

Fundamental Skills for Today's Services

September 2, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Registration

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM State of Libraries in North Dakota and Introduction to the Departments and Staff at the North Dakota State Library

Join us for the first hour of our conference for an update about libraries in North Dakota presented by State Librarian Mary Soucie and an introduction to the staff and departments that comprise the North Dakota State Library. We have some new staff join our team and other staff that have moved into different positions. Learn about our staff, what each department does and how our staff can help you at your library.

10:05 AM – 12:00 PM

AI Safety and Libraries: Leading in an AI Future

The workshop will focus on how libraries can lead their communities in helping the public understand AI as a technology. This will not be an upskill or retraining - rather, it will teach library staff the basics so they can help patrons better understand how AI is affecting our society. At the end of this session, staff who attend the training will develop confidence to deliver AI safety programming for their patrons, sharing their knowledge and building a proactive public.

Divided into four sections, the training will cover:

1. Basic AI definitions and lay of the land
2. Discussion of AI concerns
3. Trajectory of AI development
4. Patron + AI scenarios
5. How libraries can shape the future of AI

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

10:05 AM -10:55 AM

**School Librarian Orientation: Empowering School Librarians
with State Library Resources**

Discover how the North Dakota State Library can support and empower your work as a school librarian in this orientation session. Learn how to access valuable online resources including research databases, STEM and literacy guides, digital archives, and more. Join us to connect with statewide support, enhance your library practice, and ignite lifelong learning in your school community.

***Kathy Cline, School Library Specialist
North Dakota State Library***

11:05 AM – 12:00 PM

Creating a Bib Record from Scratch

There are a few reasons you may need to create a bib record from scratch. Learn about what pieces of information are essential and how to code the fields in MARC format. Cataloging is precise and we can't go over everything in an hour, but you will learn about title and author fields and how to properly enter them in an online catalog. Filing indicators for titles will be covered, as well as tips for how to find the authorized form of the author name to enter.

Please print this class [resource](#) to follow along.

***Stacey Goldade, Cataloger
North Dakota State Library***

1:05 PM - 1:55 PM

Let's Talk Collection Development Policies

Learn the essentials of creating and maintaining a strong collection development policy in this practical session. We'll cover why every library needs one, what key sections to include, and how to navigate the approval process with your governing board. You'll leave with clear guidance and useful resources to build or refresh your own policy.

***Kathy Cline, School Library Specialist
North Dakota State Library***

North Dakota Genealogy: Free Resources You Need to Know

Help your patrons discover their North Dakota roots with confidence. This session is designed for librarians who want to become more familiar with the free genealogy resources available for North Dakota research. Explore trusted databases, digital collections, newspapers, vital records, land records, military records, cemetery information, and more. You'll leave with practical knowledge, research tips, and a curated set of resources that will help you answer genealogy questions and connect patrons with the records they need to explore their family history.

***Trevor Martinson, Digital Initiatives Specialist
North Dakota State Library***

2:05 PM - 2:55 PM

Rural Community English Program Collaboration

As rural communities welcome more newcomers, many are looking to public libraries to provide spaces as partners in adult education opportunities. Non-profit organization CATCH ND, in collaboration with the North Dakota Office of Refugee Services (NDORS) and Intercambio, offers a community-based English Language Learner (ELL) program designed to meet the language needs of both the workforce and the broader ELL community.

During this informational session the presenters will share:

- The numbers of refugee populations of ND and get a view of the landscape of immigration in ND.

-How to offer ELL support through the public library with the support of CATCH ND, ORS and Intercambio. Presentation will include an overview of Intercambio's easy to use training, curriculum program and support.

- Examples of partnerships with local employers, and community members working with local adult English Language Learners and how they uplift the entire community.

Derrick Gross
Catch ND

Aimee Geurts
North Dakota Office of Refugee Services

Connecting Books to Readers: Readers' Advisory

In this session, participants will explore tips and tools for matching patrons with books that fit their interests. Topics addressed include:

- 1) What Readers' Advisory is,
- 2) Direct and indirect Readers' Advisory,
- 3) Conducting Readers' Advisory Interviews, and
- 4) Online Readers' Advisory tools.

Tammy Kruger, Literacy Specialist
North Dakota State Library

3:05 PM - 4:00 PM

Getting Started with Digitization

Interested in preserving your library's unique collections but not sure where to begin? Starting a scanning project at your library does not need to be expensive or stressful. From hardware to software and standards to preservation, this session will cover the basics of digitization. Whether you're scanning photographs, documents, or other materials, this session will provide the practical knowledge and confidence you need to begin a digitization project.

***Trevor Martinson, Digital Initiatives Specialist
North Dakota State Library***

The Everyday Advocate

Advocacy isn't just for experts. This session will empower librarians and library staff to speak up with confidence, share compelling stories, and build support that strengthens their library's future.

***Mary Soucie, State Librarian
North Dakota State Library***