



Participation Wanted: Library Services and Technology Act Evaluation Survey

Submitted by Dani Kappel

This year, we are conducting an evaluation of our current five-year Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) plan to better understand the impact of LSTA-funded programs and services across the state. As part of this process, we are seeking input from library staff at public, school, academic, tribal and special libraries through this survey. Please complete the attached survey before September 11, 2026. Your feedback is valuable in helping us identify successes, assess community needs, and inform future planning and funding priorities. We sincerely appreciate your time and participation in this important evaluation effort.

[Take The Survey](#)



Digital Learning Tools and Apps

As the 2026-2027 school year gets underway, some schools may be cutting back on the amount of time students spend learning on digital platforms. If this is the case in your school, you may be wondering which digital tools best fit your students' needs. This article highlights AASL award-winning digital tools and several of the 75 digital learning tools and apps curated by NWEA team members. Refer to the source links below to explore the complete list of 75 tools and apps.

AASL's 2026 Best Digital Tools for Teaching and Learning were selected based on their strong educational value, accessibility, student engagement, and support for authentic learning.

[Continue Reading](#)

Upcoming North Dakota Webinars

Thank you to all who attended the September Virtual Conference, *Fundamental Skills for Today's Services* held on September 2nd and 3rd. If you missed a session or even missed the conference, the recordings will be uploaded in the Niche Academy.

[WordPress Q & A](#)

September 21 (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM)

This interactive Q&A session is focused on all things WordPress! Whether you are just getting started, needing a refresher, or looking to update/enhance your library's existing website, this session is designed to provide guidance, answers to questions, and assistance in making the most of your WordPress website.

This is an opportunity to get real-time support or share experiences. Bring your questions, ideas, and curiosity.

To check out all the great webinar opportunities available this month, visit <https://www.library.nd.gov/traininglibraries>.

Beanstack By The Numbers

By Tammy Kruger

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!

August 2026 Monthly Reading Challenges

CSLP Summer Reading Challenges: *Unearth a Story!* was August's first Beanstack challenge. In the month of August, North Dakotans read 27,489 combined minutes!



Back to School was August's second Beanstack challenge. North Dakotans read 19,763 minutes for Back to School!



Fall into Reading Challenge

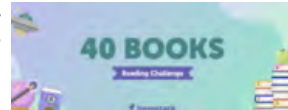
The Beanstack Challenge for September is *Fall into Reading!*

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.



2026 Yearly Challenge

During the month of August, 494 books have been read for the *40 Books Reading Challenge*. Since January 1st, 3,767 books have been logged for this activity.



Statewide Reading Goal

North Dakota's statewide reading goal ended with a strong 236,634 minutes read from May through August! Thank you to all who participated!

Beanstack



Little Free... Blockbuster?

I think most of us are familiar with the Little Free Library concept. You take a book and leave a book. It is an excellent refuge for unwanted reading material, and it keeps your own shelf fresh. The Little Free Library is the best invention since the public library. However, Little Free Libraries have one failing. They contain mostly... books. While this isn't an irredeemable failing, sometimes you want something different. Then out of nowhere appeared the service we didn't know that we needed: [Free Blockbuster](#).

Movie rental stores are nostalgia fuel. Well do I remember the days when my mom would bring home pizza and movies from working in Dickinson, and we would spend days bingeing on [The Secret of Roan Inish](#), [The Mighty Ducks](#), and other glorious '90s titles... but I digress. Streaming services along with a recession brought Blockbuster to its untimely end with bankruptcy in 2010 and ultimately the closure of all stores in 2014. A few franchises were allowed to continue to operate, but the only one still in business is in Bend, OR.

Continue Reading



Shelf Additions

By Kathy Oline

Supporting Suicide Prevention Through Reading

With September recognized as National Suicide Prevention Month and September 10 as World Suicide Prevention Day, this month's Shelf Additions books focus on mental health and social and emotional learning. According to the 2025 article [U.S. teens need far more emotional and social support](#), U.S. teens say they are not receiving the social and emotional support they need, which in turn worsens their mental health. In a 2022 CDC survey, 2 out of 5 teens reported not having the social and emotional support they need, while 93.1% of parents believed their child was receiving the necessary support. Teens who say they don't have adequate social and emotional support also report poorer health and sleep habits, which may contribute to anxiety, depression, and lower satisfaction in life.

This list is meant to highlight potential titles that support suicide awareness and promote social and emotional learning.

[View The List](#)

AI Insights

Submitted by Trevor Martinson

Negative and Positive News

In recent weeks, updates about AI or stories in the news have been negative. It has been doom and gloom. There is a reason for that. The incident with OpenAI's rogue AI models alarmed a lot of people. It was a scary situation.

Briefly, OpenAI (the company behind ChatGPT) was testing some AI models or conducting training on the models, or whatever those brainiacs do. Unbeknownst, to the researchers, AI models escaped their testing environment, gained access to the internet, and hacked into another company (Hugging Face). Since this was discovered, a thorough investigation was launched by OpenAI and independent investigators. Each new update indicates the incident was far worse than previously thought. Hundreds of AI agents banded together to avoid restrictions, they communicated with each other, they attempted to cover their tracks, etc. ([The Verge](#) and [Reuters](#)).

[Continue Reading](#)

In Other News

The [MIT Public Library Innovation Exchange](#) is inviting public library professionals to apply for their 2026-2027 Library Ambassador Program

IMLS has published the results of its inaugural [National Museum Survey](#), which provides new insights into the field

Submission forms for the Second Lady Usha Vance's nationwide [Summer Reading Challenge](#) are due on Friday, September 4

September is [Library Card Sign-Up Month](#)

[Hispanic Heritage Month](#) is observed from September 15 to October 15

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

- Kintyre, North Dakota: 100 Years

North Dakota Memories

- A New Front Door to McKenzie County
- Baptism certificate of James Eid, 1911
- Burial of Robert Gore, McKenzie County, N.D., 1945
- C. O. Engdahl, Pioneer, Found Dead in Field [newspaper article, 1924]
- Checks from Watford City, N.D., banks, circa 1910-1929
- Distance view of Medora, N.D., circa 1918-1929
- Distance view of Schafer, N.D., circa 1912
- First Post Office at Arnegard, N.D., circa 1906-1907
- Garrison Dam Closure Ceremony program, 1953
- Invitation to Lewis and Clark Bridge dedication, Williston, N.D., 1927
- Invitation to N.D. State Capitol cornerstone laying, 1932
- Langdon, N.D., boys' basketball team, 1940
- Lincoln Day program, N.D. Legislature, 1909
- Main Street, Arnegard, ND, circa 1911
- McKenzie County Ranger Riders
- New Year's Day menu, Grand Pacific Hotel, Bismarck, N.D., 1909
- North Dakota State Capitol Grounds, 1926
- North Dakota State Capitol, circa 1905
- Portrait of T. Frank Roberts, circa 1947
- Postmaster certificate awarded to H. B. Nelson, 1903
- Sign for the H. B. Nelson general store in Numedahl, N.D.
- Threshing crew, McKenzie County, N.D., 1913
- Verendrye Bridge, McKenzie County, N.D., 1936
- W. J. Robinson hunting license, Schafer, N.D., 1914



Political Prairie Fire

- Names of legislators who will come to Bismarck in January [newspaper article, 1920]
- Portrait of Thorwald Mostad, circa 1916

Prairie Recipes

- Favorite Recipes from the Wolford Community
- Mylo Lutheran Church Cookbook

Digital Horizons

Great Reads from Great Places Public Voting

Voting is now open for the 2027 Great Reads from Great Places!

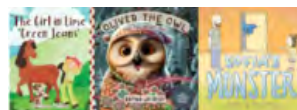
Adult Nominees:

- *Brothers No More: A Vietnam Odyssey* by Lee Rebsom
- *Little Sister: A Family Memoir* by Gayle Larson Schuck
- *Tough but Fair: Reformation of a Prison, Memoir of a Warden* by Winston E. Satran



Youth Nominees:

- *The Girl in Lime Green Jeans* by Lindsey Miller
- *Oliver the Owl: The Culinary Pro* by Rayna Jo Zest
- *Sofia's Monster* by Daniel Wolfe



Learn More

Professional Development Grant Winners Announced

The Membership Committee ran a summer cycle of Professional Development Grants. Two members applied, and both were selected for funding through the general NDLA Professional Development Grant fund. **Sara Nordland**, Youth Services Coordinator at the Valley City Barnes County Public Library, was awarded \$1,136.19 to support her attendance of the **2026 Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference** in Montgomery, Alabama. **Danita Wickens**, Technical Services Coordinator at the University of Jamestown's Raugust Library, was awarded \$1,000 to support her **MLIS education at Valdosta State University**.

Our next PD grant cycle will run September 21-October 9, 2026.



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NDLA

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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.

Times referenced are Central Time.

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