



# Flickertale

Volume 120 · Issue 1 · June 4, 2026



## General Grants

**Small Grant:** \$500 - \$1,999

**Large Grant:** \$2,000 - \$10,000

**Apply by:** June 30, 2026

**Award Date:** August 1, 2026

**Grant Period:**

- Small Grant: August 2, 2026 - October 31, 2026
- Large Grant: August 2, 2026 - December 15, 2026

## Library Vision Grants Summer 2026 Now Open

Submitted by **Bethany Rants**

Does your library need to expand its collection? Need to update technology or upgrade furniture? Is there a program you're excited to bring to your library? Or is there another project you'd love to pursue, but financial constraints make it difficult? Then we have good news for you.

The North Dakota State Library has opened applications for the Summer 2026 Library Vision Grant round. Applications opened on June 1, 2026, and will close on June 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM. There are two grant opportunities available: a Small Grant ranging from \$500 to \$1,999 and a Large Grant ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Libraries may apply for only one grant opportunity. If applications are submitted for both opportunities, both applications will be disqualified.

This is a competitive grant round. Before beginning your application, we encourage you to visit [Niche Academy](#) to learn skills to improve your applications and review the **current Library Vision Strategic Plan** (2025–2027) to ensure your proposed project aligns with grant goals.

Please carefully review your responses before submitting. Character limits apply to each question, and any text entered beyond the limit will not be included in the final submission. Applications cannot currently be edited after submission.

This is our first full grant round using our new grant software through our partnership with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI). All grant activities—including applications, amendments, and reimbursement requests—will be managed through this system.

Your library should receive instructions on how to register for WebGrants. Additional information about creating an account can be found at <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/districtschools/grants/webgrants> (instructions begin on page 4 for those *with* an existing ND.gov login, and page 6 for those *without* an existing ND.gov login).

Please note that account setup and connection to your institution may take several days. We strongly encourage you to begin the registration process as soon as possible to avoid delays that could affect your ability to submit an application before the deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Grant and Data Coordinator Bethany Rants at [ndsl-ld@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-ld@nd.gov) or by phone at 701.328.4663. We look forward to helping bring your library's projects to life.

# Changes Coming to Digital Offerings

## Submitted by Bethany Rants

As the end of the fiscal year approaches, some changes are coming to the digital resources offered through the North Dakota State Library. While we're sorry to see some resources go, we're excited to introduce new database offerings in the coming year.

The following resources will be discontinued:

- Gale In Context: College
- Gale OneFile: Educator's Reference
- Gale OneFile: High School Edition
- Gale OneFile: Informe Académico
- Gale OneFile: News
- Gale OneFile: Science
- Kanopy
- Mango Languages
- NovelList

In addition, Applied Science & Technology will transition from full-text access to index-only access.

We will share more information once new offerings have been finalized. We're excited about several of the new resources being considered and believe they will provide valuable opportunities for libraries and their communities.

---

## Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

June brings us to the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. We'll still be providing great continuing education opportunities for North Dakota librarians throughout summer. Staff from the North Dakota State Library are hosting a couple of webinars this month:

### [WebJunction, Junction, What's Your Function?](#)

**June 11 (2:00 PM – 2:30 PM)**

### [WordPress Q&A](#)

**June 16 (1:00 PM -2:00 PM)**

To check out all the great webinar opportunities available this month, visit <https://www.library.nd.gov/traininglibraries>. You can also find out about webinars and events from the Events Calendar at <https://www.library.nd.gov/events-calendar>.



## Join the Celebration of Audiobooks

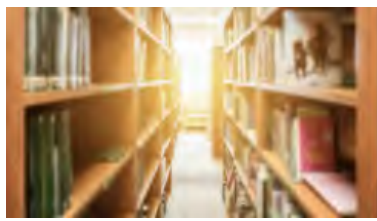


Every June, Audiobook Appreciation Month is celebrated to increase awareness and engagement with this reading format. While audiobooks were originally created to assist visually impaired individuals and injured veterans, the format has risen in popularity over the last decade.

In 1878, Thomas Edison, who invented the phonograph, became the first person to introduce the concept of an audiobook. To make reading more accessible for visually impaired individuals, Edison recorded a verse of Alfred Tennyson's poetry and played it on the phonograph while advocating for his idea at the Royal Institution in **Britain**. Unfortunately, early phonographic recordings had a limited capacity of about four minutes, making it impossible to record chapter books.

[Continue Reading](#)

---



# Shelf Additions

By Kathy Oline

## Busy, Busy, Pollinators: Books for all Ages

June is National Pollinators Month, a time to celebrate pollinators and raise awareness about the essential role they play in our ecosystem, agriculture, and food supply.



In 1997, a group of researchers and advocates, including philanthropists, beekeepers, and scientists, founded the Pollinator Partnership. This organization originated National Pollinator Week to highlight growing concerns about declining pollinator populations. In 2007, the Secretary of Agriculture formally proclaimed the week of June 24-30, 2007, as National Pollinator Week. With habitat loss, pesticide usage, climate change, and disease contributing to the decline of bees, bats, butterflies, birds, and other pollinators, the observance has since expanded into a full month of awareness each June.

[Continue Reading](#)

## In Other News

- The Network for the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) is accepting applications for the 2026 ARSL Professional Development Award. 20 small and rural library staff will receive registration and travel support (up to \$1,500 per award) to attend the ARSL Conference, including a specialized pre-conference session on National Library of Medicine health resources. Learn more and apply by June 15 at <https://www.nlm.gov/node/17944>
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services has published a "Public Library Trends Between FY2018 and FY2023 From Pandemic Disruption to Steady Recovery" report. Read it at [https://www.ims.gov/sites/default/files/2026-05/FY2023-Research-Brief-508\\_05132026.pdf](https://www.ims.gov/sites/default/files/2026-05/FY2023-Research-Brief-508_05132026.pdf)

## AI Insights

Submitted by Trevor Martinson

### Vintage Language Model

One of the "newest" things I've come across in the field of artificial intelligence is a "vintage language model" or "vintage large language model."

According to [IBM](#), large language models (or LLMs) are "a category of deep learning models trained on immense amounts of data, making them capable of understanding and generating natural language and other types of content to perform a wide range of tasks." LLMs form the foundation for generative AI interfaces, many of which are now household names (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, Gemini, and Grok).

So, then what is the "vintage" part? A vintage LLM is trained on content up to a particular date. One example is "talkie." This is a vintage LLM that has only been trained on text prior to 1931. It is an interesting concept, and it sidesteps the issue of copyrighted material being used to train the model. Other LLMs have often ignored copyright and are now facing lawsuits.

[Continue Reading](#)



Beanstack by the Numbers highlights how many minutes or books have been read for Beanstack challenges through North Dakota State Library. It also lists next month's challenge(s). Have fun reading and earning badges!

#### May 2026 Monthly Reading Challenge



Beanstack's CSLP Summer Reading Challenges: Unearth a Story! began in May. This challenge runs through August to accommodate for different start and end times of Summer Reading Programs. In the month of May, North Dakotans read 29,756 combined minutes!

#### 2026 Yearly Challenge



During the month of May, 509 books have been read for the 40 Books Reading Challenge. Since January 1st, 1802 books have been logged for this activity.

#### Statewide Reading Goal

This summer, May through August, we are testing out a statewide reading goal of 100,000 minutes. I was apparently too conservative in my goal-setting – in this case, I love that I was wrong – one month into this challenge, North Dakota readers have met just over 40% of that goal, with 41,725 combined minutes read! Some of you may be asking, "But, Tammy, how have we read more minutes for the statewide reading goal than we have logged for the Unearth a Story challenge(s)?" This is something new I learned this week: Beanstack offers an option for readers to log time or books without needing to be connected to a specific challenge. So those who want to track their own reading without the gamification aspect can do so through Beanstack!



Beulah, Garrison, Halliday, Hazen, Max, McLean-Mercer Regional, Stanton, Turtle Lake, Underwood, Washburn Public Libraries, and the MMRL Bookmobile are taking part in their [annual Library Crawl](#).

## 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

- Golden Jubilee, Max, North Dakota, 1906-1956

#### North Dakota Memories

- 1937-1938 youth boys, basketball team, Davenport, N.D.
- 1940 boys' basketball team, Davenport, N.D.
- Beatrice Swenson, Nursing School Graduation Portrait, 1947
- Coleharbor, N.D., High School, Class of 1932
- Emmett Solberg's Boy Scouts certificate for civics, 1938
- Foss and Nelson shop, Davenport, N.D., circa 1910s



- Knights of Pythias certificate, Davenport, N.D., 1900
- Letter from Sen. Milton R. Young to Anton Swenson, 1980
- Mr. and Mrs. Minard Halverson interview, 1974
- Portrait of the Salberg family, Fargo, N.D., circa 1940s
- Tax document of Ole Lee, Davenport, Dakota Territory, 1885
- Teaching permit for Lillian B. Schmidt, 1915

### Political Prairie Fire

- Bishop, Brissman & Co. advertisement, 1921
- Good and True Indorsed by the Nonpartisan League [candidates endorsed by the NPL for the state legislature, April 1916]
- Governor Frazier visits North Dakota farmers, circa 1919
- Portrait of Francis Murphy, circa 1915



## Digital Horizons

The Flickertale is a weekly publication of the North Dakota State Library

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.

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.

Some of these resources and programs are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

