressional Research Service (CRS)
Open CRS, Center for Democracy & Technology

http://opencrs.com/

Plant Information Online
Richard T. Isaacson and Katherine Allen, University of Minnesota Libraries

http://plantinfo.umn.edu/

Rotten Tomatoes
IGN Entertainment

www.rottentomatoes.com

Taking the Mystery Out of Retirement Planning
Department of Labor

www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/nearretirement.html

Urban Legends Reference Pages
Barbara and David P. Mikkelson

www.snopes.com

PLA Seeking Summer Reading Program Feedback

As part of an Institute of an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funded project, the Public Library Association (PLA) is gathering information about summer reading programs across the United States. A nationwide survey is part of that research and your responses help make the project a success. The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The information gathered in this survey will ensure that ND libraries are represented in the development of summer reading programs throughout the US.

Please take time to provide information about your summer reading program. More information and a link to the survey is available at http://summerreading.pla.org. The survey will close on December 31, 2012.

Common Core Issue

As noted in several professional articles in the last 30 days, the "common core" standards will have an effect on E-rate funding. A major impact shall be felt as the funds presently dedicated to connecting schools and libraries to the Internet are unlikely to grow in the near term. The funding formula is likely to be compounded because the standards require online assessments of students starting in the 2014 school year. This will have an impact on the networking capabilities of many schools. A key component in recognizing the problem is in the understanding that the E-rate program has not received an increase in funding since 1995 (tight cap on dollars) while the bandwidth needs of schools across the US have increased. Obviously, there is a perceived need for an increase in the funding cap. The E-rate program is presently capped at $2.34 billion for the 2012 Funding Year - an inflation-adjusted amount allocated through two different stages: Priority 1, which handles telecommunications and Internet access, and Priority 2, which handles connections inside schools. Priority 1 is funded first, with leftover funds going to Priority 2. This past year, with approximately $5 billion in applications for Priority 1, almost nothing was left as possible funding for Priority 2. The American Library Association (ALA) has an E-rate Task Force that is pushing for increases to the E-rate program with the FCC.

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