



# Flickertale

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## 2026 School Library Survey

Submitted by Kathy Cline

To establish a strong foundation of statewide school library data, the State Library will conduct an annual school library survey. The survey will be administered each spring to ensure consistency in data collection. The information gathered will be used to develop advocacy talking points for school libraries and school librarians, as well as to create infographic materials that highlight the impact of school library programs.



The 2026 survey will be emailed to you on Monday, April 13, and will close at the end of day on Monday, May 4. The survey consists of multiple-choice questions in a Microsoft form. Please help NDSL gather useable information from all North Dakota school libraries by completing one form for each school library you work at. While we realize this will require more of your time, the data we receive will be more accurate.

## Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Services April 29-30, 2026

Registration Coming Soon!

Our world is changing before our very eyes. We have reached a time where artificial intelligence is increasingly integrated into our lives, where our online presence is quantified and monetized, where a photo or video can live on in perpetuity, and our personal data is a commodity. We are faced with re-evaluating the traditional services our libraries provide, adapting them to meet the evolving needs of our communities while also helping people navigate this changing world.



Librarians must develop the knowledge and skills to meet those changes we face both today and tomorrow. Topics include cybersecurity, AI Awareness, Information Literacy, News Media Literacy, and future-focused library services that will impact our students, patrons, and communities as well as presentations on programming that you can host at your library. There are opportunities to network with fellow librarians at various roundtables. Please join us for this virtual conference where we will learn today's skills for tomorrow's services.

Agenda and Registration Coming Soon

## School Librarian Credit

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

North Dakota State Library (NDSL) is offering one credit, through Valley City State University, for attending the *Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries* virtual conference! Conference dates are April 29-30. Additional webinars are required to meet the needed 15 hours.

NDSL is trying something a bit different for this conference. While it is great to be able to attend the sessions in real time, two full school days is a bit much for many school librarians to be in a virtual conference. As such, sessions will be recorded and uploaded to Niche Academy. These recordings will be available for 30 days post upload - May 5 through June 3. With that said, if you can go to some of the sessions in real time, please do!

The assignment is to a) watch each of the sessions (either recorded or in real time), and b) reflect upon them. **This credit will be offered as a Summer 2026 course.** Reflections will be due June 17. Prior to April 29, please reach out to Tammy at [tkruger@nd.gov](mailto:tkruger@nd.gov) so she can make sure you get all the information needed to complete this course successfully.

Agenda and Registration Coming Soon

## State Aid for Public Libraries

Submitted by Allie Suko

Spring is in the air, and you know what that means: The State Aid application process is open! State Aid applications must be submitted through the Counting Opinions website by April 30, 2026, for your library to be considered for State Aid funds. There have been no changes to the application from last year.



For a refresher on the State Aid process and how to fill out the application form, visit the North Dakota State Library YouTube channel and view the [State Aid to Public Libraries Walk-Through](#), or refer to the [State Aid Lib Guide](#). If you have any questions regarding your application, or issues with the Counting Opinions website, please contact Allie Suko at 701-328-2492 or [ndsl-fiscal@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-fiscal@nd.gov).

[Learn More](#)



### New Library Science Books at NDSL January - March 2026

NDSL added several new library science resources this first quarter of 2026. Take a look at the newest additions to our shelves.

Access a more complete summary of each resource by clicking on the title.

1. [Teaching Readers \(Not Reading\): Moving Beyond Skills and Strategies to Reader-Focused Instruction](#)

Author Peter Afflerbach presents K-8 educators with information on how to move beyond the "science of reading" to include other scientifically supported factors that influence literacy. The title includes classroom vignettes, suggestions for instruction, assessment ideas, and more.

[Request or Place a Hold](#)



[Continue Reading](#)



### Earth Day

April 22 marks Earth Day! Earth Day is both a celebration of all the cool natural things our planet has to offer, as well as a call to action of how (and why) to take better care of the world. If you have a topic request for *Top Picks*, please email me at [tkruger@nd.gov](mailto:tkruger@nd.gov).

*Black Beach: A Community, an Oil Spill, and the Origin of Earth Day*  
by Shauna and John Stith

**Publish Date:** 2023

**Publisher:** Little Bee Books

**Summary:** This book takes place in 1969. Sam's favorite place is the Santa Barbara beach. She loves its blue waves and variety of wildlife. However, tragedy strikes when an oil spill turns her little piece of paradise into a disaster zone. Numerous people work together to advocate for the earth and stricter government regulations, including establishing April 22 as Earth Day. This book comes with a timeline of events from oil spill to legislative changes. It also gives tips for helping protect the earth through day-to-day activities.

**Best For:** Second through Fifth Grade



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# AI Insights

Submitted by Trevor Martinson

## Sora

OpenAI recently pulled the plug on Sora. Sora is a model and app that uses AI to generate videos. With prompts, users can easily generate short video clips that were exceptionally realistic.

Sora was shut down less than two years after it was launched. Sora was initially released in December 2024, but it was the release of Sora 2 in September 2025 that increased its notoriety.

Sora immediately thrilled and alarmed the internet. The [New York Times wrote](#) that the app was “jaw-dropping (for better and worse).” Almost immediately, there were problems. Users could essentially create videos of anything featuring anyone. Guardrails were loose. Copyright became a concern because videos of copyrighted figures from TV shows and/or video games could be created.

[Continue Reading](#)

# Digital Delight

## Military Portrait of John Riedl, 1940s

Private John Riedl, Company K, 164th Infantry, wearing a military uniform with tie, hat and wide belt sits on a small wooden bench in front of a backdrop of windowpanes, palm tree, flowers and vegetation. The photo is color tinted.



The 164th Infantry Regiment, an activated regiment of the North Dakota National Guard, was reorganized from the 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry in 1917 and was the first United States Army unit on Guadalcanal.

Courtesy of Digital Horizons (North Dakota Memories Collection, ND State Library)

[Digital Horizons](#)

# Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

## What's New in Niche?

**Category: School Librarian Resources**

**Section: Information Literacy**

***Media Literacy in an Age of Misinformation***

If you missed Kathy Cline's presentation on media literacy on February 24, the recording, as well as additional resources and a bibliography, can be viewed on Niche Academy.

**Category: Library Director**

**Section: Staff Relationships**

***Creating Feedback Loops***

This presentation describes how creating a feedback loop ensures everyone has a voice and information is shared freely, analyzed, and acted upon.

***Building Employee Development Plans***

This presentation gives both employee and supervisor an outline for developing professional growth and collaborating on learning opportunities that are mutually beneficial and bring out the best in everyone.

[Niche Academy](#)

## Financial Literacy Month Resources

Written 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](http://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.

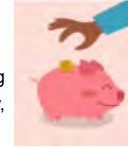
#### ***Making Cents of Money: A Financial Literacy Kit for Kindergarten through Second Grade***

*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.



## Public Library Infographics

The State Library is happy to provide a personalized infographic for your public library using the numbers you have provided in the Public Libraries Survey (PLS).

These basic infographics can include any statistics that are useful for your library, such as number of visits to your library, items in the collection, programs, circulations, etc. If you would like statistics not included in the PLS, please include that information in your answer to number 4 in the request form.



[Request An Infographic](#)

## 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, Romona, 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 want to 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!

The graphic features the NDLA logo (North Dakota Library Association) on the left. To its right, it says "CALL FOR Conference Proposals" in a large, bubbly font. Below this, a paragraph reads: "NDLA is seeking **dynamic** and **engaging presentations** from passionate library professionals like you! We are looking for **session, lightning round, and poster presentation proposals.**" A yellow callout box on the right says "Submit proposals by 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026". A blue cloud-shaped callout on the left says "NDLA welcomes proposals from all types of libraries, including public, academic, school, and special libraries. We particularly encourage submissions from new librarians or those that haven't presented before!".

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[Submit a Proposal](#)

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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.

[www.library.nd.gov](http://www.library.nd.gov)

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov).

Times referenced are Central Time.

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