

Fundamental Skills for Today's Services

September 3, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM Registration

9:00 AM – 9:55 AM

Stress Less Fest: Reducing Academic Fatigue and Providing Mental Health Services at your Library.

What can Academic Libraries host for students during midterms and finals to help fight back against the stress of tests, exams, AI anxiety, relationships, money and more? I will present resources like top eBooks, programs, and how to navigate and work with your wellness center groups and classes such as PT/OT and Athletic groups onsite or offsite that can be super beneficial. Also, I will present how to navigate free resources for these students such as Yoga, eating healthier, classes, gardening, (Seed Library) events that the library can be a part of within this area of mental health and student wellness.

***Jennifer Long, Library Programming Specialist
North Dakota State Library***

Talking Books for Frontline Library Staff

Talking Books provides accessible audio and braille materials for community members who cannot use standard print. Join NDSL Patron Services Director Steve Hammel as he introduces frontline

library staff to the program, its eligibility requirements, and how to help patrons get started. Staff will learn how to confidently explain services, assist with applications, and connect patrons to additional resources.

***Steve Hammel, Patron Services Division Director
North Dakota State Library***

10:05 AM -10:55 AM

Cracking the Code of Numeracy

Join Literacy Specialist, Tammy Kruger, on an exploration through numeracy! In this session, participants will learn what numeracy is and why this knowledge is important, examples of numeracy in our daily lives, and activities to incorporate numeracy into library programming.

***Tammy Kruger, Literacy Specialist
North Dakota State Library***

Cybersecurity Basics for Libraries: Teaching Your Community to Stay Safe

Libraries are trusted sources of information, making them an ideal place to promote digital safety. This session equips librarians with practical strategies for teaching basic cybersecurity concepts to patrons of all ages. Participants will explore common online

threats and learn techniques for explaining cybersecurity in plain language.

***Ryan Kroh, Technology Services Division Director
North Dakota State Library***

11:05 AM – 12:00 PM

How understanding metadata can improve your search results.

Research can be a frustrating process. Knowing how information is organized and stored can significantly improve your efficiency and help reduce retrieval time. Join NDSL Patron Services Director Steve Hammel if you need a bit of “brushing up” of your searching skills.

***Steve Hammel, Patron Services Division Director
North Dakota State Library***

Grants 101: An Introduction to Grants with North Dakota State Library

New to grants or just looking for a refresher on grant applications? Want more information about our new grant platform, WebGrants? Join Bethany Rants, North Dakota State Library's Grant and Data Coordinator for an introduction to grants with the North Dakota State Library. This session will cover the basics: from identifying grant opportunities to developing a strong application, understanding eligibility and grant requirements and

the basics for navigating WebGrants, the new platform we are using to streamline the grant process. We'll also cover some common mistakes, grant terminology, and have time for questions. Whether you are considering applying for your first NDSL grant or want to better understand the process from a nuts and bolts point of view, this session will provide a foundation to working with NDSL grants.

***Bethany Rants, Grants and Data Coordinator
North Dakota State Library***

1:05 PM - 1:55 PM

Literary Leadership: Boards and Directors Working Brilliantly Together

The dynamics of the board/director relationship can be interesting. Join this session to learn about navigating conflicts and developing a good relationship with your board.

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

Get the Word out! Marketing Your library

Learn quick and easy ways to market your library along with marketing tools that the State Library can provide.

BreAnne Meier, Marketing Specialist

North Dakota State Library

**Dani Kappel, Library Services Division Director
North Dakota State Library**

2:05 PM - 2:55 PM

Legislative Branch Website Overview and Research Tips

Let's take a brief walk with Melissa Ingram, through the Legislative Branch website that includes how to find legislator information, session information, and historical documents. Some of the topics covered will include how to research bill information, North Dakota Century Code, North Dakota Administrative Code, interim information, and budget information.

***Melissa Ingram, Records and Archives Assistant
Legislative Council***

Be an Information Detective: Information Literacy in Today's World

How can we sort through information in a world that is so overrun by data? By practicing information literacy as information detectives! This session covers:

- 1) How to find, evaluate, and use information responsibly,
- 2) Differences and examples of misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation,
- 3) How A.I. adds to the information landscape, and
- 4) Tools to teach patrons information literacy.

***Tammy Kruger, Literacy Specialist
North Dakota State Library***

3:05 PM - 4:00 PM

Using IMLS Library Search & Compare

You've just collected a boat load of data for the Public Libraries Survey. How can you put that information to work? Join this session to learn how to use the Library Search & Compare tool from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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

Exploring the New Online Library Resources

Every five years, a new contract is signed for purchase of Online Library Resources. Some remain the same, but some are brand new to North Dakota. This session will go through what changes were made to North Dakota's collection of Online Library Resources and what's new in our collection.

***Al Peterson, Outreach Specialist
North Dakota State Library***