

Celebrating a New Chapter: Introducing Our New State Library Logo

Submitted by State Librarian Mary Soucie

We're turning the page to an exciting new chapter in our agency's story—and we're thrilled to share it with you. After many months of thoughtful conversations, design exploration, and input from a variety of individuals, the State Library is delighted to unveil our new logo.



Our refreshed visual identity reflects both who we are today and who we aspire to be in the years ahead: a modern, innovative, and community-centered agency dedicated to strengthening North Dakota libraries, connecting North Dakotans with reliable resources, and igniting lifelong learning. The logo incorporates elements from libraries as well as our great state.

Our former logo served us well for many years, but with new vision and mission statements, new initiatives, programs, and services, along with an expanded vision for library service, it was time for an identity that better captures the energy and direction of our work.

In the coming weeks, you'll begin to see our new look across our website, publications, social media, signage, and statewide programs. While our appearance is evolving, our commitment remains the same: providing exceptional service, supporting state employees, and ensuring access to information for all. This logo is more than just a new mark; it's a visual reminder of our ongoing promise to the people of North Dakota. We can't wait to write this next chapter together.

Beanstack Reading Challenges

May begins our CSLP Summer Reading Challenges: *Unearth a Story!* This summer (May 1 - August 31), unearth a story at your library! Log the books you read to earn badges and rewards.

There are four categories for participants:



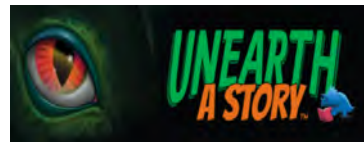
Early Literacy (0-6)



Children's (7-12)



Teens



Adults

Beanstack

Today's Skills for
Tomorrow's Libraries
Virtual Conference

April 29-30, 2026

Make Your Plan to Vote - June 9 Primary Election

Submitted by the Office of the North Dakota Secretary of State

The next election is always the most important election, and it's coming up on June 9! The North Dakota Primary Election is the opportunity for you to choose your local leaders who make decisions that affect your daily activities and quality of life.

North Dakota gives you several ways to cast your vote: absentee voting, voting at the polls on Election Day, or early voting if your county offers it.

North Dakota's Voter ID Law applies to all voting methods. Before you head to the polls or request a ballot, make sure you have one of the accepted forms of identification: a North Dakota driver's license, a North Dakota nondriver ID, a longterm care certificate, or a tribal ID or tribal letter.



If your address on your ID has changed, you should update it before Election Day. Information about how to update your address, and options for voting if your ID isn't updated can be found in the [Forms of Voter ID](#) section of the North Dakota Secretary of State website.

If you choose to vote absentee, you can start that process now. You will never be mailed a ballot without first requesting one, so you must fill out and return an application for a ballot to your local county auditor. You can get an application at vote.nd.gov/myvotinginfo or by contacting your [county auditor](#).

The county auditor will review the completed application and verify your ID information before you are mailed a ballot. Completed ballots must be received by the county auditor by the close of polls on election day to be counted.

Election officials and the North Dakota Secretary of State are your trusted sources for election information. If you have questions or want to learn more, visit vote.nd.gov, email soselect@nd.gov, or call 701-328-4146.

[Learn More About Voting in North Dakota](#)



New Items At The ND State Library

Fiction Books



"Death of a Groom" by M. C. Beaton; "Beautiful Ugly" by Alice Feeney; "The Second Chance Bus Stop" by Ally Zetterberg; "Fireflies in Winter" by Eleanor Shearer; "A Sociopath's Guide to a Successful Marriage" by MK Oliver



"The Elsewhere Express" by Samantha Sotto Yambao; "Life: A Love Story" by Elizabeth Berg; "The Heir of Whitestone" by Catherine Coulter; "Antihero" by Gregg Hurwitz; "The Hadacol Boogie" by James Lee Burke



"As Good As Dead" by William W. Johnstone; "Jigsaw" by Jonathan Kellerman; "The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe" by James Patterson & Imogen Edwards-Jones; "Big Bad Wool" by Leonie Swann; "The Viper" by Brad Meltzer



"Private Rome" by James Patterson & Adam Hamdy; "Faithful Heart" by Tracie Peterson; "At Morning's Light" by Lauraine Snelling; "More Than Enough" by Anna Quindlen; "The Devil's Daughter" by Danielle Steel



"Plain Jane's Secret Admirer" by Anne Blackburne; "Tell Me Something Good" by Court Stevens; "Scent of Sabotage" by Dana Mentink; "The Memory Gardener" by Meg Donohue; "The Beginner's Quilt" by Wanda E. Brunstetter

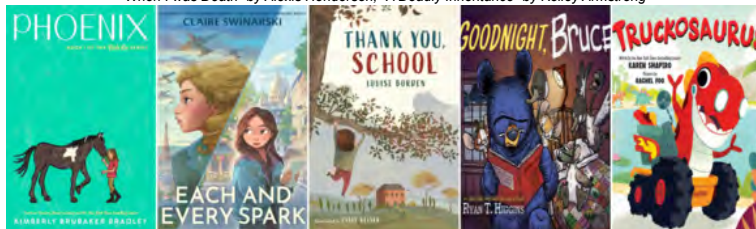


"The Alchemy of Flowers" by Laura Resau; "The Invisible Woman" by James Patterson & Susan DiLallo; "Last Light Over Galveston" by Jennifer L. Wright; "Wolf Hour" by Jo Nesbo; "Fire Sword & Sea" by Vanessa Riley

Fiction E-Books



"Prodigal Tiger" by Samantha Chong; "In Time With You" by Kristin Dwyer; "Midnight on the Celestial" by Julia Alexandra; "When I was Death" by Alexis Henderson; "A Deadly Inheritance" by Kelley Armstrong



"Phoenix" by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley; "Each and Every Spark" by Claire Swinarski; "Thank You, School" by Louise Borden; "Goodnight, Bruce" by Ryan T. Higgins; "Truckosaurus" by Karen Shapiro



"Don't Eat the Birthday Boy" by Donna Barba Higuera; "Love Song" by Elle Kennedy; "Once and Again" by Rebecca Serle; "Served Him Right" by Lisa Unger; "How To Write a Love Story" by Catherine Walsh



"The Wings That Bind" by Briar Boleyn; "The Dark Time" by Nick Petrie; "The Starter Ex" by Mia Sosa; "Felicia's Favorites" by Danielle Steel; "The Bookstore Diaries" by Susan Mallery



"Wait for Me" by Amy Jo Burns; "A Ghastly Catastrophe" by Deanna Raybourn; "So Old, So Young" by Grant Ginder; "If We Never End" by Laura Taylor Namey; "The Littlest Elephant" by Katherine Applegate

Fiction E-Audiobooks



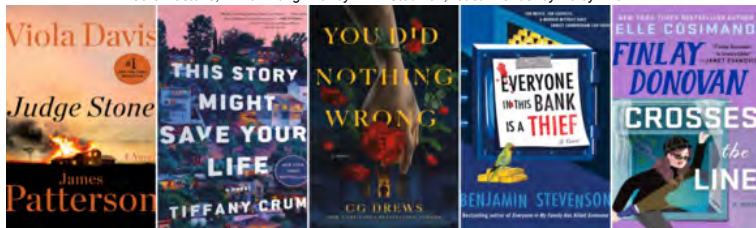
"Lake Effect" by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney; "Lady Tremaine" by Rachel Hochhauser; "Haunts, Hikes, & Havoc" by Tonya Kappes; "The Keeper" by Tana French; "The Lighthouse at the World's End" by Amy Sparkes



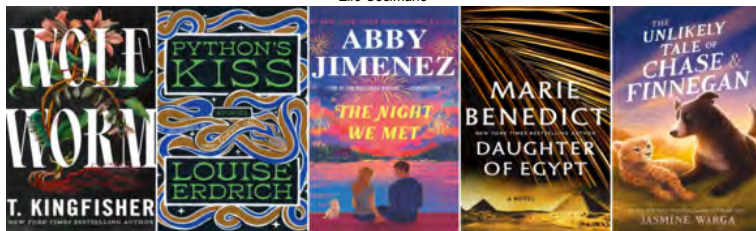
"When Tomorrow Burns" by Tae Keller; "A Stage Set For Villains" by Shannon J. Spann; "Two Perfect Lies" by Natalie D. Richards; "The Faraway Inn" by Sarah Beth Durst; "What We Did To Survive" by Megan Lally



"Strangers in the Villa" by Robyn Harding; "The Secret Lives of Murderers' Wives" by Elizabeth Amott; "No Matter What" by Cara Bastone; "A Far-Flung Life" by M. L. Stedman; "Just Friends" by Haley Pham



"Judge Stone" by Viola Davis & James Patterson; "This Story Might Save Your Life" by Tiffany Crum; "You Did Nothing Wrong" by CG Drews; "Everyone in this Bank is a Thief" by Benjamin Stevenson; "Finlay Donovan Crosses the Line" by Elle Cosimano



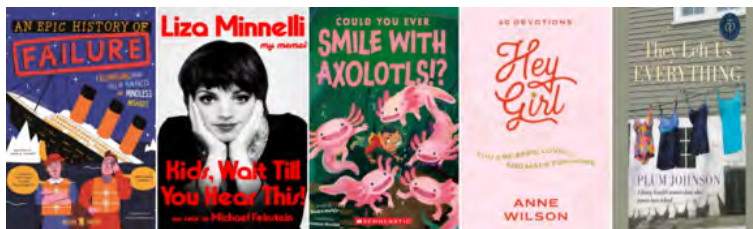
"Wolf Worm" by T. Kingfisher; "Python's Kiss" by Louise Erdrich; "The Night We Met" by Abby Jimenez; "Daughter of Egypt" by Marie Benedict; "The Unlikely Tale of Chase & Finnegan" by Jasmine Warga

Nonfiction Books



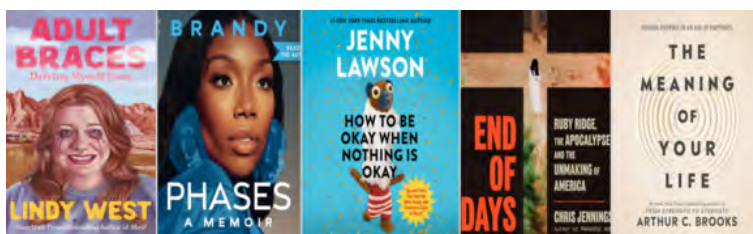
"A Marriage at Sea" by Sophie Elmhirst; "The Way Out" by Devon O'Neil; "Miles of Destruction" by C. J. Wynn; "Unwillable" by Jackie M. Stebbins; "Leading from the Library" by Shannon McClintock Miller & William Bass

Nonfiction E-Books



"An Epic History of Failure" by Natalie Younger; "Kids, Wait Till You Hear This!" by Liza Minnelli as told to Michael Feinstein; "Could You Ever Smile With Axolotls?" by Sandra Markle; "Hey Girl" by Anne Wilson; "They Left Us Everything" by Plum Johnson

Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



"Adult Braces: Driving Myself Sane" by Lindy West; "Phases" by Brandy; "How To Be Okay When Nothing Is Okay" by Jenny Lawson; "End of Days" by Chris Jennings; "The Meaning of Your Life" by Arthur C. Brooks

Celebrating Beverly Cleary and D.E.A.R.

Submitted by Kathy Cline

Do you have a favorite Beverly Cleary book? If so, grab it and celebrate two wonderful events at once. Every year on April 12, we honor the birthday of renowned author Beverly Cleary and the creator of Drop Everything and Read Day (D.E.A.R.).

According to a March 2021 [NPR](#) article, Beverly Cleary died on March 25, 2021, at 104 years of age. Cleary, who worked as a children's librarian in the 1940s, began writing in 1950 after boys asked her, "Where are the books about kids like us?" She wrote *Henry Huggins* to meet the needs of these young readers, and when little girls also wanted similar stories, Cleary expanded her character list to include Beezus. Soon Risby, Ellen Tebbits, Otis Spofford, Ramona, and other beloved characters joined Cleary's writing, and the rest is history!



To learn more about Beverly Cleary, explore her [website](#), where you'll find:

- Her biography
- Video interviews
- Honors and awards
- Book and character lists
- Fun activities and quizzes
- Resources for librarians and educators

You may also visit [Fantastic Fiction](#) to browse Cleary's books by publication year or read *Publisher Weekly's* insightful [article](#) on this popular author.

Pick up your favorite Beverly Cleary book and spend time reading it alone or with your child, grandchild, friend, sibling, or even a pet. Celebrate renowned author Beverly Cleary's birthday and D.E.A.R. by enjoying a book!

BITS OF TRIVIA

By Stacey Goldade

How Are Book Sizes Recorded in the Online Catalog?

In the online catalog, books are described physically to help patrons determine if they want to read that book or not. We include the number of pages, if the book has illustrations, if the book is printed on board pages, if it has an index, etc. We also include the height of the book, which we measure in centimeters. We don't use inches because library records are used all over the world and most of the world uses the metric system. We also round up to the nearest centimeter, so you won't see a record in the online catalog say something like 15.5 cm. The measurements also help library staff know where to shelve something. Will a book fit in the regular shelves, or does it need to be placed in the Oversize shelving area? It's also helpful to know the size of the item when a book is requested to be sent through the mail to fulfill an interlibrary loan request. Libraries would not find it easy to mail a book that is 61 centimeters tall (which is about 2 feet tall). These large books are usually picture books designed for story time, so all the kids can see the pictures easily when gathered around the reader. The average hardcover book for adults is around 24 cm high and picture books for children seem to have no standard shapes or sizes, with some board books being cut into the shapes of animals, etc. Happy reading!

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.

North Dakota Histories

- 100 Years, 1887-1987: A History of Willow City, North Dakota and Surrounding Areas

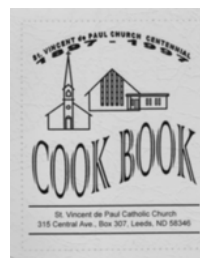


North Dakota Memories

- Hotel McKenzie advertisement, Bismarck, N.D., 1910
- Jury Takes but One Ballot in Finding Gummer to be Guilty of Slaying 18-Year-Old Marie Wick [newspaper article, 1922]

Political Prairie Fire

- Biggest Delegation in N.D. Legislature for the Nonpartisan League
- Passage of Senate Bill 134 is Urged [newspaper article, 1919]
- Portrait of Robert Byrne, circa 1925-1931
- Portrait of Treadwell Twichell, circa 1909
- Report of the N.D. Industrial Commission, 1926
- The Farmers' Burden [political cartoon, 1915]



Prairie Recipes

- Leeds Lutheran Church Anniversary Cookbook, 1886-2011
- St. Vincent de Paul Church Centennial, 1897-1997: Cookbook

Financial Literacy Month Resources

**Submitted by Lance Hill, Bank of North Dakota, and
Tammy Kruger, North Dakota State Library**

April is National Financial Literacy Month! It's the perfect time to learn about money topics, discover tools and build skills that can help you make better financial decisions. Let's look at a couple resources available through the State of North Dakota.

Smart With My Money

First, SmartWithMyMoney.nd.gov, a website provided by the State of North Dakota, has articles, videos, courses and tools that cover anything money related. To get started, create your account – it's free! -- and take the money personality assessment to learn how it impacts your financial decisions. From there, you can visit your dashboard to access your personal learning recommendations, search for different money topics, or unwind with a money meditation. The site has something for everyone ages 14 through retirement.

Financial Literacy Kits

Second, Financial Literacy Kits. North Dakota State Library offers four Financial Literacy Kits to teach and reinforce financial literacy skills.

**Making Cents of Money:
A Financial Literacy Kit for Kindergarten through Second Grade**

Making Cents of Money introduces young learners to American money names and values, how to add money, differences between wants and needs, basic budgeting, ways to earn money, and borrowing vs. buying.

**The Financial Launchpad:
A Financial Literacy Kit for Third through Fifth Grade**

The Financial Launchpad further explores monetary concepts, including wants and needs, money values and making change, earning money, budgeting, and banking.

**Building Blocks to Financial Health:
A Financial Literacy Kit for Teens**

Building Blocks to Financial Health ties finances into teens' lives. This kit addresses wants versus needs, budgeting, paychecks and taxes, higher education and career, and investing.

**Financial Fitness:
A Financial Literacy Kit for Adults**

Financial Fitness, the last of the Financial Literacy Kits, teaches adults about budgeting, managing debt, mortgages, retirement planning and other investing, scams, and ways to live frugally.

Further Information About Financial Literacy Kits

Each kit comes with lesson plans, game and activity ideas, and books.

Financial Literacy Kits can be checked out by any adult with a North Dakota State Library card, making them great for libraries, classrooms, homeschooling families, and clubs! Checkout is for 8 weeks, and can be done through [Polaris](#). Patrons are welcome to pick up and/or drop off these kits during NDSL's open hours – Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM – or NDSL will ship out kits across the state, with the receiving patrons shipping these kits back to the State Library.

[Reserve a Kit](#)

A banner for the 'Autism 101' course. At the top, it says 'Autism 101' in a dark box. Below that is a colorful illustration of a hand holding a glowing blue puzzle piece against a background of clouds and a sun. To the right of the illustration is a grey box with the text 'Self-Paced, Online Class', a green button that says '+ Join this Course', and 'North Dakota State Library' at the bottom. Below the illustration are four blue boxes with white text: '11 Lessons', '17 Exams & Assignments', '10 Hours average time', and '1.0 CEUs'. There are also colorful butterfly icons on either side of these boxes.

Autism 101

Submitted by **Al Peterson**

April is Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month focusing on fostering understanding, inclusion, and support for autistic individuals, moving beyond simple awareness. Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month highlights the strengths, talents, and diverse experiences of autistic individuals rather than just focusing on deficits. One of the ways you and your staff at the library can participate in this awareness is through education. Universal Class can help with their course, *Autism 101*. From the moment you start, you'll realize that autism is more than what meets the eye. This course goes beyond the surface, beyond the outdated myths, and into the heart of what makes autism a spectrum of human experience, filled with challenges, but also remarkable strengths. You'll discover how autism, far from being a limitation, can be a source of incredible talent, creativity, and potential when nurtured with the right understanding. Whether you're a parent navigating an unexpected diagnosis, an educator wanting to better support your students, or simply seeking to understand autism in a deeper way, *Autism 101* is your gateway to a world of possibilities. This course is a first step toward becoming a true ally and advocate with the skills and understanding to make a real difference in the lives of individuals with autism.

Universal Class courses are self-paced and taken at your convenience on your own time. To sign up for this course and other great Universal Class courses, click on <https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com/> to get started. Search for *Autism 101* in the search box or find this course in the category *Parenting and Family*.

[Universal Class](#)

Connections is a monthly publication of the North Dakota State Library

Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

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Any mention of services or products in this newsletter does not constitute any endorsement or recommendation. The use of any services or products should be evaluated on an individual basis

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www.library.nd.gov

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of Connections, please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.

Times referenced are Central Time.

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