



STAR/Wheelie Awards

Submitted by Monica Struck

Every year, the State Library presents the STAR Library and Wheelie awards to North Dakota libraries in recognition of the administrators and staff that provide exceptional service with the financial resources at their disposal. This honor is bestowed on those performing the best across a range of per-capita measures within a peer group of libraries with similar operating expenditures.

The metrics that are considered for the STAR awards are total circulation per capita, central branch service hours per week, program attendance per capita, and combined computer and WiFi use per capita.

The metrics considered for the Wheelie award are total circulation, bookmobile stops, and mileage.

The data for these awards is pulled from the Public Libraries Survey.

This year, we would like to congratulate the following libraries:

Star: Total Operating Expenditures <\$10,000

- LaMoure Public & School Library
- Max Community Library
- Stanton Public Library

Star: Total Operating Expenditures \$10,001–\$25,000

- Iris Swedlund School & Public Library
- Maddock Community Library
- McVillage Community Library

Star: Total Operating Expenditures \$25,001–\$50,000

- Hebron Public Library
- Mohall Public Library
- Washburn Public Library

Star: Total Operating Expenditures \$50,001–\$150,000

- Beulah Public Library
- Divide County Public Library
- Griggs County Library

Star: Total Operating Expenditures \$150,001+

- Bowman Regional Public Library
- Hazen Public Library
- Tioga Public Library

Wheelie Bookmobile Award:

- Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Bookmobile

New Beanstack Challenge for August

Welcome to the *Back to School Reading Challenge*! Log 300 minutes (or more) as you prepare for a return to the school year. This challenge is open to learners of all ages and runs August 1st through the 31st.



If your library continues its Summer Reading into August, the *Unearth a Story Challenges* run through the end of the month.



Graphic Novels and Visual Learners

Whitney Pipkin interviewed author Daniel Nayeri for her article *The Case for (Good) Graphic Novels*. Pipkin explains that while Nayeri sees novels and graphic novels as distinctly different reading formats, he believes both are worthwhile. For visual learners, graphic novels may offer an avenue for learning that traditional novels cannot.

Nayeri, author of [The Bizarre Bazaar](#) graphic novel series, believes that pairing images with text creates a reading experience that neither can achieve alone. According to author and illustrator [John Hendrix](#), the combination of text and images is called multimodality. Multimodal literacy uses two or more types of communication that engage multiple senses or modalities during learning. The five modes of communication include:

- **Visual**—what you can see
- **Oral**—related to listening
- **Linguistic**—using words
- **Gestural**—using the body or movement
- **Spatial**—physical layout

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Breaking up with Big Tech

Technology is a wonderful thing. It has made life easier in many respects. However, we have sacrificed a lot of privacy for the convenience. People are becoming more aware of this, and discomfort with Big Tech companies (Microsoft, Google, Meta, etc.) is growing. How can we help patrons navigate privacy worries while still being able to utilize technology that will make life easier? Hannah Cyrus, a reference librarian in Bangor, Maine, has some ideas regarding supporting “quiteracy”.

First, it is normal for patrons, especially those with lower digital literacy skills, to be skeptical of technology. Their concerns are valid, and this is a gift-wrapped opportunity for education. Use this chance to provide your patrons with the information needed to make informed choices about the technology they use and help them to protect the information that they want to keep private.

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Registration is open for [International Observe the Moon Night 2026](#), which will take place on September 19.

[School Library Journal's Teen Live Free Virtual Event](#) takes place on August 20.



Fads Before TikTok

What is a Fad?

A fad, sometimes called a craze, is something that is widely popular for a short time frame – a few months to a few years. Fads appear suddenly and disappear quickly – they emerge, surge, and purge (Daugherty, 2026). Fads can fade out and regenerate later... think Furbies, fanny packs (now often called belt bags), and bohemian fashion (crochet, anyone?). Fads are meant to be fun, but some can have dangerous consequences. (An example of a dangerous fad involved [swallowing goldfish whole](#) on college campuses in 1939.)

Prior to the Second Phase (late 1800s to early 1900s) of the Industrial Revolution, Americans had little access to fads; the trends they did follow mostly came from European countries and were often dying down by the time they reached America. However, the Industrial Revolution changed that; this shift allowed goods to be created cheaper and faster, making them accessible to more people. Additionally, this was a time of improved communication systems, including telephones and mass-produced magazines. The 1920s saw so many fads it became nicknamed “the era of wonderful nonsense” (Daugherty, 2026)!

Let’s look at crazes throughout the decades in U.S. history.

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New Children’s Librarians & Tips For Starting Your Journey

Beginning a new role as a children's librarian can feel both exciting and overwhelming. Children's librarians play an important role in supporting early literacy, learning, and family engagement in their communities. If you're new to children's librarianship, WebJunction offers these seven tips in this article that can help you build confidence, connect with families, strengthen key skills, and establish a strong foundation for success. Tips such as strengthening your reader advisory and reference interview skills, learning your library, preparing to adapt and solve problems, and connecting with families and caregivers are valuable advice to first time children’s librarians, and in fact, good advice to ALL librarians.

Another nugget included is committing to lifelong learning. WebJunction is a fantastic source for discovering professional development resources. WebJunction is the learning place for libraries, providing free professional development, practical resources, and opportunities for library workers to learn, connect, and build skills throughout their careers. If you want a better understanding in subjects such as cataloging, be sure to check out the Library Foundational Training (LiFT) courses found in the course catalog.

This article is part of a WebJunction series offering practical guidance for library staff who are new to their roles. For new youth librarians, a separate article focusing on teen-focused resources and recommendations will be featured subsequently in this series. More information about this series will be published in future WebJunction Highlights.

[Read The Entire Article](#)

Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

Francis Murphy and His Missing Buicks

[Francis Murphy](#) was a well-known attorney in North Dakota in the early decades of the 1900s. He was born in Minnesota in 1877 and later attended the University of Minnesota. He moved to North Dakota in 1901 and was admitted to the bar in 1903.

He had law practices in Kenmare and Minot, and he eventually relocated to Fargo in 1924. His abilities as a lawyer gained attention, and he was appointed an Assistant Attorney General, serving under Henry Linde from 1915 to 1916.

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2027 NDLA Executive Board Election Nominations Open Until August 7

Nominate yourself or a colleague for one of the open executive board positions open beginning January 1, 2027! Send questions, comments, and nominations to President-Elect [Maddie Sharpe](#).

- President-Elect
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- At-Large
- MPLA Rep
- ALA Rep

North Dakota Book and Arts Festival

**University of Jamestown Campus
September 26 (10:00 AM - 5:00 PM)**

The North Dakota Book and Arts Festival is returning on September 26 for its second annual celebration of authors, artists, creativity, and readers. The event will take place from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on the University of Jamestown campus.

This year's festival will feature North Dakota Poet Laureate, Dr. Denise Lajimodiere; Chuck Suchy, North Dakota State Troubadour; and Dr. Ramona Klein, Vice President of The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

The event will include over 70 authors and artists and the launch of this year's issue of Plainsong, the creative magazine of the University of Jamestown. The event is free and open to everyone. There will also be craft activities for kids and food trucks on site.

For more information, please contact Jill Pfaff at 701-252-2990. Authors and artists interested in having a table can apply at the website below.

[ND Book and Arts Festival](#)

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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.

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