

National Endowment for the Arts Big Read

Applications are now being accepted for the 2023-2024 granting cycle, for activities occurring between September 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our neighbors, and ourselves through the power of a shared reading experience. Showcasing a diverse range of contemporary themes, voices, and perspectives, the NEA Big Read aims to inspire meaningful conversations, artistic responses, and new discoveries and connections in each community.

The NEA Big Read annually provides support to selected nonprofit organizations around the country to host dynamic community-wide reading programs, each designed around a single NEA Big Read title. Organizations apply for funding through a grants program managed by Arts Midwest. Each community program that receives an NEA Big Read grant—which ranges between \$5,000 and \$20,000—is also provided with resources, outreach materials, and training on various aspects such as working with local partners, developing public relations strategies, and leading book discussions and Q&As.

Visit <https://www.artsmidwest.org/programs/neabigread> for more information.



2023
School Librarian of the Year Award

SCHOLASTIC
Sponsored by Scholastic

SLJ School Library Journal

2023
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN of the YEAR

The graphic features a blue background with several stylized fireworks in yellow, orange, and light blue. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, sans-serif and serif fonts. The Scholastic logo is a red rectangle with a white book icon and the word 'SCHOLASTIC' in white. The SLJ logo is in white with 'School Library Journal' in a smaller font below it. The award logo is a yellow circle with a blue border and the text '2023 SCHOOL LIBRARIAN of the YEAR' in blue and white.

Libraries in the News

[Dickinson library board makes decision on sex education book \(KFYR\)](#)

Dickinson's library board reached a decision on what some believed to be a pornographic sex education book about to hit the library shelf.

Board members decided to place the book in the adult non-fiction section with restrictions in place...

[Fargo Featured: Fargo Public Library \(WDAY\)](#)

Fargo Public Library Director Timothy Dirks spoke with WDAY Radio to share details on their primary purpose, services they provide to the F-M area, and plans for the library's future...

Shareable Videos From Everyone Reads

Are you looking for videos to share on social media? Everyone Reads offers shareable short videos of celebrities and bestselling authors on why they love to read and the books they recommend. You can share these videos on your social media platforms to spread the joy of reading with your community.

Find videos of Debbie Macomber, Emily St. John Mandel, Jason Reynolds, Marie Lu, R.L. Stine, Philippa Gregory, Eoin Colfer, Christopher Paolini, Min Jin Lee, and many others at <https://everyonereads.com/>.



Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program

Recognizing the importance of effective outreach to eligible households from trusted messengers to historically underserved communities, Congress authorized the FCC to establish the Outreach Grant Program. The Outreach Grant Program provides eligible governmental and non-governmental entities with the funding and resources needed to increase awareness of and participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program among those eligible households most in need of affordable connectivity.

The goal of the Outreach Grant Program is to facilitate the promotion of the Affordable Connectivity Program and increase awareness of and participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program among eligible households.

To access application forms and instructions, go to grants.gov under Assistance Listing (CFDA) Number: 32.011 - Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program. By submitting an application, organizations agree to comply with the requirements of the NOFO.

For more information, go to <https://www.fcc.gov/acp-grants>.



Project-Based Learning

People retain information best under certain circumstances:

1. When the task means something to them outside of just receiving a grade,
2. When the task challenges them to employ 21st-century skills, such as problem-solving, collaboration, and communication, and
3. When the task can be tied to other interests.

Keeping these conditions in mind, say hello to project-based learning! Project-based learning is nothing new, although it has come with other names, including inquiry-based learning, learning by doing, and hands-on learning. Regardless of the actual title, project-based learning (PBL) entails instructional approaches that utilize multifaceted projects to help students learn in meaningful ways (The Glossary, 2013). Most PBLs take multiple days or class periods to complete and can embrace both solo and group work. The guiding questions and tasks are usually open-ended and follow small assessments as the projects progress. Checklists or rubrics can be excellent, and easy to understand, assessment tools for students. A main goal of project-based learning is for students to take the skills they learned and be able to apply them to future assignments and personal pursuits. In many cases, PBL is more about the process of learning than it is about the final, resulting creation!

[Read More](#)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Tammy Kruger

***Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Action: Planning, Leadership, and Programming* edited by Christine Bombard**

This week's EDI article focuses on a book from NDSL's stacks: *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Action: Planning, Leadership, and Programming*. This resource addresses ten EDI themes in academic libraries. Most of the chapters explain case studies conducted at different colleges and universities across the United States...

[Read More](#)



Summer Reading Workshops

Although it looks more snowy than sunny outside, it's time to start thinking about Summer Reading 2023!

The North Dakota State Library will be conducting Summer Reading Workshops a bit differently this upcoming year. We will be using a train-the-trainer format, where six public librarians have volunteered to meet, discuss, and then share their ideas with you! All trainings will be conducted in February, with each lasting three hours in total.

Training dates and locations

Valley City Barnes County Public Library on February 3rd

Grand Forks Public Library on February 13th

Morton Mandan Public Library on February 14th

Minot Public Library (with visiting librarian from Divide Co. Public Library) on February 17th

Williston Community Library on February 22nd

Register at <https://bit.ly/3AoBikX>.

Resources on Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infections (RSV) for Library Patrons

Bobbi Newman, Network of the National Library of Medicine

You and your library patrons are probably hearing and reading about an increase in RSV cases. We have put together some resources to help you and your patrons better understand and prevent the spread of RSV.

Respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, is a common respiratory virus. It usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. But it can cause serious lung infections, especially in infants, older adults, and people with serious medical problems.

Find the resources, including printable posters and graphics, at <https://bit.ly/3hTBFxA>.



Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

Education, Not Politics (Part 1)

While recently cataloging and uploading an image of [Minnie Nielson](#) to the State Library's North Dakota Memories collection on Digital Horizons, I stumbled upon a fascinating aspect of state history. I was doing some background research on Nielson to add contextual information to the image's metadata. To my surprise, the story just kept building and building. In 1919, Nielson and later the State Library would both be unwittingly caught in the middle of a political battle between the Nonpartisan League (NPL) and the Independent Voters Association (IVA).



As I began writing this, I realized that this story would be too long for one column. So, I have split this story into two parts. This first part will focus on Nielson and her clashes with the NPL and the Board of Administration. Part two will focus on the special legislative session of 1919, the continued conflict between the NPL and IVA, and the State Library.

Anyway, as I said, my digging started with Minnie Nielson. In 1918, she turned her sights on Superintendent of Public Instruction. She was well-qualified for the role. She had taught at Valley City High School and had served as superintendent of schools in Barnes County for over a decade. However, she lacked one thing that was crucial at the time: an endorsement from the NPL.

The months before the election of 1918 was a turbulent time in the United States. The influenza pandemic was spreading, and World War I was still being fought in Europe. It was also a time of great change for the political landscape of North Dakota. The NPL had risen to prominence in the state with promises of advocating for farmers (and with plans to attack "Big Business"). In the election of 1916, the NPL began snatching up state offices (such as the governor's office with the election of [Lynn Frazier](#)). By the end of 1918, the NPL had a majority control of the state legislature.

Nielson's qualifications were called into question prior to the election by her opponent, incumbent [Neil C. Macdonald](#). He also happened to be the NPL candidate for state superintendent. With the election drawing near, Nielson turned to an unlikely ally: [William Langer](#), NPL-endorsed Attorney General. Nielson asked Langer to issue an opinion on her qualifications for state superintendent.

Nielson's request to Langer for help came at an opportune time. Langer was becoming dissatisfied with the NPL. He would later openly criticize its leaders and defect from the party (along with the Secretary of State and State Auditor).

[Read More](#)



North Dakota Department of Transportation: Winter Travel Information

As the holidays are upon us and our patrons hit the road to visit friends and family, the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) Winter Travel Information webpage (<https://www.dot.nd.gov/travel/#winter>) has beneficial information on winter travel tips, building a winter survival kit, caring for you car during winter weather, and much more!

While you are on the NDDOT website, be sure to let your patrons know about the ND Roads Travel Map (<https://travel.dot.nd.gov/>). Using this map, you can find out whether it's safe to travel or if you may need to postpone your trip until the road conditions improve. In addition to road conditions, you can overlay a weather radar map over the road condition map, which gives you an idea of what weather patterns you may be driving into. You can even look at a traffic camera to see if the roads are snow covered or cleared off.

Winter Travel Information and ND Road Travel Maps is a wealth of information that can be shared on your library's Facebook page or website. Check these and other great resources out on the North Dakota Department of Transportation's website at <https://www.dot.nd.gov/>.

**LIBRARIES
TRANSFORMING
COMMUNITIES**
ACCESSIBLE SMALL AND
RURAL COMMUNITIES

ALA American Library Association

**A SPECIAL GRANT
OPPORTUNITY FOR
SMALL AND RURAL
LIBRARIES**

[ala.org/LTCAccess](https://www.ala.org/LTCAccess)

Applications open
November 1, 2022
through
February 28, 2023

Icons: eye, ear, brain, hand

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities will offer more than \$7 million in grants to small and rural libraries to increase the accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities.

For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.ala.org/tools/librariestransform/libraries-transforming-communities/access>.

Upcoming Webinars

How to Be An Inclusive and Inspiring Leader (Nonprofit Learning Lab)

Tuesday, November 29 (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM)

Register: <https://bit.ly/3U0nvYH>

This masterclass will cover three key topics related to the importance of inclusion and the role of inclusive, inspiring leaders. Responsibilities of leadership and what it really means to have influence. Traits of inclusive leaders to consider what practices to incorporate. Creating belonging from within so that you can more easily create it for other people.

Spotlight on Safety: Addressing Threats in Public Libraries (PLA)

Wednesday, November 30 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

Register: <https://bit.ly/3hUQmjM>

Public libraries are increasingly responding to violent and inflammatory speech and targeted attacks on their buildings, workers, and patrons. Facing such threats to our basic safety can often be traumatic and isolating. The Public Library Association (PLA)—in collaboration with the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)—invites all library workers to join a virtual event to reflect and share with public library colleagues across the country. During this event, panelists will participate in a facilitated conversation that explores effective policies and practices to improve safety and security for library staff and patrons, and invites questions and resources to be shared among all attendees.

Remember Your Patrons Living with Memory Loss (WebJunction)

Wednesday, December 7 (2:00 PM - 3:15 PM)

Register: <https://bit.ly/3gQoXiv>

Research shows that many people living with dementia can still read and benefit from using a wide variety of library materials. Join this webinar to hear practical advice on choosing reading materials uniquely suited to each individual, following the tenets of person-centered care. Presenters will share simple ways to create more dementia-friendly libraries and provide examples of literacy activities and programs hosted at libraries and memory cafes around the world, including oral reading, browsing through books, singing, choral reading of poetry, and word games. Previously held misconceptions will dissolve when you see how libraries of all sizes can positively impact people living with dementia.

Libraries and the Substance Abuse Crisis (Niche Academy)

Wednesday, December 7 (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM)

Register: <https://bit.ly/3Ay9cDZ>

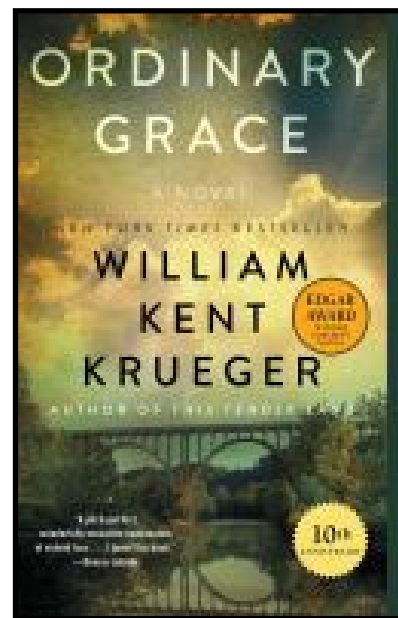
Join Cindy Grove, author of *Libraries and the Substance Abuse Crisis: Supporting Your Community*, for this webinar. Cindy will use the book as a foundation and focus on the increasing needs and limited resources related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The book encourages participants to turn their fears and uncertainty into strengths and empowerment. It also offers to-the-point guidance on welcoming people with substance use disorders and their loved ones through policy, materials, outreach, collaboration, programs, and services.

Kit of the Week

“Ordinary Grace” by William Kent Krueger

New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were at the ready at Halderson’s Drug Store soda counter, and “Hot Stuff” comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a summer in which death assumed many forms. When tragedy unexpectedly comes to call on his family, which includes his Methodist minister father, his passionate, artistic mother, Juilliard-bound older sister, and wise-beyond-his years kid brother, Frank finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal.

This book club kit includes ten books, one discussion guide, and a sign-in sheet.



Reserve it today at <https://bit.ly/3EsZgg1>.

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www.library.nd.gov

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov. Times referenced in the Flickertale are Central Time.