



Flickertale

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Fundamental Skills for Today's Services

Free Virtual Conference

September 2 & 3 (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM)

Fundamental Skills for Today's Services Free Virtual Conference

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.

Registration is now open! Links to the agenda and registration can be found on the [Trainings for Libraries webpage](#).

For school librarians, credit for attending the conference is available through Valley City State University.

[Course Availability and Registration | Valley City State University](#)

Title of course: NDSL: Fundamental Skills for Today's Services September 2026

Course number 43950

Course code is TK-1.

[Register Today](#)



The Quiet Library

In *The Twilight Zone* episode entitled "[Time Enough at Last](#)," Henry Bemis (played by Burgess Meredith) is a blind-as-a-bat bookworm who is not understood by the people around him. One day, a lucky lunch break in the bank vault saves him from total annihilation when a bomb drops. He wanders around the barren landscape, seemingly the last man alive. In a moment of despair, he discovers the public library, books still intact. As he gleefully plans the reading for the rest of his life, his glasses slip off his face and shatter on the floor. Now, he is surrounded by books that he can no longer see to read.

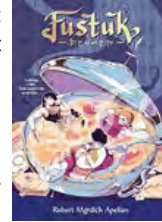
In Season 4 Episodes 8-9 of *Doctor Who*, we also run into a library. In "[Silence in the Library](#)," The Doctor (played by David Tennant) takes his companion, Donna Noble (played by Catherine Tate), to visit a planet sized library. Unfortunately, the library is deserted, and danger lurks in the shadows. In "[Forest of the Dead](#)," The Doctor works together with River Song (played by Alex Kingston) to save Donna Noble and make the library a buzzing place of learning once more.

[Continue Reading](#)



2026 Graphic Novels/Manga

Cooking and Persian-inspired mythology come together in Robert Mgrdich Apelian's gorgeous graphic novel *Fustuk*. Katah is the youngest in a family of talented cooks, all too aware of his lack of ability in the kitchen and the ways in which he's not living up to the legacy of his deceased father. What Katah does have are strange visions and he follows them to a creature called a div who agrees to help his ailing mother in exchange for a meal more delicious than one even his father could make. To that end Katah must team up with his siblings and hopefully stop his family's in-fighting long enough to save them.



[Continue Reading](#)



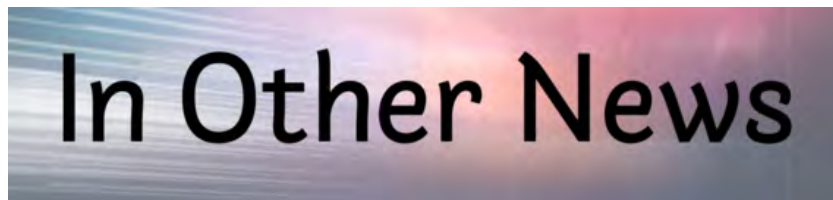
The Fighting Auditor Exhibit

The [Digital Initiatives Department](#) of the North Dakota State Library (NDSL) is excited to announce the opening of another online exhibit called "The Fighting Auditor."

Unlike the [previous exhibits](#) that explore specific topics or events (Book Scandal of 1919, Education Not Politics, the Liberty Memorial Building, and the Scandinavian American Bank), this online exhibit focuses on the life and political career of one individual: Carl R. Kositzky.

Kositzky rose to become a prominent politician in state government during the late 1910s and into the 1920s. He was often at the center of the political battle between the Nonpartisan League (NPL) and the Independent Voters Association (IVA). Because of this, the exhibit primarily uses information and content from NDSL's [Political Prairie Fire](#) digital collection.

[Continue Reading](#)



The next edition of [The Digital Shelf](#), hosted by The Palace Project in partnership with COSLA and ReadersFirst, will be [Opening Digital Doors - Accessibility on the Library Shelf](#) on September 29 at 12:00 PM.

Applications for the [MPLA Leadership Institute 2027](#) (May 2-6, 2027) will be available from September 2 through October 4. This opportunity will include hands-on projects and collaboration with peers from across the MPLA region to build a strong foundation for your future leadership in the library community.

WebJunction Highlight

By Al Peterson

Start Slow, Build Trust: Eight Practical Tips for New Teen Librarians

Teen librarians can be a trusted source of support for teens as they navigate adolescence, and starting a new role as a teen librarian can feel both exciting and daunting. Where do you start? Whether you are a brand-new teen librarian or just looking to brush up your knowledge and skills, the *Start Slow, Build Trust: Eight Practical Tips for New Teen Librarians* article explores how to approach your teen library services. The key to working with teens is building trust: show up in their spaces, listen, demonstrate that you value them, and follow through on things that you say you'll do. Teens need adults in their lives they can trust, and that takes time and consistency to build. Learn about the teenage brain because teens are a work in process. Observe how and when teens engage in the library. Discover how to offer something for teens regularly and create that affordable third space for teens that offers them new and different experiences. This article also provides tips on how to listen and be authentic to your teens. Additionally, it provides links for resources for further learning about teen services from WebJunction and other sources. This article is part of a WebJunction series offering practical guidance for library staff who are new to their roles.

Looking for more support? Explore WebJunction's [LiFT courses](#) for foundational training and professional development.

WebJunction



Lonnie Johnson and the Super Soaker

America 250: Steps to Building a Nation is a series that highlights historical happenings that have helped shape our country! This twelve-part series will highlight events, symbols, and people.

This month's topic is a play time favorite and its creator: Lonnie Johnson and the Super Soaker!

Who is Lonnie Johnson?

Lonnie Johnson, born October 6, 1949, in Mobile, Alabama, is a black scientist and inventor. He grew up experimenting and inventing, nicknamed "The Professor" by high school classmates. After achieving a master's in nuclear engineering from Tuskegee University, Johnson served in the Air Force and worked at NASA. He is a self-described "tinkerer" and holds over 100 patents. His primarily scientific interests entail energy technology. As president and founder of Johnson Research and Development Co., Inc. (in Atlanta, Georgia), Lonnie Johnson continues to create and experiment to current day (Hirayama, n.d., Inventor, n.d., Kindy, 2019, and National Inventors, n.d.).

Continue Reading

Beanstack's September 2026 Challenge

The Beanstack Challenge for September is Fall into Reading!

Get cozy and fall head over heels for a new book! Log your minutes, aiming for 300, and watch those badges pile up all season long. This challenge runs September 1-30 and is open to all ages.



Beanstack

Library Tidbits

Librarians from around the state are attending the IMLS Library Convening: Telling America's Story next week in Reno, Nevada.

[Heart of America Library in Rugby](#) has the Messages from Survivors from The Memory Project displayed until September 30.

Kit of the Week

Community Helpers Literacy Kit

The Community Helpers Literacy Kit contains activities and puppets to teach children about the different types of jobs that community helpers do, such as firefighters, police, doctors, chefs, mail carriers, etc.

This kit is most appropriate for kids ages 2-7, and includes a binder with activities and reproducibles, eight puppets, 32 laminated mats, 192 cards, and three books - "Hello! Hometown Heroes" by Toni Armier; "Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do" by Kathryn Helling and Deborah Hembrook; and "Whose Hands Are These?" by Miranda Paul.

Learn More

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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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