



The Dakota Bridge Is Coming To Your Library Soon

Steve Hammel

I'm very happy to introduce everyone to the Dakota Bridge, a new resource sharing network which will be made up of academic, public, school, and special libraries in both North Dakota and South Dakota.

If the term "resource sharing" is new to you, it's another name for interlibrary loan (ILL). Resource sharing is built on the idea that no library can have everything. All library collections are limited because of budget, priorities in collection development, and ultimately, a finite amount of shelf space.

Dakota Bridge will utilize a product called Rapido. Rapido "talks" to integrated library systems (ILS) to create a list of items available at each participating library. It will also act as a communications tool between libraries to make requests, track items shared by your library, and apply systemwide sharing protocols. Rapido will not replace your current ILS, its purpose is to act as a next step after an unsuccessful search in your library's catalog.

If you have questions, you are welcome to contact me via e-mail at shammel@nd.gov or your NDSL Library Development Specialist.

International Open Access Week

Submitted by Jennifer Long

Open Access Week has arrived!

This year's theme being: **The Cost of Knowledge**

Starting October 19-25, 2026

"We create and share knowledge in order to advance human understanding and the common good. We recognize that accessing and sharing knowledge is a human right. Yet, the costs to access and share knowledge continue to increase, often dramatically. Why? Who benefits?"



For more information, please visit these sites for details on this years

Open Access theme: The Cost of Knowledge:

<https://www.openaccessweek.org/theme/english> (English)

<https://www.openaccessweek.org/theme/spanish> (Spanish)

Events and Workshops:

<https://www.openaccessweek.org/2026-events>

Virtual and Hybrid for most sessions listed within OA week.

What is Open Access Week?

While primarily hosted by academic institutions and libraries, Open Access Week is open to everyone. Led by a global advisory committee that selects an annual theme, the event connects the worldwide movement for open knowledge sharing with policy reform and pressing social issues. The official hashtag of Open Access Week is **#OAweek**

Hope to see all of you academic librarians there!

Open Access Week



BITS OF TRIVIA

By Stacey Goldade

Books That Feature Libraries and Librarians

I think people that really love to read love libraries too. And I suspect that people that love libraries love to read books that are set in libraries. These are some of the books that we have available that feature librarians and libraries!

- *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict
- *Miss Morgan's Book Brigade* by Janet Skeslien Charles
- *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
- *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristin Harmel – We have a book club kit too!
- *The Book Charmer* by Karen Hawkins
- *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes
- *The Librarians of Lisbon* by Suzanne Nelson
- *The Library of Lost and Found* by Phaedra Patrick
- *Overdue* by Stephanie Perkins
- *The Astral Library* by Kate Quinn
- *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson – We have a book club kit too!
- *The Librarian of Boone's Hollow* by Kim Vogel Sawyer
- *The Book of Speculation* by Erika Swyler
- *The Librarians* by Sherry Thomas

Most of the above are also available as E-books or E-audiobooks in Library2Go.

IEEE Grant Opportunity – 2027 Science Kit Grant

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) - *Region 4's Science Kits for Public Libraries (SKPL)* Grant program is offering up to \$2,000 in funding to public libraries to establish a circulating science kits collection. Libraries must be located within Region 4, which includes all of Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and northerly portions of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Grant applications will be available on the SKPL website on November 1. Completed applications may be submitted until 11:59 PM on January 21, 2027.

Those libraries which have previously applied for the grant but did not receive funding are invited to submit again.



Public Libraries have a long tradition of building stronger communities by providing life-long learning opportunities for children and teens. The SKPL Team is honored to have the opportunity to enrich the services that public libraries offer. SKPL enables children, parents, and teachers the chance to borrow library kits for hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning at home or in classroom.

Visit [SKPL's website](#) for the application form, submission details, and a map of Region 4.

Region 4, Science Kits for Public Libraries (SKPL) organization is a volunteer-based organization affiliated with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). SKPL believes all children – regardless of race, gender, financial condition, or home environment – should have access to high-quality, hands-on STEM learning experiences. By making catalyst grants available to public libraries, we empower them to start their own science kit collections that are free and accessible to the public.

Science Kits for Public Libraries



Digital Collection Spotlight

By Trevor Martinson

Cobber Authors

The "Cobber Authors" collection works to display and disseminate widely requested literary and scholarly works written by Concordia College faculty and staff, both past and present. These works display a wide range of historical knowledge about Concordia and show a large number of scholarly interests. This collection is an excellent resource for research on many topics and is a wonderful way to get to know the interests of those teaching the courses at Concordia. This collection is available on [Digital Horizons](#).



[View the Collection](#)



Where Did That Book Go?

Everyone knows that proper cataloging is vital for good library organization. However, there is something even more important: proper shelving. If an item is misshelved, it does not matter how immaculate the record is. No one will be able to find it on the shelf. There are two things that can help mitigate the calamity that is misshelving: proper training and shelf maintenance.

Training is your first line of defense. There is no right or wrong way to train your staff. Common methods include training shelves, games, quizzes... No matter how much training you provide, eventually, you need to allow your new shelvees to put theory into practice. There are a number of ways you can help shelvees get their sea legs.

[Continue Reading](#)

Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

What's New in Niche

The North Dakota State Library wrapped up our September virtual conference, *Fundamental Skills for Today's Services*. All recordings have been uploaded to the Niche Academy under the [2026 Virtual Conference](#) category. Each day is broken out separately and each session will have any additional resources, relevant links, slide decks, and contact information that was included in the presentation.

If you are reviewing the recordings for a professional development credit through Valley City State University, links for applying for credit and information about the required assignment and agendas for both days can be found in the first tutorial, [Fundamental Skills or Today's Services: Agendas and Credit Information](#).

A recent North Dakota State Library webinar, **Board Duties, Policies, and Reports! Oh My!**, has been uploaded to Niche Academy in the *Library Boards, Friends Groups, and Volunteers*. Speaking of North Dakota State Library's webinars, all the tiles for our recorded and produced tutorials have been branded with our logo. This will make it easier to find recordings of State Library webinars.

[Niche Academy](#)



Quilted Halloween Placemat and Potholder



Celebrate the fall season with a touch of autumn color and trick-or-treat whimsy. Learn how to create a quick and easy patchwork project that's perfect for brightening up your kitchen and adding a bit of fun to your décor. This project is ideal for beginners and also enjoyable for those with more quilting experience. Gather your stash of seasonal prints and get ready to start stitching with this downloadable pattern and 38-minute lesson through Craft & Hobby.

[Craft & Hobby](#)



ORCID iD

Academic librarians, have you ever struggled with common author name variations, changed published researchers' institutional affiliations, or spent hours on end updating academic profiles? If you have at least answered 'Yes' in your head to one, ORCID might be just what you need. **(Plus, it's free!)**

What is ORCID iD? (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) provides a digital identifier (ORCID iD) that distinguishes you, your researcher/faculty member that has published from every other researcher. Managed by a global, non-profit organization, it functions like a DOI but for people. If your researcher or faculty member has been published in a journal already, chances are they already have an ORCID iD.

[Continue Reading](#)



Library Tidbits

McKenzie County Public Library's Friends of the Library is working with McKenzie Health's Labor and Delivery Department to send books home with infants born at the county hospital. The library purchased 450 infant board books, created an infant literacy and library resources brochure, and asked the McKenzie County Economic Development Department to create a county-wide parent resource guide.

In collaboration with the Watford City Parks and Recreation and the Rough Rider Fund, McKenzie County Public Library installed 18 displays at the Tourist Park in Watford City to display a book. [Walk & Wonder](#) had its grand opening September of 2025 and currently has their fourth book displayed. Walk & Wonder was recently mapped by the McKenzie County GIS Department to make it accessible online. It also has the ability to translate it into Spanish and offer audio for each display.

Morton Mandan Public Library is hosting [OctoberWest](#), an event that includes German-inspired flavors and live music. Tickets are \$50 for adults 21+ with proceeds going toward a new bookmobile and the Creativity Studio.

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library will be hosting [Ballroom Dance Basics](#) with Northern Plains Dance. During these six sessions, participants will learn the fundamentals of "lead and follow," "basic footwork patterns," and musicality in various popular dance styles. Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library also hosted a free [Halloween costume swap](#). 100 people donated and around 50 came to find costumes.

Hazen Public Library has introduced [UBER READS](#) for patrons who need a book but don't know what to pick. Each book is in a paper bag and includes a receipt with a little bit of information about the title.

Randi Monley from Minot Public Library was named the 2026 Librarian of the Year by the North Dakota Library Association.

In Other News

Nominations are open for the [2027 School Librarian of the Year Award](#). Applications are due December 10, 2026

Request a virtual library visit from bestselling author [Suzanne Woods Fisher](#)

Fast Forward Libraries has a number of webinars coming up (some do have a registration fee): [DIY Strategic Planning Series](#); [Hot Take: Do You Really Need Non-User Input When Crafting Your Strategic Plan?](#); and [Engaged Trustees = Stronger Libraries](#)

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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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