

Connections



VOLUME 1 · NUMBER 3 · SEPTEMBER 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

National Book Festival	2
Library Card Sign-Up Month	2
Agency Trainings	2
Interlibrary Loan	2
State Documents	2
Universal Class	3
Book Review	4

Subscribe
to our newsletter!



NEW ND BOOKS AT THE STATE LIBRARY

The State Library has numerous books in its collection related to North Dakota.

Here are just a few of our newest North Dakota items:

- *Believe it : my journey of success, failure, and overcoming the odds* by Nick Foles, with Joshua Cooley.
- *Great American outpost : dreamers, mavericks, and the making of an oil frontier* by Maya Rao
- *The yellow house on the left : what dying young is teaching me about living* by Chelsea Berler.
- *Sister secrets : a brother's reveal* by Matthew Valan

You can request any of our items through the [online catalog](#) or by calling 701-328-4622.

SCANDAY AT THE STATE LIBRARY

We are holding a ScanDay for state employees at the North Dakota State Library. ScanDays are events where the State Library staff will digitize items for participants for inclusion in our online archive, Digital Horizons. The items can be photographs, certificates, objects, etc.

This event will only be open to state employees and participants may drop off their items to be scanned during the day or wait for them.

We ask that each participant only bring 10-15 items and register for a time to bring them. Please indicate on the registration form if you will be waiting for the items to be digitized or will return for them later. If you have more than 3 items that you would like scanned, we suggest coming over to the State Library on a break to drop off and pick up your materials.

LOGISTIC INFORMATION:

Where: ScanDay will be held in the 3rd Floor meeting room of the North Dakota State Library (Liberty Memorial Building) on the capitol grounds.

When: Tuesday, September 25, 2018
8:00AM - 4:00PM

Registration: If you are interested in participating, please register on our [calendar page](#).

If you have any questions, email ndsl-digital@nd.gov.

NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

The eighteenth annual National Book Festival occurred September 1, 2018. The North Dakota State Library and ND Center for the Book were there promoting the State's literary heritage. The Festival drew at least 200,000 readers to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in downtown D.C.

Many people stopped by ND's booth to talk to BreAnne Meier and Shari Mosser. Quite a few had North Dakota connections! Every state brought a book that represented their state. Several attendees were amazed by ND's choice of *I Survived the Children's Blizzard, 1888* by Lauren Tarshis or by the display that showed what ten feet of snow looked like! A special thank you to Archivist Jim Davis who found an article that proved the snow drifted from 10 to 20 feet!



Consider coming to next year's event on August 31, 2019, which will feature more than 100 authors, illustrators, and poets.

LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

This September, libraries nationwide are joining with the American Library Association to encourage parents, caregivers, and students to obtain a free library card that will save them money while reaping rewards in academic achievement and lifelong learning.

Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children. Studies show children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

For more information about how to sign up for a library card at the North Dakota State Library, you can stop by the library or visit our [website](#).

AGENCY TRAININGS

Have you ever wanted to use the State Library's materials and just didn't know how?

Using an unfamiliar library and its resources can be daunting which causes many to not give it a shot. This is why the State Library offers training to state agencies on specific databases the library subscribes to or how to use the library.

The Continuing Education Coordinator will come to your agency to do a training on the library topic of your choice. It is completely free, and the only thing you need to provide is an area to present.

If you have any questions about scheduling a training or about our online offerings, please contact Angie at ndsstrain@nd.gov or 701-328-3495.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Libraries cannot own everything and so [Interlibrary Loan](#) (ILL) exists. ILL asks other libraries to share their items with our patrons when our library doesn't own it. Books, CDs, DVDs, and articles can be shared between libraries, which saves resources at each library.

Generally there is no cost to obtain an ILL except the postage to get it back to the State Library. However, if a fee is required to borrow an item, the State Library will secure permission of the patron before obtaining the item.

STATE DOCUMENTS

The [State Document Depository](#) collects, preserves, and disseminates all North Dakota state government documents produced for public use.

When requesting printing from Central Duplicating, please remember to check the box so the required 8 copies are sent to the State Library.

UNIVERSAL CLASS

Universal Class is a continuing education database that is free to all patrons with a public or state library card.

There are a variety of courses on subject areas for students, ones that could help with discovering a hobby, or ones that can teach skills to further a career. Each class will give you an estimate on how long it will take to finish, how many lessons and exams there are, and how many CEUs (continuing education units) the course is worth.






















If you pass the course, you will receive a certificate that can be used to prove how many CEUs you have earned. You also have the option to take most of these courses without having assignments and exams.

Each course is different, so make sure you read the entire course page before you sign up. If you sign up for a course and decide you don't like it, then you can unenroll yourself. There is no monetary commitment, just a commitment of time.

If you want to check out how this database works, take a look at our Universal Class playlist on our YouTube channel: <http://bit.ly/ucthebasics>

If you have any questions please email ndsltrain@nd.gov.

I Want to Take a Class in...

 Accounting Over 30 online courses	 Alternative Medicine Over 40 online courses	 Crafts & Hobbies Over 70 online courses
 Business Over 100 online courses	 Career Training Over 100 online courses	 Computer Training Over 50 online courses
 Entrepreneurship Over 100 online courses	 Finance Over 45 online courses	 General Education Over 90 online courses
 Health & Medicine Over 45 online courses	 History Over 30 online courses	 Homeschooling Over 45 online courses
 How To / Do It Yourself Over 55 online courses	 Language Arts Over 35 online courses	 Law/Legal/Criminal Over 25 online courses
 Mathematics Over 10 online courses	 Office Skills Over 90 online courses	 Parenting and Family Over 45 online courses
 Personal Development Over 35 online courses	 Pet and Animal Care Over 10 online courses	 Psychology Over 50 online courses

BOOK REVIEW: “Acacia Series” by David Anthony Durham

Reviewed by Trevor Martinson

If you are tired of waiting for George R. R. Martin to finish his well-known *Game of Thrones* series, more properly titled *A Song of Ice and Fire*, you need to give the *Acacia* series a chance. Not only is the series merely a trilogy, it is actually a finished series (intentional jab at Martin). *Acacia* is an under-the-radar fantasy series that is well worth your time.

Speaking of Martin, *Acacia* often makes the [list of fantasy series compared to Game of Thrones](#). In fact, if you look at the cover of the books, you will notice a praising review of the author, David Anthony Durham, from Martin himself. Durham is better known for his work in the historical fiction field, like the gripping *Pride of Carthage* and the award-winning *Gabriel's Story*; but he steps out of his normal genre with *Acacia*, and it was well worth it.

This is not your father's fantasy fiction. Tolkien's good vs. evil is gone. There is no black and white. *Acacia*, also the name of the empire and its capital island in the story, is a world of gray. Durham's world and its people are convoluted, ruthless, and ethically-ambiguous.

Durham's storytelling is creative and captivating and this is evident with his large cast of complex characters. The story focuses in on the Akaran family,

who have ruled the Known World for generations, but there are also many other peoples and nations who play vital roles in the story.

Widower king Leodan Akaran rules the vast lands of the empire from the tiny island of Acacia. He is a good father and king, who only wants the best for his children and his people. However, the empire's past and present are not as righteous as it seems. Corruption and tribulation exists just below the surface. For centuries, the Akaran family has overseen a yearly shipment of children to a mysterious group of people across the sea, known as the Lothan Aklun, with no questions asked. A third-party group, known as The League, who only looks after its own interests, acts as middleman between them. In return for the child slaves, the empire receives an addictive drug that helps subdue its people.

When the first book begins, there is relative peace across the empire. However, rebellion stirs in the frozen north among the Meins. An ancient curse festers in their hearts and puts revenge in their minds. A secret plan and an alliance with the barbarian, man-eating race called the Numrek, is in motion. It will have dire consequences and bring the empire to its knees. War is coming.

The series primarily follows the four children of King Leodan: Aliver, Corinn, Mena, and Dariel. Their normal, peaceful lives become shattered. They are separated and must follow different and daunting paths to redemption. None of the children have an easy journey.

One of the Akaran children succumbs to the temptation of magic, which drastically alters his/her life (sorry, no spoilers as to who it is). In the series, the Santoth sorcerers hold most of the world's magic, but they have been banished for generations to the desolate south. They seek to end their banishment and threaten to unleash their wrath on whoever gets in their way. Magic is not common in the world. It is dangerous, and its use has grave ramifications.

Finally, the cover of the first book features a majestic Acacia tree set against a beautiful sky. However, below the surface, heavy chains latch onto the tree. This is a perfect metaphor for the series and empire, since they are both titled *Acacia*, and it sets the stage for an enjoyable read. The *Acacia* trilogy (*The War with the Mein*, *The Other Lands*, and *The Sacred Band*) is available from the State Library as eBooks through [RBdigital](#).

Connections is a monthly publication of the North Dakota State Library, a Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent
Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library.

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. The North Dakota State Library provides no guarantee as to the security, reliability, or accuracy of information provided herein.