

Stronger Libraries. Stronger Communities.

Submitted by Al Peterson



Last week, the North Dakota State Library hosted our first in-person workshop in two years! “Stronger Libraries. Stronger Communities” was held at the State Heritage Center on August 7th, 8th, and 9th. Not knowing what to expect for attendance after going through a pandemic, we can confidently declare this conference a success.

We had sessions designed for all types of libraries, and all types were represented at the conference. Sessions included: Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries, two book mending workshops held on two different days, policies, podcasting, grant writing, ND Library Media Content Standards, cybersecurity, classroom and school library collaboration, and much more.



Although our keynote speaker had to present virtually due to bad weather, Jay Turner gave a great presentation and a wonderful time management workshop. Maxine Herr’s presentation on how to get crisis ready gave a great insight into how to prepare your talking points before you have to move into public relations crisis mode. We hope that everyone who went to the STEM kit demonstration got a chance to examine the kits up close and even play with them a little bit.

I want to thank all of the staff at the North Dakota State Library who helped out and presented at the workshops, the staff at the ND Heritage Center for making sure things ran smoothly, the staff at the Wingate for taking care of lodging for us, but most of all, I want to give a big shoutout and thank you to everyone who attended our workshop. Your attendance made this conference a success!



Universal Class Statement

Effective immediately, access to Universal Class is unavailable. The State Library is exploring options to continue to provide access. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We will update the library community and patrons as soon as we can.

If you should have any questions, please reach out to State Librarian Mary Soucie.



North Dakota Battle of the Books

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

It’s time to register! The 2023-2024 ND Battle of the Books (NDBOB) season officially starts this month!

What is NDBOB? ND Battle of the Books is a voluntary reading program for kids in grades 6-8. Students form teams, read a predetermined list of books, and compete against other teams in a trivia-style competition.

Registration is open for schools with grades 6-8, and it closes September 30th. There is no fee to participate. If your school is interested in participating, please register at <https://forms.office.com/g/PC9FPQwVwM>.

For more information, please visit <https://ndbattleofthebooks.wordpress.com/>. Here you can find the list of titles, resources to help you get started, and much more. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at awhitehorn@nd.gov.

[Find Out More](#)

Libraries in the News

[‘ART in the PARKS’ on display at library in August \(Minot Daily News\)](#)

"A partnership between the Northwest Arts Center and the Minot Public Library is bringing "ART in the PARKS" to Minot Public Library during August. The display features artwork created by artists who have participated in the North Dakota State Parks Artist in Residence Program..."

[Library hopes to have new bookmobile by 2025 \(Williston Herald\)](#)

"Big Bertha has served the Williston Community Library well, but after 14 years, she is almost ready for retirement. The bookmobile, affectionately known as Big Bertha by staff at the library, is past her prime. In addition to her teenaged years, she has logged on about 80,000 miles on Williams County roads..."

[Wage increases approved for new, current James River Valley Library System employees \(The Jamestown Sun\)](#)

"The James River Valley Library System Board of Directors unanimously approved on Wednesday, Aug. 9, increases to starting wages for new employees..."

[Williston Community Library nominated for national award \(Williston Herald\)](#)

"The Williston Community Library has been nominated to receive a national award for museum and library services. On Tuesday night, library director Andrea Placher learned that Sen. John Hoeven nominated the library for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service..."

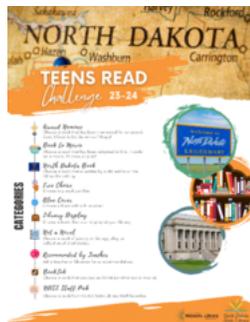


Teens Read Challenge

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

ND Teens Read Challenge 2023-2024 is a reading challenge that libraries can use with their patrons ages 10-19. The challenge consists of ten categories, and teens read books to fit each of those categories. Simple, easy, and ready to go!

If you use Beanstack, there is a challenge that teens can register for. I am working with Beanstack to figure out how to share it with libraries that have their own account. This would make an excellent passive program, and libraries are free to modify it to fit their needs. If you have any questions, please e-mail Lexi at awhitehorn@nd.gov.



[Find Out More](#)



Welcome Back!

Welcome to the first Teaching Tidbit of the 2023-2024 school year! (Can you believe it is already that time again?)

A new school year can be full of excitement for both students and educators. It also comes with a lot of work, a bit of patience, and the need for prioritizing tasks. Today, let's look at some projects to address within the first few weeks of school.

Technical Tasks

1. If you are new or are using a new automation system, explore that resource! Find out, at minimum, how to set up (or update) patrons' accounts, check materials in and out, add items to the library collection, and search the catalog. (Tasks such as report-building and weeding can wait for now.)
2. Review existing library policies (Mrs. Readerpants, n.d.)
3. Study the library state standards. (North Dakota's can be found [here](#).)
4. Decorate and/or reorganize the library space.

[Continue Reading](#)

Open Meetings Public Notices

Submitted by BreAnne Meier

Since there was a change to the open meetings' public notice requirement, it seemed like a good time to do an overview of open meeting notices. This is just a brief overview based on information from the ND Attorney General's office. For more information, please visit their website at <https://attorneygeneral.nd.gov/open-records-meetings/public-meetings/>.

First, the new rule

As of August 1, 2023, library boards need to add their meeting notices to the public entities' websites. If your library does not have a website, this is not required.

These notices were already required to be posted at the main office and meeting location (if separate), filed with the appropriate official (city or county auditor), and provided to any person who has requested notice. This is just another spot that they need to be posted to.

Some things to note:

- Although there is no minimum advance notice period for public meetings, the notice must be posted to the places listed above at the same time the library board members are notified of the meeting.
- Notices must include the date, time, and location of the meeting and any agenda topics expected to be discussed. If there are any executive sessions, those should be noted as well.
- If you are holding a special or emergency meeting, you may only discuss the specific topics included in the notice.
- Special meeting notices must be sent to the official newspaper.

The North Dakota Attorney General's Office website includes a [sample meeting notice](#) and a [notice checklist](#) to make sure your library notice is sufficient.

These laws can be found in North Dakota Century Code, beginning at §44-04-17.1.

[Find Out More](#)

Upcoming Free Webinars

[How Schools Can Invest in Improving Student Literacy \(Education Week\)](#)

Tuesday, August 22 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

[Libraries Helping Refugees and New Immigrants Learn the US Financial System \(WebJunction\)](#)

Tuesday, August 22 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

[Future-Proof Your Library \(Niche Academy\)](#)

Wednesday, September 6 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

[The Basics of Helping Library Patrons with Social Media \(Niche Academy\)](#)

Wednesday, September 13 (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM)

[Bridgebuilding: Fostering Community Engagement and Dialogue \(WebJunction\)](#)

Thursday, September 14 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

[Climate Action Planning \(Part 2\): Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience \(WebJunction\)](#)

Tuesday, September 26 (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)

[Beyond Books: Adult Library Programs That Work! \(Niche Academy\)](#)

Wednesday, October 4 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

[Academic Librarians' Opinions on Social Justice Advocacy \(Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois\)](#)

Wednesday, October 11 (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM)

[PDA Event: Giving a Hand Up: Why Mentorship Matters \(Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois\)](#)

Tuesday, October 17 (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM)

[Q & A 101: Interview Questions and Answers \(Niche Academy\)](#)

Wednesday, October 18 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

Everyone Has a Story – National Book Festival 2023

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

What is better than a Saturday morning snuggled on the couch with a book and a good cup of coffee? How about a Saturday morning surrounded by thousands of books, authors, and bibliophiles alike? That was exactly last Saturday, August 12th, at the National Book Festival held in Washington, DC. In its 22nd year of existence, the NBF hosted roughly 5,000 attendees, hundreds of authors and illustrators, and representatives from the fifty states and US territories.

The National Book Festival is hosted every year as a way to celebrate the literary world. This year's theme of "Everyone Has a Story" brought stories from all walks of life. Authors like Elizabeth Acevedo, Elliot Page, Joy Harjo, Alan Gratz, and Meg Medina shared their newest books and also held author signings.

[Continue Reading](#)

A New Partnership Available for ND Libraries

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

I am so excited to announce a new partnership available to ND libraries that serve adults! Please see the message below from Sue Skalicky, ND Humanities Program Coordinator:

At [Humanities ND](#), we love libraries! And we believe that a library should be the heart of lifelong learning in every town in North Dakota. So, we created toolkits to help support our library partners so they can promote and deliver programming that brings communities together in conversation about books and big ideas.

And it's free!

If you register as a Humanities ND library partner, you will receive:

- A free HND membership (Membership includes three issues/year of our Humanities ND Magazine, a vault full of all public event recordings, and be the first to know and the first to sign up for our classes and events)
- Toolkits for event promotion (digital posters, social media graphics, bookmarks, and fliers for all events that center around a book)
- Live event registration links
- Event recording links (for use with book groups, etc. at times other than the live event)

What do you think?

Let's continue the conversation. Apply to be a Humanities ND library partner at <https://forms.gle/eWUs2rNUbBUxVN3e7>.

We look forward to partnering with you!

Sue Skalicky, HND program director
programs@humanitiesnd.org

Crista McCandless
crista@humanitiesnd.org



Bismarck - Capital City Memories



The "Bismarck - Capital City Memories" collection consists of nearly 2,000 images depicting the history of Bismarck, North Dakota, from its early pioneer days through the 1990s. The collection is a project of the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library and is available on [Digital Horizons](#).

[View the Collection](#)



"Creating Superfans" by Brittany Hodak

If you are looking for a fun book with information on how to gain patrons, keep the patrons you have, and create superfans, check out "Creating Superfans: How to Turn Your Customers Into Enthusiastic Advocates" by Brittany Hodak. Chock full of entertaining stories and examples, this book is a quick read that will make you excited to create your own library superfans.

Each section of the book shows you how to create superfans using the SUPER Model:

S – Start With Your Story

Learn how to shape and share your story.

U – Understand Your Customer's Story

Learn how to get closer to your patrons.

P – Personalize

Learn how to better connect with your patrons.

E – Exceed Expectations

Learn that it isn't enough just to meet expectations; you must exceed them.

R – Repeat

Learn about the tools you'll need to implement these changes and make your patrons superfans.

[Continue Reading](#)



TEENtober

What will you discover at the library?

www.ala.org/yalsa/teentober

TeenTober is a nationwide celebration hosted by libraries every October and aims to celebrate teens, promote year-round teen services and the innovative ways teen services help teens learn new skills, and fuel their passions in and outside the library.

Find tools for social media, a press kit, sample programs, and more at www.ala.org/yalsa/teentober.

Teen Science Café

Bring [Teen Science Cafés](#) (TSC) to teens ages 12-18 in your community. The goal of this project is to impact underrepresented youth by cultivating a mindset among teens that STEM IS EVERYWHERE.



TEEN SCIENCE CAFÉ
NETWORK

Cafés are typically an hour and a half once per month during the school year. During a TSC session, teens socialize over teen-friendly food and drink, have a lively conversation with a local scientist and/or engineer about current cutting-edge developments in their fields, and participate in a hands-on activity related to the scientist and/engineer. Cafés can take place within an after-school program, library, community center, community college, museum, or any indoor or outdoor space where the public gathers.

Selected Teen Science Café Moonshot Leaders will receive a \$2,500 stipend to run the 2023-2024 TSC program.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

New Webinar Series From Niche Academy

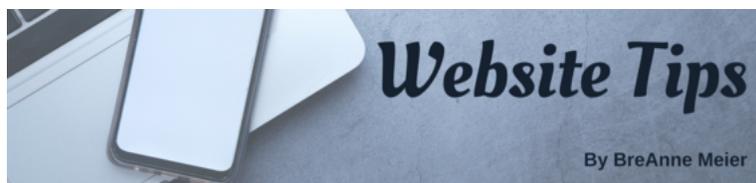
Niche Academy has launched a new webinar series that teaches new library board members about their roles as Library Trustees. This series, titled Welcome to the Board, has two tutorials so far.

The first one, [Your Role as a Trustee](#), explores what a new board member needs to learn about all the responsibilities of the board and your responsibilities as a trustee so you can serve with confidence.

The second tutorial, [Understanding Library Budgets](#), examines one of the most important tasks assigned to a library board: library budgeting. Learning about library funding, expenditures, and a trustee's role in budgeting can make the process less overwhelming and helps a new board member support a budget that serves the library and community!

These tutorials can be found in the [Library 101- Library Boards and Friends Group category](#) in Niche Academy. When new tutorials in this series are added to the Niche Academy Marketplace, I will be sure to update the category as well.

[Start Learning](#)



Website Accessibility – An Overview

Over the next few months, this column will focus on website accessibility and how to ensure that your content is available to everyone, regardless of the challenges they face.

Why is website accessibility important? Every visitor should have equal access to information, just like how you would ensure that your building is accessible. We will discuss various challenges, including visual, auditory, motor, cognitive, and social, along with color contrast, alt text, captions, forms, and keyboard navigation.

[Continue Reading](#)

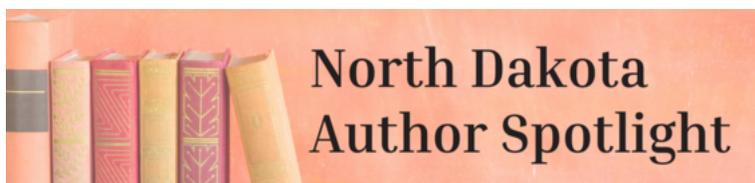


Has a librarian made a difference in your life? Nominate them for the I Love My Librarian Award for a chance to receive \$5,000 and the honor of a lifetime.

[Learn More](#)

Top Ten Mango Languages July 2023

1. Chinese, Mandarin
2. Spanish, Latin American
3. French
4. Arabic, Levantine
5. English
6. Hebrew, Modern
7. Japanese
8. Korean
9. German
10. Russian



Jonathan Twingley

Jonathan Twingley is a visual artist and writer who was born and raised in Bismarck, ND. He now lives and works in New Jersey.

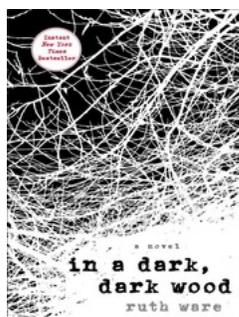
Twingley's paintings and illustrations have appeared in many national publications, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and more.

His first novel, The Badlands Saloon, was published in 2009. It is available to be checked out from the North Dakota State Library.

[Learn More](#)



"In a Dark, Dark Wood" by Ruth Ware



Nora hasn't seen Clare for ten years. Not since Nora walked out of school one day and never went back. Until, out of the blue, an invitation to Clare's hen party arrives. Is this a chance for Nora to finally put her past behind her? But something goes wrong. Very wrong. Some things can't stay secret forever.

This kit includes 10 books, a discussion guide, and a sign-in sheet.

[Reserve Today](#)

The Flickertale is a weekly publication of the North Dakota State Library, a Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent
Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian
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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Times referenced are Central Time.