



Flickertale

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AI For All Kits

The term "Artificial Intelligence (AI)" gets thrown around daily in our fast-paced world. You may wonder, *What is AI? How does it work? Is it safe?* EduTech, through the Strengthen ND Creative Community Solutions grant, is excited to bring a beginner friendly AI Roadshow and "edutainment" kit to North Dakota communities. The **AI for All** kit is designed to help North Dakotans of all ages become AI literate through guided exploration of what AI really is, how to use AI safely, and the ethics behind the choices people make with AI.

Open to any librarian, educator, parent, student, or lifelong learner, **AI for All** offers an approachable introduction to artificial intelligence and its growing impact on education, work, and everyday life. Please join us as we showcase the kits that will be available for checkout through the State Library and at our AI for All Roadshow in four locations around North Dakota.

Roadshow locations and times (open-house style):

- Tioga Community Center, October 1, 5:30-7:00 PM
- Minot Public Library, October 2, 3:00-4:45 PM
- Jamestown, Alfred Dickey Library, October 6, 4:00-6:00 PM
- Thompson City Hall, October 7, 4:00-6:00 PM

iREAD Reading Programs

Submitted by Jennifer Long

We're super excited to announce that the North Dakota State Library is officially joining iREAD for all public and tribal libraries here in our state.



What is iREAD? It is a non-profit reading program that was developed for librarians made by librarians. What started out in 1981 from the Illinois Valley Library System to discuss about having a state-wide theme for the Summer Reading Program in Illinois-has now turned into a multi-state program for other public libraries to utilize. Each year, iREAD has new partnerships with different authors and illustrators for resource guides, books, and graphics, an online store for swag and graphics, theme voting, no membership fees, built-in templates for promotions, and more!

The Summer Reading Program theme for 2027 is "[Reading Expands Our Universe](#)"

Be sure to check out the [onboarding webinar on Monday, October 19, at 10:00 AM](#) for summer 2027:

- General introduction of the program and theme
- An opportunity to contribute to the 2028 Resource Guide
- Presentation of general theme concept and voting for 2028
- Details about the iREAD store, ordering, downloads, deadlines, shipping accounts customer service
- Q&A at the end

Registration is required for this webinar hosted by iREAD, and a recording will be available afterward.

Join us this coming 2027 year with iREAD as we learn more about this program and see what it has to offer to the North Dakota Libraries.

Can't wait to see all of you North Dakota librarians there!

[Learn More](#)



2026-2027 Battle of the Books Registration

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

Welcome to the new school year and another year of ND Battle of the Books!

ND Battle of the Books is a literacy program where teams of students in grade spans (4-5 OR 4-6) and (6-8 OR 7-8) read selected books and then compete against one another in "battles."

The book selections for 2026-2027 are:

Middle School (6-8 or 7-8 grade)

1. *When Stars are Scattered* by Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson
2. *City of Ghosts* by Victoria Schwab
3. *I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001* by Lauren Tarshis
4. *Found* by Margaret Haddix
5. *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan
6. *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick
7. *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
8. *Allies* by Alan Gratz
9. *Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina
10. *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps
11. *A Tale Dark & Grimm* by Adam Gidwitz
12. *The In-Between* by Katie Van Heidrich

Elementary School (4-5 or 4-6 grade)

1. *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry
2. *Some Places More Than Others* by Renee Watson
3. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
4. *Losing the Plot* by Annaleise Byrd
5. *Holes* by Louis Sachar
6. *Octopus Moon* by Bobbie Pyron
7. *Gregor the Overlander* by Suzanne Collins
8. *Jake Drake, Know-It-All* by Andrew Clements
9. *Pax* by Sarah Pennypacker
10. *I Survived the Japanese Tsunami, 2011* by Lauren Tarshis
11. *Football Nightmare* by Matt Christopher
12. *The City of Ember* by Jeanne DuPrau

The only monetary cost to libraries/schools is to purchase copies of the books. These books are used on a three-year rotation. New books will be brought in; however, it will never be more than one or two different titles per competition level per year to help keep things fresh but still be gentle on budgets. NDSL has purchased most of the books as ebooks and audiobooks through Libby, as well.

NDSL provides practice and school-wide competition questions. Both regionals and state are conducted virtually, so no travel time is necessary!

Schools can register for elementary, middle school, or both competitions at <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/cKvPByLuTJ?origin=lpLink>. Registration closes October 31. Practice and school-wide competition questions will be sent out the first week in November.

The **ND Battle of the Books website** includes the handbook, book trailers, a tentative timeline, and other resources. If you have any questions, please reach out to me, Tammy Kruger at tkruger@nd.gov or Kathy Cline at kjcline@nd.gov.

Register Today

2027 Great Reads From Great Places Cast Your Vote!

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

2027 Great Reads From Great Places

CAST YOUR VOTE!

Adult Nominees



Youth Nominees



Vote by December 31!

Vote By December 31

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 survey below 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](#)



Unicorn Chapter Books for Elementary and Middle School

Welcome to the second installment of unicorn books for *Top Picks*! This month's offerings are chapter books for elementary and middle school students. If you have a topic request for *Top Picks*, please email me at tkruger@nd.gov.

The Unicorn Quest by Kamila Benko

Publish Date: 2018

Publisher: Bloomsbury

Summary: "Claire had never seen a ladder in a fireplace before."



Claire is the worrisome sister, while Sophie is the brave one. One day, the sisters, with Sophie in the lead, climb a mysterious ladder and end up in the magical land of Arden. Unfortunately, Arden is in turmoil and the sisters return home to safety. However, one night Sophie goes missing and Claire re-enters this magical kingdom to find her sister! What will she uncover while there? Will Claire discover her own bravery? *The Unicorn Quest* is the first in its series.

Best For: Third through Sixth Grade

[Continue Reading](#)

Disaster Preparedness 101



Self-Paced, Online Class

[+ Join this Course](#)

North Dakota State Library

15
Lessons

22
Exams & Assignments

7
Hours average time

0.7
CEUs

Disaster Preparedness 101

Submitted by Al Peterson

September is National Preparedness Month and no matter where you live, you are subject to disasters. Natural disasters and man-made disasters affect everyone and cause severe damage and endanger lives. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, landslides, wildfires, hot spells, or cold spells are all natural disasters that can be deadly to people and cause property damage. Man-made disasters such as terrorism, crime, power outages, famines, or war are just as terrifying as natural disasters. However, your response can be calculated, effective, and decisive.

Disaster Preparedness 101 from Universal Class is a comprehensive disaster preparedness course, crafted not just to educate, but to empower. This course is your all-encompassing shield against such uncertainties. It doesn't merely skim the surface; it dives deep, arming you with knowledge, foresight, and pragmatic solutions. In this course, you will learn how to assess and recognize threats, develop a robust disaster plan, make sure your finances are in order and the technology you rely on are ready, among many other topics. The reality of life is its unpredictability. Yet, through meticulous preparation, we can transform fear into empowerment and uncertainty into assurance.

[Universal Class](#)

Digital Delight

Threshing crew, McKenzie County, N.D., 1913

This threshing crew is loaded up and about to move to a new location in Alexander, McKenzie County, North Dakota. There are three men in coats, gloves, pants, and hats standing in front of a steam-powered tractor. The man on the left is holding a large wrench. The man in the middle is holding a dog. Two others are partially visible on the left, crouched down by the wheel. This photo was taken in 1913.



Courtesy of Digital Horizons (North Dakota Memories Collection, ND State Library)

Digital Horizons

Navigating Accessibility

By BreAnne Meier



Facebook Posts

While I've talked a lot about making your library's websites accessible, you also need to look at your social media platforms. One thing of note is that if you share a post from another entity or person, you need to ensure that it is accessible.

Here are a few things you should do to ensure your Facebook posts are accessible:

- Add alternative text to the images. Click on the photo to edit, select "Alternative Text," and add a description of the image content
- Add captions for video content. Do not use auto-generated captions, when possible, because these do not meet accessibility requirements
- When using hashtags, capitalize the first letter of each word. This way, screen readers will read each distinct word rather than a jumbled string
- Use emojis sparingly and put them at the end of the sentence. Screen readers will read the name of each emoji which can be disruptive to the flow of text. Also, avoid creating emoticons using text, such as :)
- Use simple language and shorter sentences – avoid technical jargon and long sentences that can be hard to follow and understand

These are just some of the things you can do to make sure your information is accessible for everyone.

Sources:

Disability:IN. "Creating Accessible Social Media Content." Accessed July 16, 2026. <https://disabilityin.org/resource/creating-accessible-social-media-content>.

Meta. Creating accessible content, May 3, 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/government-nonprofits/blog/creating-accessible-content>.



In Other News

For National Preparedness Month (September), the [National Network of Libraries of Medicine](#) is hosting webinars designed to make preparedness feel more approachable and actionable.

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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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