

# Connections



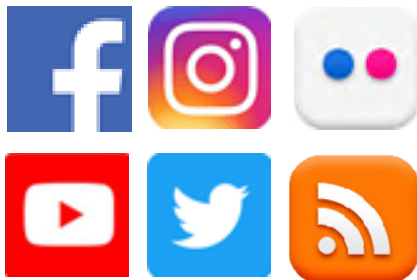
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## CONNECTIONS SURVEY

The North Dakota State Library continually strives to provide interesting and pertinent information in the *Connections* Newsletter. In order to do this, we need to hear from you! Please take a minute to fill out this [short survey](#) (3 questions).

**Subscribe  
to our newsletter!**



**Sign up for a  
Library Card!**

## SUMMER READING BINGO

Summer Reading BINGO cards aren't due back until August 30, so you still have some time to get your last squares completed and sent back to the State Library! You do not need to get a blackout in order to be eligible for the grand prize, and you can send in multiple cards.

If you still need to print out your BINGO card, it can be found on the State Library's website: <http://library.nd.gov/publications/2019bingocard.pdf>

## ADULT LEARNING VIA E-AUDIOBOOKS

Many patrons take advantage of the selection of Pimsleur language courses available via Recorded Books, with eight different languages to choose from as well as ESL. But there are also two leading lines of adult education lecture series offered – The Great Courses and Modern Scholar.

The 87 Modern Scholar courses are generally in the fields of history, religion, literature, and science and run about 8 hours. Some of the most popular titles are Winston Churchill: Man of the Century, God Wills It!: Understanding the Crusades, and Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans: Foundations of Western Civilization.

The 19 Great Courses titles are generally 12 hours long and focused on business and psychology. Popular options include Your Deceptive Mind: A Guide to Critical Thinking Skills, The Addictive Brain, Practicing Mindfulness: An Introduction to Meditation, The Entrepreneur's Toolkit, and The Vikings.

## MANGO LANGUAGES OVERVIEW WEBINAR

Have you always wanted to learn a new language or brush up on one you took years ago? Mango Languages is a new language learning database available for everyone in the state with a public library card or a State Library card.

The State Library is offering a free informational webinar on Tuesday, August 20 (1:30-2:15). This session will go over all things Mango, including how to sign up, how to navigate through the portal, course review and content, and how to use the mobile app.

Start the conversation in your choice of over 70 world languages and dialects through courses crafted using conversational methodology, delivered through native speaker dialogue, and created with each individual learner in mind.

Register for this webinar through our [calendar](#).

Note: If webinar registration is full or you cannot attend, please email [nds1train@nd.gov](mailto:nds1train@nd.gov) to get the recording.

### NEW EBOOKS

*Internment* by Samira Ahmed

*King's Cage* by Victoria Aveyard

*Night of Miracles* by Elizabeth Berg

*The Fires of Heaven* by Robert Jordan

*The Lager Queen of Minnesota* by J. Ryan Stradal

### NEW E-AUDIOBOOKS

*The Weekenders* by Mary Kay Andrews

*The Kennedy Detail* by Gerald Blaine

*Beauty Queens* by Libba Bray

*Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman

*Smoke Screen* by Iris Johansen

These titles, along with many others, are available on [RBdigital](#).

## NICHE ACADEMY

This month's database is another new one from the State Library and one that can be used without a library card.

[Niche Academy](#) is a continuing education database that takes a new twist on learning courses. Unlike Universal Class, these self-paced courses are put together by librarians and those in the library or information fields.

Each course is done at your own pace and you do not need an account to take them. You can create a free account so you can track your progress and the courses that you have taken. Your browser will remember your progress without an account so long as the cookies have not been deleted.

Some of the courses are full classes and others are portals to get to the webinar or course that you are looking for. We are trying to make finding professional development easier for all people involved. Some of the courses include time management and how to use Twitter. Not every course is to promote your professional life but can be used to enhance your knowledge on things you aren't as familiar with.

Courses are being added to this database on a frequent basis and we are still developing our academy. So, if there is something you would like to see and don't then let us know and we can look into creating a course for it.

If you have any questions, please email us at [nds1train@nd.gov](mailto:nds1train@nd.gov).

## **HEIR TO THE EMPIRE BY TIMOTHY ZAHN**

Reviewed by Trevor Martinson

I had never been interested in the seemingly endless [Star Wars Expanded Universe books](#), but then I saw the film *The Last Jedi* and everything changed for me. After leaving the theater disappointed in Disney's direction of the franchise, I decided to turn to the books.

After becoming overwhelmed on [where to start](#), I did some digging and the consensus seemed to be to start with Timothy Zahn's *Heir to the Empire*. First published in 1991, the book is the initial entry in a trilogy set five years after the events of the *Return of the Jedi* film (Battle of Endor, defeat of Darth Vader and the Emperor, and the destruction of the second Death Star).

The book follows the continued adventures of Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and Princess Leia. Han and Leia are married and expecting twins, Luke is the galaxy's last Jedi, and the remaining Imperial troops have been driven back. However, the cunning Grand Admiral Thrawn has taken command of the Imperial fleet and has a plan to destroy the New Republic.

Timothy Zahn is a well-known author in the Star Wars book world, and there's a reason for that: he's good at it. Zahn has crafted a story that keeps you entertained, and it's full of interesting locations and characters (old and new). The book is a good read for any level of Star Wars fan.

*Heir to the Empire* is available on [RBDigital](#) as an e-audiobook. Tip: If you're going to read Star Wars books, go with the audiobook versions (normally narrated by Marc Thompson). They utilize the film franchise's sound effects, so they're a lot of fun.

The State Library also has a number of other Star Wars books available in [print](#) and [electronic](#) formats.

### **UNIVERSAL CLASS COURSE OF THE MONTH: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 101**

This course is designed for a novice in digital photography. It will first go over what digital photography is, the ins and outs of your camera, and how to take great photographs. After completing this course, you will be a pro at taking photographs and editing them to capture the perfect moments in your life.

This course consists of 13 lessons, 33 exams/assignments, and should take about 8 hours to complete.

Sign up for an account through Universal Class today. All you need is a library card from your local public library or the State Library.

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