

# Connections

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## The State Library's Response to COVID-19

Libraries across the state, including the State Library, are implementing changes to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. The State Library has a phased re-opening plan based on the ND Smart Restart guidelines and modeled after the plans of many of our libraries across the state.

Our first phase of re-opening included implementing appointment times for people to visit the library. We limited the number of patrons in our meeting rooms to 3 at a time. Our basement stacks are closed to the public, but staff members will happily retrieve any materials that you need from the collection. We have limited the public computers to two; one has a 15-minute time limit, and the other is limited to Unemployment/Employment and Immigration related work. We are still mailing materials to patrons across the state but will now mail directly to Bismarck area patrons as well. We have curbside pickup available on request, and a number of Bismarck-Mandan patrons have taken advantage of that service.

**On Monday, July 6, we will be moving to the next phase of our opening plan. The Liberty Memorial Building will be open from 8:00 A.M. until noon. Appointments will still be available for the afternoon hours as will curbside on request.** We will continue to limit the number of patrons in the reading room but have increased the number to five. There is a one-hour time limit to be in the library.

We have installed sneeze guards on our public services desks. **All persons entering the building will be screened by answering three questions and having their temperature taken.** State employees who have been screened at another building on the Capitol complex do not need to be re-screened by State Library staff. Masks are strongly encouraged, and we will provide a mask for all people that don't have their own. State employees who want to come in and pick up holds may do so during open hours or may make an appointment to pick them up during the afternoon hours.

Libraries across the state have been very innovative at changing services and programs to meet the needs of their communities throughout the pandemic. Many of our public libraries are opening or continuing to provide curbside pickup to their community. Check your local library's social media to learn about virtual programs and other opportunities.

We are excited to welcome you back to the State Library in person and look forward to continuing to meet your information needs.

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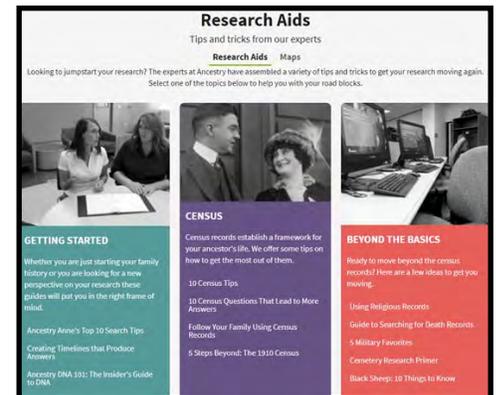
## [Ancestry Library Edition](#)

For those of you who have wanted to give Ancestry.com a try, but don't want to get roped into a contract, we have a solution for you! The North Dakota State Library subscribes to Ancestry Library Edition, and it is currently completely free to use at home. Generally, this database is only available in the library building, but they have opened it up to the public to use from home. All you need to access it is the [link](#) and your library card.

Ancestry Library Edition offers the same results that the subscription to Ancestry.com does, including valuable hints to help you through your genealogical research. However, there are a few minor differences - you cannot create an Ancestry account through Library Edition or link an existing Ancestry account. Therefore, you will not be able to build your family tree on this side of the site like you would be able to with a subscription. If you have an Ancestry account, you can add to your family tree without having an active subscription. So, when you find that great piece of the puzzle, you can either print off the page or email it to yourself and add it to your family tree later. Ancestry Library Edition incorporates forms that you can print off and fill in to keep your information organized, and forums to help you when you really get stuck.

Ancestry Library Edition is available at home for a limited time, so make sure to take advantage of it while you can!

If you have any questions about this database or any others that we subscribe to, please feel free to contact us at [nds1train@nd.gov](mailto:nds1train@nd.gov).



## **Course of the Month: [Creating WordPress Websites](#)**

WordPress is one of the most common places out there to begin creating a free website. It makes it easy to start one without any coding experience at all. WordPress not only has easy to use features that are available for free, but it also has features for those with more coding experience to explore.



Universal Class offers a course that will go over all of this. The course is set up to help those with no experience understand how WordPress works and how to set up a website through them. Some of the lessons include not just setting up a website but also exploring graphics and images for it, planning a layout, exploring themes, and even an introduction to HTML. This course will take you from knowing nothing about Wordpress to setting up and maintaining your own website.

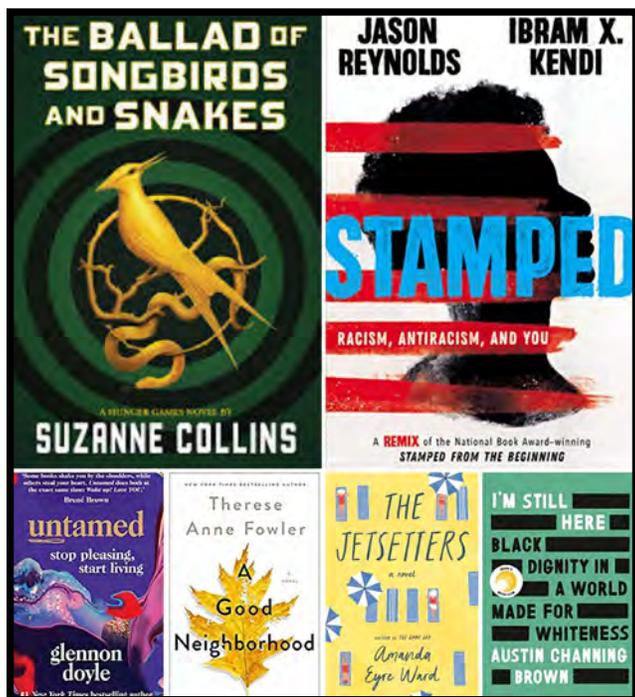
The course is comprised of 13 lessons, 28 exams and assignments, and should take about 5 hours to complete.

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

# New Items At The North Dakota State Library

The North Dakota State Library will mail out items from the collection to anyone in North Dakota who has a State Library card. If you don't already have a library card with the State Library, fill out an [online application](#) and a card will be sent to you.

## New E-Audiobooks



## New E-Books



## New York Times Bestsellers



## New Adult Books



## Interlibrary Loan Update

Beginning July 6th, the North Dakota State Library will fully resume all Interlibrary Loan activities. With many libraries still closed, the process may have some delays, but we appreciate your continued patience as we all figure out our "new normal." If you have any questions, please feel free to call 328-4622 or email [statelib@nd.gov](mailto:statelib@nd.gov).

## The StoryGraph

Looking for your next favorite book? Use [The StoryGraph](#)! The StoryGraph is a step away from the popular book-tracking site Goodreads that allows for a more customized list based on moods, genres, pace, and characters. The StoryGraph, a startup company that is still in Beta testing, aims to personalize their reading recommendations to the user with a quick and simple quiz that asks questions like, "What genres aren't you interested in reading right now?" and, "What characteristics do you appreciate the most?" Seriously, it is awesome. Once the results from the reading preferences quiz come in, readers can further limit the recommendations by book-length, mood genre, and more. Don't worry. It's easy to update the reading preferences quiz, too.



For those who are afraid of leaving the tried-and-true Goodreads, rest assured that The StoryGraph has many of the same features. Users can import their entire Goodreads library with the click of a few buttons. After that, the books remain sorted into their respective shelves. Users on The StoryGraph can also rate and review books similar to Goodreads, but ratings with ½ stars are also accepted.

What makes The StoryGraph different is that it has an intuitive and updated interface, makes recommendations based on user-generated content such as book pace, mood, and character likeability, and is overall a friendly website to interact with. What it lacks, however, is the social aspect of Goodreads, where users can comment on friends' reviews and books as well as well-curated lists, easy series tracking, and a mobile app. Certainly, those things are to come to The StoryGraph (it is updated almost weekly), but they currently aren't supported. Overall, The Storygraph is an excellent choice for those that prioritize personalization in their reading recommendations and want to support an independent businesswoman.

## E-Audiobook Series: Romance

For maximum escapism, here are the series with the highest number of available e-audiobook titles. And they are all set to unlimited simultaneous usage, so no holds! Check them out [today](#)!

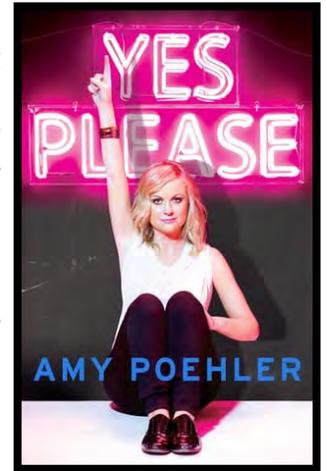


- *Montana Cahills* by B.J. Daniels (7 vol.)
- *Westmoreland* by Brenda Jackson (9 vol.)
- *Kendrick/Coulter/Harrigan* by Catherine Anderson (7 vol.)
- *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon (19 vol.)
- *Harmony* by Jodi Thomas (9 vol.)
- *Raines of Wind Canyon* by Kat Martin (7 vol.)
- *Montana Creeds* by Linda Lael Miller (6 vol.)
- *Parable, Montana* by Linda Lael Miller (6 vol.)
- *McKettricks* by Linda Lael Miller (10 vol.)
- *Westcott* by Mary Balogh (6 vol.)
- *Survivors Club* by Mary Balogh (7 vol.)
- *Undead* by MaryJanice Davidson (15 vol.)
- *Virgin River* by Robyn Carr (19 vol.)
- *Thunder Point* by Robyn Carr (8 vol.)
- *Cynster* by Stephanie Laurens (11 vol.)

## ***Yes Please* by Amy Poehler**

Reviewed by Marlee Seibold

Written by actress and comedian Amy Poehler, *Yes Please*, takes you through important moments in her life and career. She explains how comedy helps get you through life's tough moments, but also how it is okay to be serious. She tackles the subjects of motherhood, divorce, relationships, friendships, and how the choices we make change us and make us who we are. You learn about her time on Saturday Night Live and how some of her most famous sketches came to be. Along with stories from the movies and TV shows she has worked on throughout her career. She is able to find humor in life's awkward moments and relays them to her audience without hiding her mistakes. She talks about her fears and what it is like to live your life with the world watching. She can be a little too self-deprecating at times, but it seems to be more of a defense, making sure the reader knows she is just doing the best with what she's got.



Some of her best wisdom throughout the book is how to be comfortable and happy with yourself and how it is an uphill battle that she struggles with, but tries to do better every day. I really enjoyed listening to this book for a couple of different reasons. First, I have always enjoyed Amy's humor, and listening to her talk about her time at SNL or the other projects she has worked on was interesting to listen to. I also enjoyed how many of her friends, like Seth Meyers, wrote and recorded a piece for the book. It is always fascinating to hear how others perceive their close friends because it almost never matches what they think of themselves.

I do think listening to this book would be better than reading it. Some of the things she says sound better and come out funnier because it is being said by her and not being read on a page. You don't get answers to life's biggest questions in this book, but you do get an enjoyable, lighthearted and humorous read, so if that is what you are looking for, this is a book for you.

*Yes, Please* is available as an [audiobook](#) on RBdigital and in [print](#).

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