NORTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY

FLICKERTALE

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Librarian for the Day

The State Library has started a new program called Librarian for the Day. State Librarian Mary Soucie, has volunteered to travel around to different libraries in North Dakota throughout the year to be an extra set of hands! The goal of the program is to get a better understanding of the needs of North Dakota libraries, get to know the librarians better and let Mary get her hands dirty!

Mary's first "Librarian for the Day" experience was with the McLean Mercer Regional Library. Mary made the trip on January 23rd to spend the day with the librarian, Beth. Overall the experience was great for both parties. Check out their takeaways below and keep your eye out, your library might be next!

Mary's takeaway from this experience:

State Librarian Mary Soucie (right) helping McLean Mercer Regional Library Director Beth (left) do some weeding.

Our first "Librarian for a Day" was scheduled for a beautiful, sunny January day. I got to the McLean Mercer Regional Library shortly after they opened for the day. I was welcomed by the Library Director, Beth, and her Assistant Librarian, Tami. After a tour of the library, Beth and I jumped into weeding. I love to weed so this was a lot of fun for me. Beth and I also talked about continuing education, library programs, promoting databases and possible uses for their building if the library board should find themselves in possession of the full building that the library is housed in. After a yummy lunch, I helped Beth and Tami do some "old fashioned library work" which meant helping them unpack the items that were delivered by the courier, finding the shelf cards and putting them in the pockets and then checking the items in. I had a lot of fun "working" in a public library again, even if just for a day. We took a tour of the bookmobile, which was parked behind the library. Beth and I chatted about the member libraries that are part of the regional library and the services that the regional library provides to them. I thoroughly enjoyed my first "Librarian for a day" and can't wait to see what I get to do at the next library.

Beth's takeaway from this expierence:

I was a little nervous about Mary being here because our walk-in traffic during the winter is kind of sparse. It ended up being kind of nice. We did some weeding - my biggest downfall. Mary gave us some great advice - "the item has to earn it's place on the shelf". When you think of items like that, it is much easier to weed. We also discussed programming, the IRS TFOP program, the ILEAD & L3ND programs, OverDrive and much more.

Mary said she hopes to eventually visit all public libraries in ND. To all librarians out there: Mary had lots of good ideas & suggestions. There's nothing to be nervous about!

If you are interested in your library participating in this program, please contact Kristin at ndslpa@nd.gov.

News and Thoughts...

from State Librarian Mary J. Soucie

I recently attended the ALA Midwinter Conference. While we were there, Chicago had one of its 10th largest blizzards, with 19" of snow dropping. I was skeptical it was going to snow that much but boy did I have to eat my words. The snow in Chicago is much heavier and it was absolutely beautiful in downtown Chicago with the snow falling on Lake Michigan and on the city streets.

For me, one of the best parts about going to any conference or event is the networking opportunities. It was great to connect with other State Librarians at COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies), which had a quarterly meeting. It was also great to connect with librarians from all over the country. I ran into a few familar faces which was a pleasant surprise.

I went to some great sessions this year; one was called "Expect More". The panel for this presentation included a professor from Syracuse University, a consultant that works with Radio-frequency identification and delivery studies, an assistant library director and a consultant who focuses on staff development. Each brought a slightly different take on the question, "what does it mean to expect more?" I invite you to take some time to reflect on that question from your patron's perspective.

One of the takeaways from that session was looking at makerspaces and programming in a different way. The presenter shared a form that's handed out with every checkout with these questions: what do you love to do, what are you passionate about, would you be interested in sharing what you know/teaching it to your community? This particular library uses it primarily to solicit folks to teach different skills in their makerspace but I think it could be applied as a library program. Why not have a monthly series called, "In our community", or something similar where you invite community members to share about a topic or teach something?

Another tidbit from that session included different ideas for maker kits: guitars, yarn and needles, general craft buckets, all circulated in small rubbermaid containers with instruction books. The list is practically endless for things you could share with your community in this way. This session also invited us to ask ourselves the following questions: where are we at, what problem are we solving, and is it the problem our patrons want us to solve? We need to focus on problem finding, rather than problem solving; maintain relevancy by figuring out what the community wants you to solve.

Probably my favorite quote from this session was this: our job is not to sit across the desk from our community but to sit next to them. That was a really powerful statement for me. My other favorite quote was "it's not what libraries do but what librarians do". The books, the databases, the library itself are all tools to help us achieve our goals. We need to build our tools so our communities look to us as trusted partners.

I had the opportunity to hear the director from the Ferguson, MO library speak. Scott Bonner shared his experiences and the decisions he made to keep the library open during the periods of unrest in Ferguson. Scott had been the director for just over a month when the shooting happened. His story was riveting. One of the most important things Scott said was that he had spent his first month learning about the library, when he should have spent it getting to know the community. One other thought he shared was that he wanted to regret saying yes too much instead of regretting saying no too much. I thought that was a great response. You can visit http://bit.ly/1zy3XtD to read a Q&A that Scott did. His story was truly inspirational, but yet not all that unusual because it's what librarians do.

I also went to the session were there was a great discussion led by Emily from ALA. Emily is planning a webinar with the IRS and was soliciting comments and questions before the meeting. The one message that was shared was to encourage patrons to communicate to their federal, state and local legislators that library budgets need to be increased to accommodate these unfunded mandates. Another suggestion was to reach out to AARP and to groups that assist low income people in your community as a source to offset the cost of printing out the publications and forms so that cost doesn't have to be passed on to patrons.

All in all, this was a great conference. If you have the chance to attend a conference this year, take advantage of the opportunity if you can.

April 6th & 7th

Spring Workshop

Hosted by the North Dakota State Library

Featured Speaker

The featured speaker will be Pat Wagner. She has been a trainer, educator, and consultant for 40 years. She is a manager and producer at Pattern Research, Inc. Pat will present two workshops on Monday, April 6, 2015:

Herding Kittens: How to Have Influence when You Don't Have Power or Authority (9am-12pm).
The Message is in the Details: Nonverbal Communication (1-4pm)

Second Day Schedule

On Tuesday, April 7, 2015 there will be a two-track format. Planned sessions include: Open Record & Meeting Law, Marketing, Google, North Dakota Studies, K-12 Databases, GED's Literacy Opportunities and TutorND.

Registration Fee:

(Fee includes catered lunch / vegetarian option available)

$35 for One Day $55 for Two Days

No Charge for public librarians who bring a Library Board Member (fee waived for both)
No Charge for school librarians who bring a school counselor (fee waived for both)

Graduate Credit

This year school media specialists can get one graduate credit from Valley City State University, by atttending the additional session Monday evening (6-9pm): http://bit.ly/1gW5Mrn

Additional Information

Spring Workshop will be held at the Bismarck Comfort Inn. A block of rooms have been reserved, call 701-223-1911 and ask for the ND State Library conference rate ($75/single).

The Spring Workshop program, online registration, and the course syllabus for those seeking the graduate credit, is available at: http://library.nd.gov/traininglibraries.html

Contact Steve Axtman @ 1-800-472-2104 or saxtman@nd.gov

It's Award Season and It's Your Turn to Win

This year at Spring Workshop, the North Dakota State Library staff are going to be giving away fun awards and FREE BOOKS to libraries attending Monday's session! A number of the awards are coming from different staff members who work with libraries. We are asking for librarians to help us with the rest of the awards! If you have achieved any of the following things below, please submit a brief description to Kristin at ndslpa@nd.gov.

1. Did you start a new library program this year (please let me know what it was)?
2. Did your library celebrate any achievement or anniversary this year?
3. Do you have an awesome board or friends group (let us know!)?
4. Have you started a new community partnership this year or strengthened one you currently have?
5. Does your library have a stand out staff member who has gone above and beyond this year?
6. Has your library made any significant improvements in the last year?

We are also accepting nominations for awards of your choosing and you can send those to Kristin. Please note above that "this year" is a rough timeline from the last Spring Workshop to this years Spring Workshop.

NDSL & CSLP Announce the 2015 "Unmask!" Teen Video Contest

Encourage your teens to enter the 2015 North Dakota "Unmask!" Teen Video Contest for a chance to win a $150 prize! The local public library of the winning teen will receive $50 worth of prizes from Upstart.

The deadline to enter is March 20, 2015. For complete rules visit: http://1.usa.gov/1x6SV3a

To see the 2014 winning video visit: http://bit.ly/1xcBkW2

If you have questions about the contest, contact Sarah at smatusz@nd.gov or 328-4663.

We'll See You at Summer Reading Workshops!

You can still register at http://bit.ly/1IiQqK.

Images are copyrighted. Contact the CSLP at 1-866-607-6556 or info@cslpreads.org for more information.

ONLINE LIBRARY RESOURCE

ROCKET LANGUAGES

Rocket Languages is an online resource to assist in learning a new language. It is a comprehensive, multi-media learning system which features fully downloadable, iPod/MP3 compatible, interactive audio lessons. Audio lessons are conversations between Spanish speakers. Each conversation is broken down so the learner can follow along and say the Spanish words and phrases aloud as though they're taking part in a real life situation.

Rocket Languages also has culture lessons, language games, self-testing technology, and a social forum to interact with other language learners. Currently there are 12 languages available. Rocket Languages is browser or app based so you will need an up-to-date browser, Adobe Flash Player, and Media Player or iTunes to download audio lessons to a computer or smart device. Free apps are available at Apple Store, Google Play for Android devices and Amazon Appstore for Kindle Fire.

A valid North Dakota library card is required to setup a personal account in Rocket Languages. The Remote Access Number assigned to schools and libraries will not work. Currently, Rocket Languages recognizes the library cards from 37 North Dakota libraries. If your local library does not issue library cards or has a circulation system incompatible with SIP2 authentication, you can get a free library card from the North Dakota State Library: http://library.nd.gov/librarycard.html.

Rocket Languages is part of the Freegal Suite: Freegal Music, (Freegal Movies, Freading, and Rocket Languages). To learn more you can attend a 1-hour webinar (http://library.nd.gov/webinars.html) or contact Steve Axtman at the North Dakota State Library: saxtman@nd.gov, 1-800-472-2104.

Call for Participation: Libraries TV WhiteSpace Pilot

The North Dakota State Library joins the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) and Gigabit Libraries Network to announce an open call for libraries and their communities to join a national pilot aimed at expanding testing of television whitespace use in communities across the country.

TV WhiteSpace (TVWS) refers to the unused broadcasting frequencies in the wireless spectrum. Television networks leave gaps between channels for buffering purposes. This space in the wireless spectrum is similar to what is used for 4G. It is free public spectrum, openly available, and can be used to deliver widespread broadband internet in daily service of community, civic, educational, economic, cultural and health goals, and also to support disaster response. As established community anchors, libraries are well-positioned to sponsor or collaborate on TVWS installations, fostering development of innovative uses for TVWS at new locations.

TVWS installations require modest investments in equipment but involve no third party carriers, fees, licenses or other permissions. TVWS has long range and penetrative capabilities that can support broadband connections over miles and through obstructions like trees and buildings. TVWS has been tested in many areas and may have its greatest potential in rural settings.

COSLA is preparing information and online sessions to share more information about TVWS capabilities and limitations aimed at assisting libraries in evaluating participation in the current pilot. Librarians wishing to learn more are asked to register an initial statement of interest at http://svy.mk/173Oefb. Registering interest carries no commitment and serves solely to establish communication among interested librarians as additional information about the project unfolds in the weeks ahead.

For more information, contact COSLA Executive Director Timothy Cherubini, tcherubini@cosla.org. This project is made possible in part through funding by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which promotes more informed and engaged communities. The project is a winner of the recent Knight News Challenge on Libraries, Prototype Fund category, with Gigabit Libraries Network serving as the lead partner.

New Book Club Kits

We are pleased to announce that we have added new titles to our collection of book club kits. The following book club kits can be checked out from the North Dakota State Library. You can check out these and other book club kits by using KitKeeper, http://bit.ly/1tgOGKP, or by contacting the Reference Department at the North Dakota State Library.

- A History of the World in 6 Glasses by Tom Standage
- Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk by Ben Fountain
- The Giver by Lois Lowry
- Hutterites: Our Story to Freedom by The Nine
- I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai
- Maus by Art Spiegelman (Graphic Novel)
- The Missing Place by Sophie Littlefield
- Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman
- The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion
- Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed

#ndlibchat

Allison Radermacher, library media specialist for Ellendale Public School, and Maggie Townsend, library media specialist for Legacy High School in Bismarck, invite all librarians to participate in #ndlibchat.

#ndlibchat is a Twitter chat held the first and third Sunday of each month at 9 pm CST. Although hosted by school librarians, the topics have something for every librarian or even lovers of libraries and reading. Simply tweet using #ndlibchat or search for that hashtag to participate in the conversation. Both Radermacher and Townsend are Valley City State University graduates of the Masters of Education program with concentration in library and information technologies program.

#ndlibchat is great opportunity for librarians around the state to collaborate and share ideas. If you need any help setting up a twitter account or trying to figure out how to particiapte in #ndlibchat, please contact Kristin at ndslpa@nd.gov!

Snapshot Day 2015

Written by: Janet Anderson, Minot Public Library Director

Libraries across North Dakota are encouraged to participate in Snapshot Day on Wednesday, April 15th 2015 or any day during National Library Week (4/12/15 through 4/18/15). Snapshot Day began in 2009 when a task force of librarians in New Jersey wanted to show the value libraries provide their communities.

Since 2009, all types of libraries around the country have participated in Snapshot Day by documenting a day in the life of their library through statistics, photographs, stories and more. According to the ALA website "Library Snapshot Day: A Day in the Life of Your Library" this initiative "provides a way for libraries of all types across a state, region, system or community to show what happens in a single day in their libraries. How many books are checked out? How many people receive help finding a job? Doing their taxes? Doing their homework? This initiative provides an easy means to collect statistics, photos and stories that will enable library advocates to prove the value of their libraries to decision-makers and increase public awareness."

The Library Advocacy and Funding Committee of NDLA met in January and came to the conclusion that in order to increase funding and advocate for improved library services, libraries must demonstrate WHAT we do in order to show our value to our administrators, board members, legislators and the community. Libraries already track much of the work we do, but Snapshot Day goes a step further by detailing the type of work being done and can include photos and personal stories. This is where you come in: on Wednesday, April 15th (or any day during National Library Week) compile information regarding all types of questions, programs and other services that take place at your library. More information will soon be available regarding what to do with the information you collect and how to promote this event.

THEY ARE BACK FOR 2015

TRAVELING HISTORICAL DISPLAYS

The North Dakota Traveling Historical Displays are back for another year. We have made a few changes to the program, to better serve you. First, the check out period is now for eight full weeks. This will give each library adequate time to mail the displays back and forth. Second, the displays are now available for check out through KitKeeper (http://bit.ly/1tgOGKP). Keep an eye out at Spring Workshops for our 5 new traveling displays being added to the collection!

FREE TRAINING WEBINARS

These webinars are free, live, and interactive. You will be connected to audio using a headset or speakers. If you do not have a microphone, you can use chat to ask questions. You can find more webinars and training opportunities on our Facebook page under the events tab! http://on.fb.me/1xOGaLB

Insights and practical tips on practicing mindful librarianship to manage stress (Minitex)

REGISTER: http://bit.ly/1CgSNOp

Friday, February 20, 2015, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Central Time)

Mindfulness practice has tremendous potential to help librarians manage work-related stress and improve the quality of our library services. Ever-increasing demands, having to "do more with less" and constant multitasking can make us feel time-starved. Mindfulness practice helps us focus on simplicity and be nonjudgmental, enabling us to provide library services with a spirit of engagement, joy, and fulfillment.

Learning Express Library (NDSL)

REGISTER: http://bit.ly/1E0Pefd

Thursday, February 26, 2015, 3:30 -4:30 PM (Central Time)

Learning Express Library is a database of test preparation and skills building. It is a great resource for preparing for standardized tests like the ACT or ASVAB. Two new centers have been added: Computer Skills and Job & Career Accelerator. This webinar is an overview of Learning Express Library.

Fabulous and Free Open Online Resources for Teaching (Minitex)

REGISTER: http://bit.ly/1DhQqfN

Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 10:00 – 11:00 AM (Central Time)

Attendees will learn about sources of high quality, free online educational resources for teaching and learning. Participants will walk away with multiple resources for teaching in all content areas, strategies for integrating digital resources with curriculum, and how to use these resources to engage and inspire students. Tools for game-based learning, flipped learning, and inquiry based learning will also be discussed.

Freegal Suite (NDSL)

REGISTER: http://bit.ly/1KMn2z4

Friday, March 6, 2015, 10:30 – 11:30 AM (Central Time)

The Freegal (free and legal) suite includes: Freegal Music, Freegal Movies, Freading, and Rocket Languages. Each library card holder is limited to certain number of downloads per week. Users must login with a recognized personal library card number and password. This webinar will navigate each module, view site features and content, and discuss logins, accounts, and apps.

Information Literacy – Do Students Know What They Are Looking For? (Minitex)

REGISTER: http://bit.ly/16Ty7kG

Monday, March 30, 2015, 12:30 – 1:15 PM (Central Time)

K-12 students are beginner researchers and need guidance on building search strategies and locating authoritative resources. In this 45 minute webinar we will discuss commonly used techniques from AskMN librarians to help students with the initial stages of research. Any librarian interested in learning new information literacy techniques will find this webinar helpful.

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.

SCHOOL AND LIBRARY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NORTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS — DEADLINE: AUGUST 15

The North Dakota Community Foundation was formed by a group of citizens who were interested in establishing an efficient way of meeting some of the needs in North Dakota in the educational, charitable, arts, scientific, and health areas. They are a tax-exempt, nonprofit, autonomous, publicly supported, nonsectarian philanthropic institution. NDCF makes grants only to 501(c)(3) organizations and government agencies. Grants normally do not exceed $5,000.

To find out more or apply, visit their site at: http://bit.ly/1epWEM1

In addition to their statewide grant, they also have active community funds throughout the state. You can locate these and get more information about grants available to your community here: http://bit.ly/1ihoOvF

BIG READ FOUNDATION — DEADLINE: JANUARY 28

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. It provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. The Big Read supports organizations across the country in developing community-wide reading programs which encourage reading and participation by diverse audiences. Organizations selected to participate in The Big Read receive a grant, access to online training resources and opportunities, and educational and promotional materials designed to support widespread community involvement.

To find out more or apply, visit their site at: http://bit.ly/100Ue0X

AMERICAN HONDA FOUNDATION — DEADLINE: MAY 1

The American Honda Foundation's mission is to help meet the needs of American society in the areas of youth and scientific education by awarding grants to nonprofits, while strategically assisting communities in deriving long-term benefits. Their funding priority is youth education, specifically in the areas of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, the environment, job training, and literacy. The grant range is from $20,000 - $75,000.

To find out more or apply, visit their site at: http://bit.ly/ZQbcko

MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION — DEADLINE: APRIL 4

INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

MPLA sponsors a professional development grants program to improve library services in the Mountain Plains region by supporting continuing education and research experiences for individuals employed in the library or related professions. Grants are awarded to support formal course work leading to an advanced degree in library science or a related discipline; formal course work not leading to an advanced degree but directly related to an individual's library position; attendance as a participant or presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference, including the MPLA annual conference; visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures; and library related research projects. Applicants must be members of MPLA. Awards are up to $600.

To find out more or apply, visit their site at: http://bit.ly/1kqSACt

North Dakota Library Tidbits

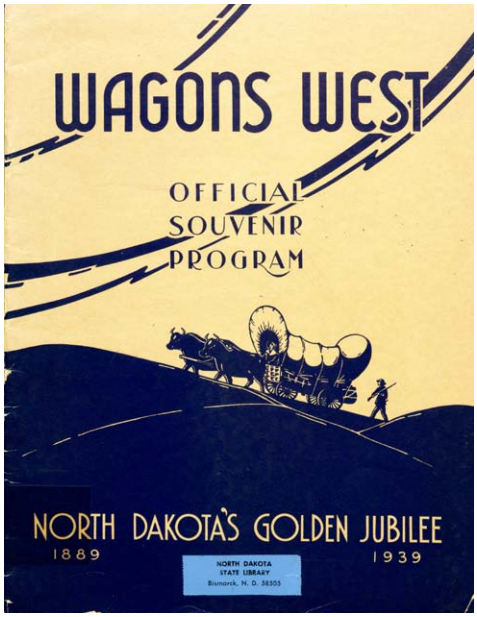
- The Central Cass Student Council presented $200, 100% of the proceeds from Ugly Sweater Day, to the Casselton City Library
- The McVille Community Library reached their goal of raising $5,000 for new bookshelves through local donations and a $4,000 grant from the ND Community Foundation
- The Bernice Ferguson Community Library in Michigan received a donation of five magazine subscriptions from Laurie Vasichek
- The Lake Region Public Library received a grant from the Devils Lake Area Foundation for a DLP projector
- The Finley-Sharon FFA donated $1,000 to the Finley Library
- The North Star Community Credit Union employees made a generous donation to the Carnegie Regional Library in Grafton
- The Walhalla Public Library received a donation from American Legion Bartlette Resler post #62, which they used to purchase three new computer stools and three new DVD players
- The Minnewaukan Public Library received a $300 grant from the Devils Lake Area Foundation for the purchase of best-selling fiction books
- The Mayville Public Library received donations from the Charity Trust Fund, Xcel Energy, and numerous local supporters
- The Carnegie Regional Library recently celebrated their 110th anniversary with a "Re-Grand Opening" day, featuring pie and ice cream; they also conducted a food drive for the Walsh County Food Pantry in conjunction with the celebration
- The Fargo Public Library recently hosted their LEGO Mania: LEGO Design Contest for Kids event, complete with activities, games, and prizes
- The Stanley Public Library is currently doing a Blind Date with a Book event
- The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library recently conducted a survey and series of focus groups as part of their strategic planning initiative
- The Fargo Public Library circulated more than 1 million items in 2014, their highest ever; they also had record program attendance, with nearly 20,000 attending this past year

Pawn Stars

The Edna Ralston Public Library in Larimore, hosted a chess club "Pawn Stars" earlier this month. They were honored to have John Allensworth come and teach them chess strategy. John has been a member of the US Chess Federation since 1989, and has directed close to 80 chess tournaments.

He resides in Grand Forks and is dedicated to providing opportunities for children to play and learn chess. The chess players had a great time! Even the librarian learned something new about chess! For more pictures check out the Edna Ralstons Facebook Page: http://on.fb.me/1F5JfJK

DiGiTAL DELiGHTS



This is just one of the books you can find in the County and Town Histories Collection on Digital Horizons. All books are full text searchable. North Dakota history is at the tips of your fingers! Here are some of the January additions:

- Burlington Centennial, 1883-1983
- Galesburg Centennial, 1882-1982
- The Old Settlers' Memorial Monument Ass'n, Inc., presents a look into the past (1964)
- Stirum Diamond Jubilee, 1907-1982
- Carrington: prairie heartland (1975)

Check out the NEW, more viewer friendly website at http://digitalhorizonsonline.org/ —see how many digital North Dakota gems you can find!

Digital Horizons

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

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