



Flickertale

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Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

August brings us the tail end of summer and the beginning of the school year. We have a couple of North Dakota State Library Webinars to highlight for you plus our September virtual conference.

Fundamental Skills for Today's Services

Fundamental Skills for Today's Services will be held September 2 from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM and 3 from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM with sessions such as *AI Safety and Libraries: Leading in an AI Future*, *Rural Community English Program Collaboration*, *Legislative Branch Website Overview and Research Tips*, *Empowering School Librarians with State Library Resources*, *Let's Talk Collection Development Policies*, *Stress Less Fest: Reducing Academic Fatigue and Providing Mental Health Services at Your Library* as well as marketing, advocacy, cataloging, reference services, readers' advisory, library programming and more.

More information, including registration, will be posted shortly on the *Training for Libraries* page, found under the *libraries* tab.

[An Introduction to the New Online Library Resources](#)

August 20 (2:00 PM -2:30 PM)

Visit <https://www.library.nd.gov/traininglibraries> for all of the upcoming webinar opportunities. You can also find out about webinars and events from the Events Calendar at <https://www.library.nd.gov/events-calendar>.



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!

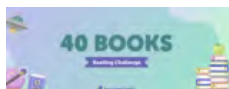
July 2026 Monthly Reading Challenges



CSLP Summer Reading Challenges: ***Unearth a Story!*** was July's first Beanstack challenge. In the month of July, North Dakotans read 59,477 combined minutes!



America 250 Reading Challenge was July's second Beanstack challenge. North Dakotans read 46,085 minutes for America 250!



2026 Yearly Challenge

During the month of July, 622 books have been read for the **40 Books Reading Challenge**. Since January 1st, 3,273 books have been logged for this activity.



Back to School Beanstack Challenge

Back to School is August's new reading challenge. (August is also the last month of CLSP's *Unearth a Story!* for libraries that wrap up their summer reading this month.)

Statewide Reading Goal

North Dakota readers have (slightly over) doubled our Statewide Reading Goal with one month to go! As of July 31st, 204,738 minutes have been logged!

Beanstack



2026 Report on Tweens and Teens Using AI

With AI swiftly becoming a part of youths' lives, Common Sense Media has committed to conducting a yearly census to learn how tweens' and teens' engagement with AI evolves over time. This article highlights the 2026 census results.

Common Sense Media asked over a thousand 9–17-year-olds across the country the following questions:

1. How do you use AI?
2. How often do you use AI?
3. What do you use AI for?

The census data provide a breakdown of AI use by age group:

- 81% of 9-12-year-olds
- 89% of 13-15-year-olds
- 92% of 16-17-year-olds
- Almost 29% of 13-17-year-olds and 17% of 9-12-year-olds use AI daily

[Continue Reading](#)



Best Books of 2026... So Far

As the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year quickly approaches, it's time to take a quick look at a few titles for school-aged readers that are listed among the best books published so far in 2026. While this list is not exhaustive, these titles may be a good place to start as you begin purchasing new items for the school library.



Title	Age Range	
Before You Close Your Eyes	2-6	picture book
The Rare Bird	3-6	picture book
The Outermost Mouse	3-6	picture book

[Continue 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](#)

- Tioga: A Story of Progress and Growth

[North Dakota Memories](#)

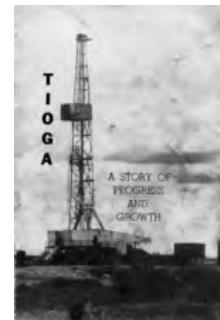
- Henry Anderberg interview, 1975-02-09
- Train Kills Two Mandan Men [newspaper article, 1921]

[Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Portrait of Charles M. Whitmer, circa 1911

[North Dakota School for the Deaf](#)

- The Banner, 2024-2025



[Digital Horizons](#)

The Odyssey

Submitted by Jennifer Long

With Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* breaking box office records at over \$1 billion this summer, this gives academic librarians the best opportunity to renew that love for classical literature and poetry back within your library shelves. Let's dive into this cultural moment to showcase and feature some of the best translated works of Homer's *The Odyssey* for the upcoming fall semester.

Top translated books of Homer's **The Odyssey**:

Descriptions were found from J. Susanne Wilson's [website](#); she has a degree within Ancient Civilizations and has written about the Greek mythos. Check out her website for better descriptions on these translations!

Emily Wilson (2018) has been noted to be super simple and easy to read for any [first-time reader](#) of this translation and has been noted to stay highly faithful to the original language of Homer. (This version has been on my radar for a while now...)

Daniel Mendelsohn (2025) focuses on musical and oral poetry within Homer's. More for literary readers and a bit more advanced. Possibly for faculty.

Robert Fitzgerald (1961) focuses more on the musical/lyrical scale of poetry; one drawback is that it might be a bit of a [slower pace for modern college students](#). Could be best for faculty instead.

Robert Fagles (1996) regarded as "less structurally faithful" as an adaptation, but has as noted more "narrative energy, drama, and accessibility." This might have been the same version that most of us read in English in either high school or middle school...

Richmond Lattimore (1965) this translation stays structurally close to the Greek, within the formal style. Drawbacks are that it [is dense and slow for first time readers](#). More for faculty or advanced readers as this version might be too formal.



[Learn More](#)

New Promotional Materials Forms

Submitted by BreAnne Meier

Did you know your library can request free promotional materials from the State Library to distribute to your classrooms, teachers, patrons, etc., just by filling out a form?

You can choose between four forms:

- [All Resource Materials Order Form](#)
 - This form includes everything that's available to your library
- [Individual Resource Materials Order Form](#)
 - This form includes only the materials that focus on a specific resource, such as Libby, Explora, Ancestry Library Edition, etc.
- [Multi-Resource Materials Order Form](#)
 - This form includes only the materials that highlight multiple resources, such as EBSCO, homework help postcards, etc.
- [NDSL-Specific Materials Order Form](#)
 - This form includes NDSL-specific materials, such as the Tribal Language bookmarks

These forms are available through the links above and on the State Library's Marketing webpage. The forms will ask you for the number of items you would like sent to your library and your contact information. We will get them to you as soon as possible.

If the item you are looking for isn't listed or you have ideas for new promotional materials, please let BreAnne know at ndslpa@nd.gov.

[Marketing Webpage](#)

In Other News

- As part of their Science Across America campaign, STAR Net is hosting [Carlee Jackson](#), shark and turtle scientist, Nat Geo program science communicator, and author, as she explores the wonderful world of sharks. This program is for libraries to share with their patrons - there are even six slots available for libraries to be on camera! Learn about these amazing creatures, their incredible adaptations, the threats they face and what we're doing to help them in this interactive program on August 11 (4:00 PM).
- Melanie Benjamin, author of *The Children's Blizzard*, is offering [free 30-45-minute Zoom visits](#) for book clubs who are reading any of her nine novels, scheduling permitting. Book clubs must have six or more members and visits are scheduled 6-8 weeks in advance.

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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

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

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