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North Dakota State Library
FLICKERTALE

Volume 43 Number 2 February 2013

## State Library Debuts Credo Reference PSAs

*North Dakota State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler spoke during the January 30th press announcement, introducing three Credo Reference PSAs to North Dakota media.*

On January 30, 2013, the North Dakota State Library hosted a press announcement to introduce two public service announcements (PSAs) featuring the new Credo Reference database.

The PSAs were developed as a cooperative effort between the State Library and Credo Reference. The PSAs give users an overview of ways in which Credo Reference can improve the quality and speed of research, using highly-regarded reference and information titles. Credo Reference services may be accessed using the search box on the upper right of the North Dakota State Library website at www.library.nd.gov.

A 30-second audio PSA was created for use by radio stations. The audio PSA was sent via e-mail to all public library directors in North Dakota. Each library is encouraged to submit the PSA to local radio stations.

The video PSA, as created, is 30-seconds in length. Designed for television stations, the video PSA has been released to all North Dakota television stations by the North Dakota State Library.

Please take a moment to view the Credo Reference PSAs, which may be accessed on the North Dakota State Library website at http://1.usa.gov/YHfwyL. North Dakota libraries are encouraged to share the PSAs on your library website, Facebook page, closed-circuit school television, or other media outlets. NDSL thanks Credo Reference for the development of the PSAs.

## 2013 State Library Spring Workshops

The North Dakota State Library will present the 2013 Spring Workshops on April 8th (Monday) and April 9th (Tuesday) at the Bismarck Comfort Inn. Sue Black will be the featured speaker at the 2013 Spring Workshops. You may view her biography at http://bit.ly/VCVdRq. Ms. Black will present two workshops on Monday, April 8th. The first is titled, "It Takes a Village" and will focus on bullying prevention. The second session, "Storytelling? You Can Do It!" will explore the unlimited potential for using storytelling in your library.

Other sessions planned include social media identity and security; census and demographic facts from the State Data Center; Literati Public/Credo Reference, a new online resource; crafts in the library; and open source software.

**Registrations are now being accepted via check, PayPal, or credit card.** Please visit http://bit.ly/123XUSf to register. For additional information, including a schedule and detailed workshop descriptions, please visit http://1.usa.gov/115Im0c.

# New News and Thoughts...

*from State Librarian Hulen E. Bivins*

Did you see it? What was your reaction - positive or negative? Did anyone discuss it with you? Of course the "it" is not the 2013 Super Bowl itself with a projected viewer count of 108 million viewers. No, the "it" is the commercial spot for Oreo cookies (http://youtu.be/6kMWLYYcAYw) in which the mass media again illustrated just how under-educated that industry is regarding information professionals and libraries in general. Indeed, when was the last time anyone saw a librarian directly use the "shush sound" inside a library facility? That concept is as out-dated as the media industry "test pattern" that, in the prior century, was on the TV when the station "signs-off the air" at the end of the broadcast day.

The shush sound, however, is not the only misconception of the mass media industry as they attempt to cover the story of information professionals and the libraries where their services are available. Remember, it was only just a few years ago the media industry told the country, with much fanfare, that libraries were dying and the need of libraries did not exist in the new electronic information world of the 21st Century. Yet, an examination of just a few facts creates a lot of doubt in the veracity of DOA reports issued regarding information professionals and libraries where services are offered.

Rather than just taking the opportunity to throw out a viewpoint (like in a cookie commercial) about a subject, perhaps a few facts should be considered. To quote the lead character Joe Friday from the media's television show "Dragnet," let us note "just the facts, and only the facts."

The Institute of Museum and Library Services last month released nationally collected data for public library use in the United States for the year of 2010. For the year, public libraries served 297.6 million people which is the equivalent of 96.4% of the total U.S. population. Additionally, U.S. public libraries offered 3.75 million programs with an amazing 61.5% of these programs designed for children as libraries continued the tradition of assisting the educational opportunities for our next generation. The circulation counts reported by public libraries in 2010 indicate that 2.46 billion items were circulated via check-out by public library patrons and the usage of public-access computers in public libraries has doubled during the most recent decade. These facts seem to give the impression that the death of libraries was a premature report.

If the mass media discerns more data is needed from a non-government source, mention might be made of the January, 2013 report of the Pew Research Center (http://bit.ly/X27ktY) which notes that 91% of all Americans believe that libraries are important to their communities and that 50% of the Americans who visited in a library in 2012 used the services and assistance of the library's informational professional on duty. Pew Research's report also notes that 80% of those using the library deemed the reference services available as very important.

Regarding the dying library, it looks like the mass media has another misinterpretation. Perhaps a visit to the local public library would provide an enlightenment opportunity!

## OCLC Americas Regional Council Candidates

The Americas OCLC Regional Council (ARC) Nominating Committee has released its list of candidates for offices with an election period of January 30 to March 1, 2013. Voting representatives will soon receive an e-mail and/or print mail with instructions on how to cast their votes online.

Wilbur Stolt, Director of Libraries, University of North Dakota, Chester Fritz Library, Grand Forks, North Dakota, has been nominated for the position of Vice Chair / Chair Elect. He is presently a member OCLC's Americas Regional Council. Among the many accomplishments in the career of Director Stolt is the giving of both thought and time to the work of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC). The Council, working with the North Dakota State Library, provides grant opportunities to libraries that enhance the services offered to the state's citizenry. Director Stolt is currently the chair of the NDLCC. NDSL wishes our in-state candidate much success in the election!

## Public Library Annual Report Period Underway

Public library directors are reminded that the submission period for annual reports has begun. Public library annual reports are due and must be electronically submitted to the North Dakota State Library by the deadline of March 22, 2013. The reports must be submitted annually in order for libraries to remain eligible to receive State Aid to Public Libraries grant funds.

This year, Lakota City Library director, Gerry Wagness, was the first to submit a report with follow-up being completed in a 5 day time-frame. The State Library's Field Services representative (for Lakota), Elizabeth Jacobs, along with State Data Coordinator, Michele Balliet Unrath, made a special trip to Lakota, to present Gerry with a certificate and award. Peggy Wheeler, Lakota Library Board member, was also in attendance at the presentation to honor Gerry for her dedication in serving the Lakota Library community over the past 30+ years.

The State Library also conveyed an "Honorable Mention" accolade to Traci Lund at Divide County Public Library for completing and submitting the first library report to require absolutely no follow-up! A letter from State Librarian, Hulen E. Bivins, and small token of appreciation were sent to Traci acknowledging her of commendation outstanding attention to detail which she demonstrated when completing her report.

The ND State Library wishes to recognize and thank Gerry & Traci, along with a multitude of other public library directors, for their ongoing cooperation, as they continue to set such a positive example.

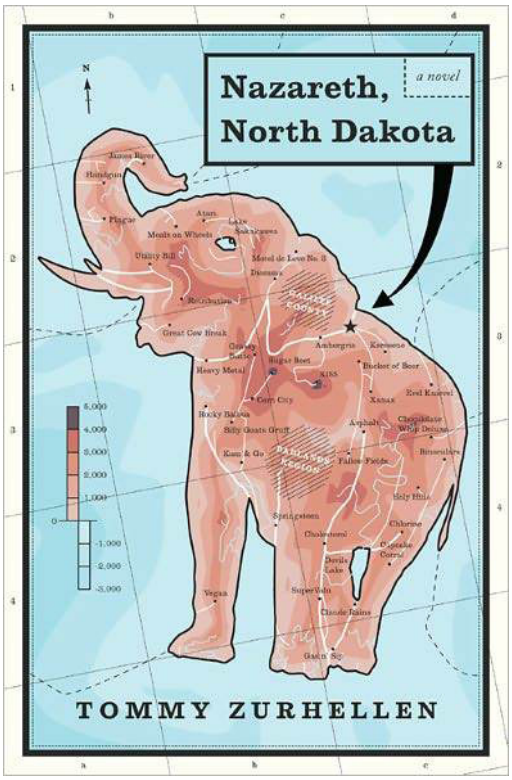
All 2012 ND public library statistics compiled as a result of the submission of annual reports are planned to be made available on the NDSL website by April 30, 2013.

## VCSU Seeking School Teams for Common Core Learning

Valley City State University is seeking ten new school teams to attend the Year Two Collaborate 21 Summer Academy to be held June 16-19, 2013 and earn (free) credit to learn more about the Common Core and how your school librarian can collaborate to help your school design and meet those standards!

The Collaborate 21 Project is a three year project - funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in partnership with the ND LEAD office and Valley City State University. This is an "expenses paid" opportunity to learn about Common Core, earn professional development credits toward LMS, teacher, or administrator credential renewal. In addition, there will be a chance to earn an expenses paid trip for your school team to attend and present at a national conference. One of the Year One Collaborate 21 teams will be attending (and presenting) at the national American Library Association conference in Chicago in June!

Please visit http://library.vcsu.edu/vp.htm?p=2375 for more information or to submit the online application.




## Author Available for Library Visits

Tommy Zurhellen, author of the award-winning novels *Nazareth, North Dakota* and *Apostle Islands*, will be available for readings at all North Dakota libraries from late June to early July of 2013. He will be in North Dakota doing research for a new book, and would love to visit your library to read, meet people, and talk about writing.

*Nazareth, North Dakota* and *Apostle Islands* are the first two books in the Messiah Trilogy, in which the story of the Messiah is re-imagined as a tale of a young boy growing up in the prairie and Badlands of North Dakota, beginning in the 1980s. *Nazareth, North Dakota* won a gold medal at the 2012 Independent Publishers Awards, and its sequel, *Apostle Islands*, recently received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*.

If you would like to schedule a visit with Mr. Zurhellen, please send an e-mail to tommy@tommyzurhellen.com. For more information about Tommy Zurhellen, please visit www.tommyzurhellen.com.

## UND Special Collections Unveils New Exhibit About Decorated North Dakota Guard Unit

A new exhibit at the University of North Dakota has been finalized commemorating the service of the 164th Infantry Regiment during World War II. Titled "Service and Sacrifice: Remembering the 164th Infantry Regiment in World War II", the exhibit highlights several items that are part of the 164th Infantry Association Records collection, which is housed in the Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections at the Chester Fritz Library at UND.

The exhibit is open to viewing during the normal hours of operation for the Department of Special Collections, which are Monday-Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Friday 8 a.m.-4:30p.m.

# North Dakota Public Library Happenings

*The Lakota City Library is hosting pictures of the Nelson County Barn Quilt Trail. This quilt trail is the first of its kind in North Dakota. To "follow" the trail, individuals drive to various locations within Nelson County. Most quilts are hung on barns or other buildings along highways or county roads.*

*Lakota Mayor Ed Pawlikowski produced this painting replication of a quilt. Mayor Pawlikowski is also a quilter.*

*The Eddy-New Rockford Library was recently awarded the 2012 Accessibility Award by 4th Corporation's Self-Advocacy Club. The award recognizes local businesses for their efforts to improve accessibility. Eddy-New Rockford Library created walkways to their entrance with an automatic door to make it possible for people with physical challenges to access the library building. The library also installed handicapped-accessible restrooms.*

*Presenting the Accessibility Award to Susie Sharp, librarian at Eddy-New Rockford Library is 4th Corporation's Self Advocacy President Jason Ehni.*

*The Red River High School Library has received, on loan, a renovated, 19th Century Amish buggy wagon from Ray LeClerc, the grandson of North Dakota homesteaders. LeClerc's children and grandchildren attended Red River High School. He hopes to show students a piece of history through this work of art.*

*The wagon goes well with the library's theme of Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders. It will be used for book displays and other promotions.*

## Logging In Through Literati

As part of the State Library's subscription to Literati, Credo Reference has provided us with geographically-based user authentication. Basically, this form of authentication will make it easier for patrons to access quality online resources statewide. What's wonderful about this is that since Literati searches our other subscription databases, it now acts as an easily accessible portal for patrons to access our online resources. The simplest way to get there is by searching "Reference" from the search box on the ND State Library website at www.library.nd.gov. Patrons may also go directly to http://public.literati.credoreference.com.

Users generally won't be required to key in their library card number and password, but they may see a screen they're unaccustomed to. Here are all the possible new authentication scenarios:

**In library-use:** your library's external IP should be automatically authorized for seamless access.

**Home use:** a list of authorized libraries in the geographic region will be shown. Patrons will have to select a library and click the Go button. (Note that most school and public libraries in the state will be listed as North Dakota State Library, since they'll be using the State Library's portal).

**Out-of-state and mobile data use:** If a user's Internet provider is out-of-state (which is typically the case for mobile data users), they will see the same Literati screen, but instead of being able to select their library, they'll have to search for it and then provide library credentials via ODIN's login screen.

TutorND powered by tutor.com™
www.tutorND.com
Live tutors are available Sunday through Thursday
6:00pm to 10:00pm (Central Time)

## Grand Forks Public Library Hosts Winter Reading Program

The Grand Forks Public Library held a Winter Reading Program for children in grades K-6 in partnership with the University of North Dakota Athletic Department. All participants who completed six hours of reading received a ticket to the January 26th UND women's basketball game and were entered into a drawing for fun prizes.

## E-Rate : The Next Step

The FY2013 application filing window for the FCC Form 471, which opened on December 12, 2012, will close on March 14, 2013. The Form 471 and the Item 21 Attachment is the application for discounts available through the School and Libraries program. Please remember to file the Item 21 Attachment when you submit your Form 471.

Once the 28 day waiting period has passed from the date your Form 470 was certified, you can file the Form 471. If you received multiple bids from both local and out of state companies, you must evaluate every bid received. You may be asked to provide proof that you conducted a fair selection process. This is why you should create a bid evaluation matrix and save it in your E-rate file along with your copies of all forms and communications from the Schools and Libraries Division.

When evaluating bids, the highest priority must be the most cost effective bid; however, price does not have to be the only determining factor. Other relevant information can include, past performance, letters of reference from other clients, maintaining a local office or technician in your community, and other factors.

Keep in mind, the following example is just that, an example. You can include your own criteria to your matrix.

| Factor | Weight | Vendor 1 | Vendor 2 | Vendor 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cost | 40 | | | |
| Local Business Office or Technicans on site | 30 | | | |
| Previous Experience with Library | 5 | | | |
| Provided a List of References from Previous Clients | 5 | | | |
| Cost of Ineligible Products | 10 | | | |
| In State Preference | 10 | | | |
| | | | | |
| **Total** | 100 | | | |
| | | | | |

If you only received one bid, write a memo stating that only one bid was received and put that memo in your E-rate folder. If you received no bids after the 28 day period, you can ask your local provider directly to respond to your Form 470 bid. **Do not solicit bids or engage in any conversations with any vendor before the 28 day period is up.** If the local vendor calls and wants to talk about your bid before the allowable contract date, politely ask them to call back.

After you have selected your vendor, you may proceed to filing the Form 471 and Item 21 Attachments. You can file both the Form 471 and the Item 21 Attachment online at http://www.sl.universalservice.org/menu.asp. Again, please remember to file the Item 21 Attachment when you submit your Form 471.

For personal assistance or questions about E-rate, please contact Al Peterson at alpeterson@nd.gov or 701-328-4021.

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

## Continuing Education Opportunities

The following webinars are free, 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.

**Copy Cataloging with CatExpress (Minitex)**
Monday, February 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.

**Literati Public (Credo Reference)**
Wednesday, February 20, 2013, 2-3 PM (Central Time)

Join us for an hour long platform training on North Dakota's new Literati Public platform. Lisa Hill from Credo Reference will offer a thorough tour of the reference content and platform searching tools now available at your public library. We will also demonstrate the information literacy materials customized for all ND Public Libraries. Register online at http://bit.ly/YxYe76.

**The Future of Online Learning: a changing landscape (OCLC WebJunction)**
Wednesday, February 27, 2013 @ 12-1 PM (Central Time)

Join us as we explore what education innovators are doing to increase engagement through learner-centered discovery, flipped classrooms, and enhanced online learning. Let's learn from each other in this interactive webinar. Register online at http://bit.ly/TABQLt.

**Connexion Client Module 02: Basic Bibliographic Searching (Minitex)**
Tuesday, March 19, 2013, 1-3 PM (Central Time)

This online module provides instruction on performing basic bibliographic searches using OCLC's Connexion Client cataloging software. After completing this web-based training, learners will be able to conduct basic searches for bibliographic records in WorldCat, and evaluate whether a given record matches the item to be cataloged. This is the second part of a three module series designed to enable basic copy cataloging work in Connexion Client. This course is designed for learners who have little or no previous experience with Connexion Client, and who may be new to library work. Register online at http://bit.ly/TYd6LN.

**Personalize (and Share!) Your News Experience with ProQuest Newsstand Complete (Minitex)**
Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 12-12:30 PM (Central Time)

With over a thousand different news sources offering a wide range of perspectives, you can personalize the world's news with ProQuest Newsstand Complete. In this brief webinar join Minitex Reference Outreach & Instruction staff to learn how to customize your news on the topics that interest you. Any topic in the news you can follow and, if you wish, share with others. Register online at http://bit.ly/11lclCl.

*DISCLAIMER: The ND State Library highlights third-party webinars as a way to alert the library community to training opportunities. By doing so, we are not endorsing the content, nor promoting any specific product.*

## Nebraska Library Commission and ARSL Present Online Conference for Small Libraries

The Nebraska Library Commission and the Association for Rural & Small Libraries are sponsoring the Big Talk From Small Libraries 2013 online conference. The conference will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2013 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (CT) via the GoToWebinar online meeting service. This free one-day online conference is aimed at librarians from small libraries; the smaller the better. Each of the speakers will be from a small library or the speaker is one who works with small libraries.

Topics will range from technology (new tech and old tech) to programming, to new roles for the library. Come for the programs on what you're dealing with now, or maybe try something new. Everyone is welcome to register and attend, regardless of how big or small their library may be. For additional information or to register, please visit http://1.usa.gov/WI0khR.

## Field Services Launches Blog

The North Dakota State Library Field Services Department is excited to launch its Field Notes blog! Check in often at http://bit.ly/Wigzow to find out what's happening in North Dakota libraries, get the latest news, information, and ideas from NDSL and the regional library community, and to find out what's new with your Field Services representatives.

When we visit libraries and talk with librarians around the state, we see all kinds of great things happening, from new and innovative services, to creative programs and ideas. Field Notes will provide a forum for sharing these great ideas, and hopefully inspire us all to jump in and try something new. Check in with the blog to stay on top of news stories and developments from around the country that impact what we do in libraries across North Dakota. You'll also find helpful resources, links to valuable online information sources, news and announcements from NDSL, and other bits of miscellanea from your friendly Field Services representatives.

Your comments are welcome and encouraged – feel free to join the conversation and share your thoughts and ideas. We hope you'll stop by the blog soon (and often!)

## Foundation Corner

**North Dakota Community Foundation**
http://www.ndcf.net

Since 1976, the North Dakota Community Foundation has been awarding grants and providing local assistance in support of its mission to "improve the quality of life for North Dakota's citizens through charitable giving and promoting philanthropy." The Foundation awards grants, typically not exceeding $5000, to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit groups and government agencies in North Dakota, with special emphasis on supporting projects with limited access to other sources of funding. There is no narrow area of focus for grant awards, and each project is evaluated on its individual merits. To apply for funds, a letter of request must be submitted no later than August 15 annually.

A number of public libraries have received financial support from the ND Community Foundation through the Foundation's support of local area community endowment funds, to which it provides a matching grant program and operation assistance. In addition to awarding grants, the Foundation may also provide fiscal sponsorship, which makes it possible for groups that do not have 501(c)(3) tax exempt status to solicit tax-deductible donations and seek grants under the sponsorship of the ND Community Foundation.

For more information, contact the ND Community Foundation Bismarck office at 701-222-8349 or the Grand Forks office at 701-795-1531.

## Library Grant Opportunities

### EZRA JACK KEATS MINIGRANT PROGRAM

Deadline: March 15, 2013

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation created a funding initiative called Minigrants, through which awards of $500 are given to public schools and public libraries for projects that foster creative expression, working together, and interaction with a diverse community. Visit http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/minigrant-program.

### W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

Deadline: Rolling

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation places vulnerable children and their families at the center of everything they do. They want the organizations and policies they support to surround them with integrated programs that address comprehensive needs of children, their families, and communities. They're interested in funding programs that work within a programming framework for educated kids, healthy kids, secure families, racial equity, and civic engagement. Visit http://www.wkkf.org/grants/for-grantseekers.aspx.

### VERIZON FOUNDATION

Deadline: Rolling (2013 application period begins in February)

The Verizon Foundation provides support to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations within the United States. The Foundation supports the following funding priorities: education, healthcare, and sustainability. Visit http://vz.to/14PsD5g.

### SNAPDRAGON BOOK FOUNDATION

Deadline: April 15

Founded by a former school librarian, this foundation exists to put books in the hands of kids. In a time when many schools are reallocating their funds to technology and audiovisual equipment, we hope to make sure that school libraries are still offering children good books to read. Visit http://bit.ly/XfeQQa.

### WISH YOU WELL FOUNDATION

Deadline: Rolling

The Wish You Well Foundation's mission is supporting family literacy in the United States by fostering and promoting the development and expansion of new and existing literacy and educational programs. Grants range from $200-$10,000. Visit http://wishyouwellfoundation.org/apply.

### ROCKWELL COLLINS

Deadline: Rolling

Rockwell Collins makes charitable contributions to a variety of nonprofit organizations in the United States and around the world. Their giving priorities include education with an emphasis in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and arts and culture with an emphasis on youth development. They believe that by strengthening the quality of education and providing opportunities for youth involvement and leadership, they are helping students prepare for the future. Visit http://bit.ly/WZ2a1x.

## Children's Book Award Contest

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) 3rd Annual National Children's Book Award Contest is now accepting submissions. Applicants have the opportunity for their work to be reviewed and endorsed by the NAESP Foundation and published by a nationally known publisher.

Authors may choose to publish a picture book or a chapter book written for children from 3-16 years of age. Judging will be based on content, originality, and age-appropriateness. Two winners will be announced by May 4, 2013 via the NAESP Foundation website.

There is a fee for entering the contest - $45 for the first manuscript and $25 for second and subsequent entries. The contest deadline to enter is March 15, 2013. You may visit the NAESP website at http://bit.ly/YxDOv0.

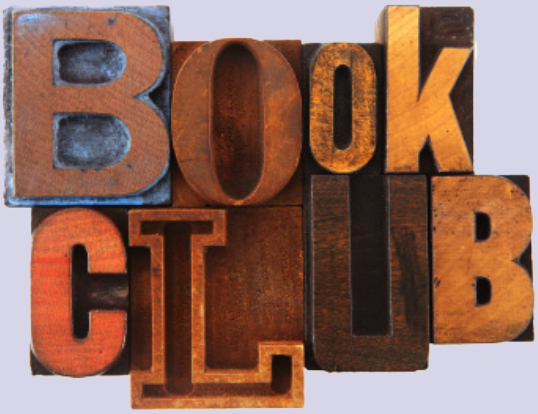
## Great Resources for Book Clubs

Looking for some ideas to bring new life to your book club this year? Check out these websites for book recommendations, discussion guides and much more!

### BOOK CLUB CHOICES

http://www.ala.org/united/friends/bookclubchoices

Book Club Choices features recommended book club titles selected by the staff of United for Libraries, the ALA's Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations. Included are book descriptions and links to book-related web resources and readers guides where available.




### READING GROUP CHOICES

http://www.readinggroupchoices.com

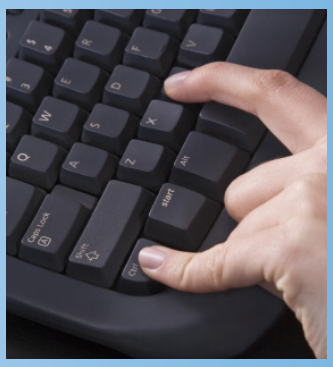
If you're looking for new book ideas, Reading Group Choices is a great resource. The Featured Books section highlights new release titles that are great options for book clubs. They also have lists of top book club favorites by year, guides and tips on many topics, such as leading book discussions, conducting book club meetings, starting a new book club, and ideas for improving and revitalizing an existing book club. A really interesting feature of the site is lists of music, wine and food pairings for numerous book club reading selections. What could be better than music, wine, food, and books – all in one place?

### LITLOVERS

http://www.litlovers.com

LitLovers also offers lists of popular book club titles, book reviews, reading and discussion guides, and how-to guides for conducting book club meetings and starting a new book club. The unique feature of this resource is their LitCourses, a collection of ten 30-minute online courses that provide instruction on basic concepts of literature, such as plot, theme, symbolism, and more. Best of all, these courses are offered free!

## Tech Tips:
## Web Browser Shortcuts



When users navigate on the computer, most don't realize the plethora of shortcuts that can make their everyday computing experience more productive and efficient. Here are a few keyboard shortcuts that apply to Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Google Chrome. Please visit http://bit.ly/11npYB0 for a complete list of browser shortcuts.

**F11:** Toggle Full Screen Mode on and off

**TAB:** Navigate forward through items on a website

**CTRL+F:** Find a word or phrase on a page

**CTRL+N:** Open the current page in a new window

**CTRL+P:** Print the current page

**CTRL+A:** Select all items on the current page

**CTRL+PLUS:** Zoom in

**CTRL+MINUS**: Zoom out

**CTRL+0 (Zero):** Zoom to 100%

**ALT+HOME:** Go to home page

**F5:** Refresh current page

**ESC:** Stop downloading current page

**CTRL+I:** Open Favorites

**CTRL+D:** Add current page to Favorites

**CTRL+H:** Open History

**CTRL+T:** Open new tab

**CTRL+TAB:** Switch to next open tab

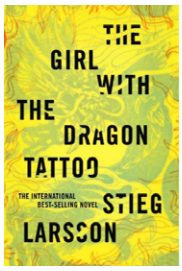
**CTRL+SHIFT+TAB:** Switch to previous open tab

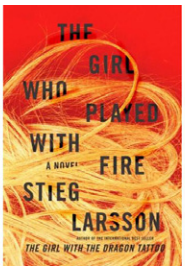
**ALT+D:** Select the Address Bar

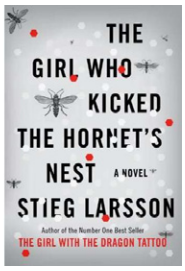
**CTRL+ENTER:** Add "http://www." to the beginning and ".com" to the end of text in the Address Bar

## Scandinavian Crime Fiction

If you got the Nordic noir bug from reading Stieg Larsson's *Millennium* series or were enthralled earlier by Peter Høeg's *Smilla's Sense of Snow* or the *Detective Wallander* series, you will want to check a selective guide to some notable authors and detective series from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and even some Nordic noir from Iceland.




Please visit http://on.nypl.org/14K63dr for a list of recommendations from a New York Public Library blog.

## 2013 Best Fiction for Young Adults

YALSA has announced its 2013 list of Best Fiction for Young Adults. This year's list of 102 books was drawn from 200 official nominations. The books, recommended for ages 12–18, meet the criteria of both good-quality literature and appealing reading for teens. The list comprises a wide range of genres and styles, including contemporary realistic fiction, fantasy, horror, science fiction, and novels in verse. You may view the list of recommended selections at http://bit.ly/WME1KH.

## North Dakota Sights and Scenes : Snow Angel Record

On a brisk February day in 2007, over 8,000 North Dakotans gathered on the state Capitol grounds to set the world record for the most snow angels made simultaneously in one place. For the uninitiated, a snow angel is a human-made depression formed in an area of snow in the shape of an angel. To create a snow angel, one must simply lie down in the snow and flap arms and legs laterally.

This wasn't the first time North Dakotans gathered to set a snow angel record. In 2002, the state set the initial category record with 1,791 participants. Then in 2006, Michigan Technological University gathered 3,784 students to snatch the record. Since 2007, the North Dakota record, officially recorded by Guinness World Records at 8,962 snow angels, has stood.

There are other communities planning to break the North Dakota record, but rest assured - North Dakotans are proud of their snow angel record. And with the fastest growing population in the nation, there are more snow angel makers in North Dakota than ever before!

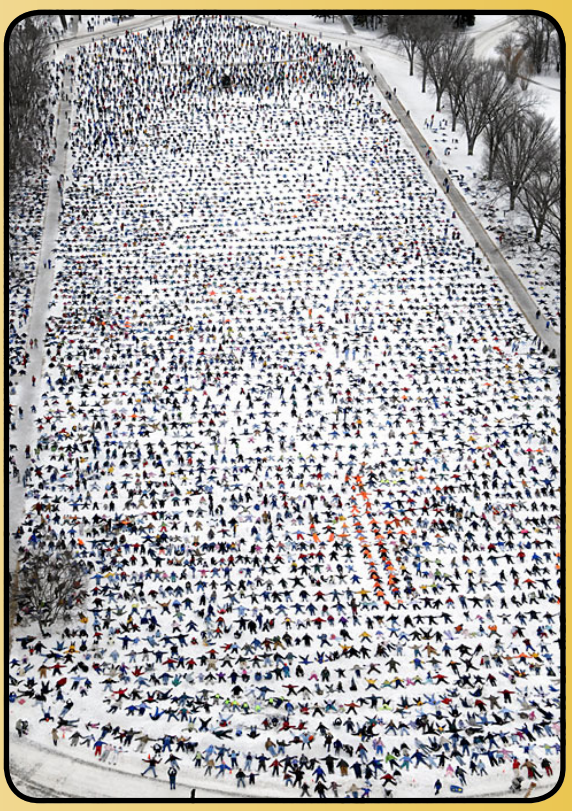


*Photo by Will Kincaid, Bismarck, ND*

## ComicsPlus: Library Edition Coming Soon

iVerse Media and Brodart have announced a digital comics platform for libraries coming April 1st of this year. ComicsPlus: Library Edition will allow public library patrons to read from a collection of around 10,000 comics and graphic novels on their mobile devices and computers. Libraries will be charged for each circulation, with graphic novels averaging $0.50 per circ. Available titles will include *Bone*, *Mouse Guard, Adventure Time, Sesame Street*, and the graphic novel versions of Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time* series.

For additional information, please visit http://iversemedia.com/products/comicsplus-library-edition.

## 2013 Talk Story Grants

The American Indian Library Association and the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association will again offer another year of minigrants for their "Talk Story: Sharing Stories, Sharing Culture" program. Talk Story is a literacy program that reaches out to Asian Pacific American and American Indian/Alaska Native children and their families through books, oral tradition, and art to provide an interactive, enriching experience. This will be the fourth year that AILA and APALA have partnered on the Talk Story project and allocated grant funding to libraries to implement programs focusing on the APA/AIAN communities. The deadline to apply is February 15. For more information, please visit http://bit.ly/WsqkCi.

## Xbox Music

In Windows 8, Xbox Music is a free music service that combines elements of Pandora, in that it can play free music in a style you choose; Spotify, in that you can listen to any song or any album or any performer, on command, free; and iTunes, in that you can buy songs to download. It's a Windows 8 exclusive; it won't work on Windows 7. The free version has, however, occasional interruptions in the form of audio/video advertisements. Music streaming is free and unlimited for the first six months; after that, you can listen free for 10 hours per month. If you're willing to pay $10 a month (or $100 a year), you can get an Xbox Music Pass, which lets you also listen on a Windows 8 phone, download songs for offline listening, sync your playlists across multiple gadgets, and eliminate advertisements. When you're listening to one type of music, Pandora-style, you can click the Skip button to pass over a song you don't care for. For additional details, please visit http://www.xbox.com/en-US/music.

## Make Plans for School Library Month

The American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) wants everyone to know and to celebrate the month of April as School Library Month. During the month, school librarians are encouraged to create activities to help their school and local community celebrate the essential role that strong school libraries play in a student's educational career. The theme for April 2013 is "Communities Matter @ Your Library." The AASL School Library Month Committee is busy planning activities and creating resources to help school librarians celebrate. For more information, visit http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm.

## E-Read and E-Pay

Total Boox is an ebook store and e-reading platform that lets you pay only for what you read. It lets you sample ebooks and take in single pages or chapters without forking over the full purchase price. Total Boox, a web and app-based system in early beta that lets you "read first, pay later." Sign up for Total Boox through its app for Android tablets and you'll receive $2 in book-buying credit. More information is available at http://on.mash.to/11nL2Y6.

## Lenovo ThinkPads For Schools

Lenovo recently announced that it is introducing a special version of its ThinkPad X131e, an education-focused notebook, running Google's Chrome operating system. This Chromebook offering will be sold exclusively to the education market, and the K-12 segment in particular, beginning February 26 via special bid for volume subscription ordering through schools. More information about the ThinkPad X131e offer is available at http://tcrn.ch/VH1eRI.

## Shifting Perceptions Within the Self-Help Genre

A recent article in the *New York Magazine* argues that part of the reason the self-help industry is doing well is that publishers have changed the way we think about self-help. It's no longer just how-to's, but memoirs, narrative nonfiction, business writing, and yes, even novels making their way onto that once-scoffed-at shelf. The thinking is, why relegate yourself to cheesy self-help books when you could clear that paranoia/codependency/narcissism up with a good novel? Which novel? Discover the answers at http://nym.ag/UuvbEa.

## Teen Tech Week

This year's Teen Tech Week is set for March 10-16, 2013. A programming concept supported by YALSA, this year's theme, "Check In @ Your Library," encourages libraries to throw open their physical and virtual doors to teens. Take the opportunity to showcase the outstanding technology your library offers, from services such as online homework help and digital literacy-focused programs to resources like e-books, movies, music, audiobooks, online databases and more. Details and planning resources are available at http://bit.ly/WZEDNZ.

## Scholastic Talks About Common Core Standards

Scholastic Publishing has launched a new website, "Common Sense for the Common Core," that aims to help teachers, school leaders, and parents understand the standards, and provides instructional programs to implement them. Designed in consultation with Common Core experts, the website answers questions about the standards and points parents and teachers to resources that clarify what is changing and what is not. Please visit http://bit.ly/11Hp9lM.

## 10 Best Digital Cameras and Tablets?

If you're considering a camera purchase in the future, you might want to note the recommendations for digital cameras provided in the December 3 issue of *PC Magazine* at http://bit.ly/13lcmUd. Also, if you are interested in purchasing a new tablet, consider the recommended tablets of the staff of the *New York Times* at http://nyti.ms/UNC53F. You decide what is "the best!"

## Free Language Apps

Finding the right language-learning program for you as an individual based on your learning style, current level, and objectives, not to mention which language you want to study is tough - even if you're willing to pay for software. It's even more difficult to find a free solution. Free language studies with mobile apps that are available are Human Japanese Lite and Conjuverb, the later for practicing Spanish verb conjugations. Another example is DW's Language course, which only covers German. Others are noted at http://bit.ly/Y8mISo.

## How to Remove Your Google Search History

Do you know if Google is tracking your Internet activity? If you have a Google account (like Gmail) and have not specifically located and paused the Web History setting, then the search giant may be keeping track of your searches and the sites you have visited. This data is shared across all of the Google products. If you'd like to prevent Google from combining this potentially sensitive data with the information it has collected from your YouTube, Google+, and other Google accounts, you can remove your Web History and stop it from being recorded moving forward. After signing into your Google account, type https://www.google.com/history into your browser. (Alternatively, you can choose Account Settings from the pull-down menu in the upper-right corner of a Google product such as Gmail, Google+, or Google.com. From the Account Settings page, scroll down to the Services header and click on the "Go to web history" link.) If your Web History is enabled, you'll see a list of recent searches and sites visited. Click the gray Remove all Web History button at the top of the page and a subsequent OK button to clear your Web History.

This action also pauses the Web History feature so that it will no longer track your Internet searches and whereabouts. If you'd like to fire it back up, simply click the resume button. For additional information, please visit the Electronic Frontier Foundation article online at http://bit.ly/Ap6vXr.

## Low-Cost Ways to Gain an Academic Advantage

The adage "Money Talks" can certainly be applied to academic opportunity, but it's certainly not the only method of achieving success academically. An article on Bankrate.com proposes five methods for giving your children an academic advantage. The first method is simply "Surround children with written and spoken language." To discover the other four methods and for more in-depth explanation, please visit http://bit.ly/X45pVw.

**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

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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.

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