

# **Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries**

## **April 30, 2026**

**8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Registration**

**9:00 AM - 9:05 AM Welcome Back and Housekeeping**

**9:05 AM – 9:55 AM**

### **Master Your Money: North Dakota Financial Literacy Resources**

This session defines financial literacy, as well as highlights resources available through Bank of North Dakota and North Dakota State Library.

*Jocelyn Schneider, Education Outreach Coordinator  
Bank of North Dakota*

*Tammy Kruger, Literacy Specialist  
North Dakota State Library*

### **News and Media Literacy and AI**

We are dealing with the most challenging information landscape in human history. Digital tools, artificial intelligence and social media make it easy for anyone to spread misinformation and disinformation. The News Literacy Project believes education is the most effective method to address this challenge. Our free educator resources, including the browser-based e-learning platform Checkology®, lay the foundation for students to learn how to think independently and evaluate and interpret sources.

Join us to discover strategies for infusing news and media literacy into your classroom teaching!

*Erin Olson, Director of State Engagement  
News Literacy Project*

**10:05 AM-12:00 PM (Two Hour Session)**

### **The Four Pillars of Information Literacy**

The interactive presentation guides participants through a consideration of the four pillars of information literacy (information need, information Identification and evaluation, information use, information creation and distribution) through exploration and conversation designed to build skills toward teaching information literacy in librarians of all types.

*Jennifer Nelson, Linda Braun, and Susan Barry  
New Jersey State Library, LEO Group,  
NJ Department of Education*

**10:05 AM -10:55 AM**

### **Get in the game! An exploration of Games-based Library Services**

Did you know 68% of American Adults report playing some type of game at least one-hour a week? Wisconsin and Washington State have embarked on a IMLS, grant-funded project to create a formal study of Games-Based Library Services aimed at providing a toolkit and direction for libraries to fully embrace games of all types in our libraries. Hear about our research and initial findings

and leave with ideas on why and how to start integrating games into your current offerings and meet your patrons where they are at!

*Ben Miller Wisconsin State Librarian, Bureau of Libraries Director  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction*

**11:05 AM – 12:00 PM**

### **Learning Without Limits: Partnering with The Study to Bring Free Lifelong Education to Your Library**

Libraries have always been gateways to knowledge and now, through a new partnership with The Study, they can open even more doors. In this session, discover how your library can host Study Clubs, offer patron-facing "learning passes" for free classes, and serve as a community access point for online learning. The Study's online programs feature classes, book talks, lectures, writing workshops, and more — all taught by scholars from around the nation. We'll walk through how libraries can support patrons with computer access, class registration, and Zoom navigation to make lifelong learning in the humanities truly accessible to everyone. Whether your patrons are curious first-timers or lifelong learners, your library can be the bridge. Join us to learn how.

*Brenna Gerhardt, Executive Director  
The Study*

**1:05 PM - 1:55 PM**

## **Where is AI in 2026 and Where is It Headed?**

In just the past year, AI has advanced at a pace that stunned even leading experts. These systems aren't science fiction anymore—they're reshaping work, relationships, and even crime in real time. This workshop explores where AI may be in the next 1–5 years and what that means for your daily life. Together, we'll tackle urgent questions like:

Jobs: - Could AI lead to mass unemployment—or entirely new kinds of work?

Crime :- How might AI supercharge scams, hacking, and even physical crime?

Companions: - Will people form deep emotional bonds—or even romantic relationships—with AI assistants?

Society: - How do top researchers think these trends will shape our future?

This fast-paced, beginner-friendly overview of today's most powerful AI systems will include live demos that reveal both the breakthroughs and the risks and an interactive forecasting exercise where you'll test your own predictions about AI's impact.

*Andres Ramirez, Director of Partnerships  
AI Safety Awareness Project (AISAP)*

## **Removing Barriers: Preparing for New Accessibility Requirements**

Libraries are meant for everyone – and accessibility is what makes that promise real. With significant new federal accessibility rules for public and government agencies, libraries have the opportunity to strengthen their role as truly inclusive community spaces. These changes are opportunities for libraries to improve user experience and align with ADA principles. Whether you are new to ADA concepts or looking to elevate your library's commitment, you will leave with clear steps to support your library's path toward compliance.

*Mary Soucie, State Librarian  
North Dakota State Library*

*BreAnne Meier, Marketing Specialist  
North Dakota State Library*

**2:05 PM - 2:55 PM**

## **Resources and Services for Former Prisoners: What can Public Libraries Do to Help?**

This presentation will be an overview of the challenges faced by those recently released from incarceration, the background of prisoner re-entry in North Dakota and the United States, and the needs and behaviors of this population in a public library setting. Time will be given at the end for Q&A and additional dialogue.

*Nathaniel Smith, Librarian*

*North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation*

## **Forward-Facing Resources K-8**

Explore CYBER.ORG's online resources that anyone can access at no cost! Join us for an interactive session where we'll dive into some of CYBER.ORG's most impactful tools. You'll get a closer look at forward facing resources like the *Cyber Safety Video Series, Cyber Safe Families, Cybersecurity Basics, Keys to Cybersecurity*, and more. By the end of the session, you'll see the value these activities bring and how you can easily share them to increase cybersecurity awareness.

*Nikki Hendricks, Curriculum Designer and Instructor*  
CYBER.ORG

*Ashley Myles, Outreach Advisor*  
CYBER.ORG

**3:05 PM - 4:00 PM**

## **Public Library Roundtable**

Join Monica Struck, Public Library Specialist, for a virtual roundtable discussion on trending topics such as web accessibility, staff retention/development, and using library data. This time is set aside is for you to network with your colleagues, talk about your opinions of the changing landscape of libraries, and explore what skills you need today to provide tomorrow's library services.

*Monica Struck, Public Library Specialist  
North Dakota State Library*

## **From Today's Skills to Tomorrow's Impact: The Future Ready Librarians Framework 3.0 in Action**

What does it mean to be a future-ready librarian in a time of constant change? In our keynote, Shannon McClintock Miller explores the Future Ready Librarians Framework 3.0 as both a guide and a catalyst for reimagining the role of libraries in our communities. Rooted in its core domains—building instructional partnerships, curating dynamic digital resources, championing equitable access, and leading innovation—the framework empowers librarians to move beyond adaptation and become drivers of transformation.

*Shannon McClintock Miller  
District Teacher Librarian at Van Meter Community School in Van Meter, Iowa and National Future Ready Librarians Leader*