

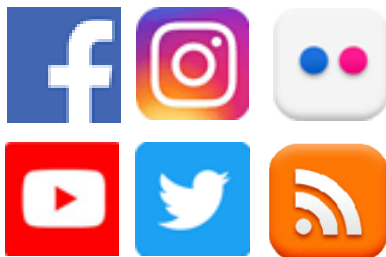
# Connections



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## SCANDAY AT THE CAPITOL

Help share and preserve North Dakota history!

The State Library is hosting a ScanDay for legislators and state employees at the Capitol. ScanDay is an event where State Library staff bring scanning equipment and convert photographs, documents, and objects into digital files for inclusion in the online archive Digital Horizons.

The State Library only retains digital copies. The physical items will be returned to participants once digitization is complete. All participants will be provided flash drives with digital copies of their items.

Each participant may bring a maximum of 10 items. Participants may drop off their items or wait for them to be scanned.

**Where: Memorial Hall, First Floor,  
North Dakota State Capitol**

**When: Tuesday, March 12, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

If you have any questions, e-mail [ndsl-digital@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-digital@nd.gov)

## NDLCC VACANCY

The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC), the advisory board for the North Dakota State Library, assists in planning, coordinating, and evaluating the services and programs of North Dakota libraries. Council members are appointed by the Governor and include two citizens at large. There will be one vacant citizen at large position to be filled on July 1, 2019.

The NDLCC meets quarterly to conduct business. Generally, one meeting per year is held at the State Library in Bismarck, two are in-person meetings held at libraries throughout the state and include library tours, and the fourth meeting is held via videoconferencing.

Interested persons will need to submit their contact information to the State Library at [ndsladm@nd.gov](mailto:ndsladm@nd.gov) as well as fill out an application on the Governor's website at <https://www.governor.nd.gov/boards/AppForm.aspx>. Questions about the NDLCC can be directed to State Librarian Mary Soucie at [msoucie@nd.gov](mailto:msoucie@nd.gov) or (701) 328-4654.

## INTERNATIONAL BOOK GIVING DAY

Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

[International Book Giving Day](#) is celebrated on February 14th. The initiative started in the U.K. The goal was simple: to get books into the hands of children in the hope that it will provide more access to books and create a love of reading. The 100% volunteer led initiative was started because poor children in undeveloped countries often lack access to books; one-third of children in the U.K. do not own books and two-thirds of U.S. children living in poverty do not own books.

I think giving books to children is a wonderful thing to do. You could donate books to a school classroom, a public library, a local charity like the Ronald McDonald House or a homeless shelter, or make the donation more personal by giving a book to a family member.

Let's expand Book Giving Day beyond kids and spread the love of books as far as we can. Donate a book to your doctor's office, best friend, a colleague, or a random stranger. Sharing the love of reading is a gift that you can give to everyone around you.

The North Dakota State Library wants to share the love of reading with you this month with our Blind Date with a Book initiative. Stop by the State Library to check out a book and fill out a "rate your date" card for a chance to win a small prize.

### BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

There are still some books and audiobooks left for Blind Date With A Book! If you haven't checked one out yet or you've already finished your first one and would like another, let us know and we'll send a title your way. There are nonfiction and fiction titles available in regular print, large print, and audiobook formats.

After you've completed your "date," be sure to fill out the "Rate Your Date" card and send it back to the State Library with the book prior to February 28 in order to be eligible for a prize.

Here are what people are saying about their blind dates:

- "New insight into someone I'd only seen mentioned in *People*, but didn't know who she was otherwise"
- "A remarkable read! Was apprehensive at first with my selection - but a true surprise!"



Send an e-mail to [statelib@nd.gov](mailto:statelib@nd.gov) or call 701-328-4622 and we will send a blind date to you right away.

## NEW ONLINE ATLAS COLLECTION

The North Dakota State Library has launched a new digital collection: [North Dakota Atlases and Plat Books](#). The collection can be accessed online on Digital Horizons by anyone from anywhere, completely free of charge.

The collection is comprised of historical atlases and plat books from North Dakota counties, primarily dating from the 1890s to the 1910s. There are currently 15 items in the collection, and more are continuously being added. The counties presently represented in the collection are Adams, Barnes, Benson, Bottineau, Bowman, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Foster, Stark, Steele, Traill, and Williams.

Digital Horizons is an online digital library consisting of thousands of images, documents, videos, and oral histories depicting life on the Northern Plains. The State Library is one of the members of the Digital Horizons consortium. Other members include the State Historical Society of North Dakota, Prairie Public Broadcasting, North Dakota State University, Concordia College, and the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library.

Contact the [Digital Initiatives](#) team with any questions on this new atlas collection, Digital Horizons, or any other digital project at the State Library.

## TUTORND

TutorND is a great resource that the State Library provides for students and professionals. They have tutoring for Kindergarten through 12th grade as well as professional assistance by reviewing cover letters and resumes. The tutors are professionals in their field and offer tutoring on all subjects, including SAT, ACT, and PSAT test prep.

Tutoring can be done either through the chat feature or the student can choose a video option for their session. This opens up the availability of tutors to students who might not type well or who cannot get their question across in a text format.

Another feature TutorND offers is drop-off, where a paper or cover letter can be submitted for review. There is also a drop-off for math questions for those that don't have time for a full tutoring session.

TutorND is available no matter where you are in the state, does not require a login for access, and is free for you to use. It is available every day from 3:00PM – 10:00PM (CST) on [www.tutornd.com](http://www.tutornd.com).

If you have any questions about TutorND, please e-mail us at [ndsldata@nd.gov](mailto:ndsldata@nd.gov).

## UNLIMITED E-AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

The statewide eAudiobook collection is at nearly 8,000 titles, and about 90% of those have unlimited circulations. No wait list! Titles can be checked out with a card from any public library.

The following are some of the most popular series available on [RBDigital](#):

Diana Gabaldon – Outlander  
Jeff Kinney – Diary of a Wimpy Kid  
John Sandford – Prey (Lucas Davenport)  
William Kent Krueger – Cork O'Connor

Joanne Fluke – Hannah Swenson  
Craig Johnson – Walt Longmire  
C.J. Box – Joe Pickett

For many of these series, the more recent titles are excluded from the unlimited program. They are part of the collection but will at times be checked out. But the majority of the series is unlimited.

## “THE MAGICIANS” BY LEV GROSSMAN

Reviewed by Trevor Martinson

It's February. That means Valentine's Day. Love is in the air. To take an alternative approach to all this, let's talk about books we love to hate. For me, nothing comes to mind more than *The Magicians* by Lev Grossman.

When I first heard about the book, I saw a snippet that essentially said: "It's an adult version of *Harry Potter* meets *Narnia*." Both of these series are near and dear to my heart so I decided to give *The Magicians* a shot, but I couldn't have been more disappointed. The book doesn't compare to either series. It lacks their enduring qualities.

Honestly, while reading the book, I kept waiting for it to get better, but it never did. The principal problem with the book is that nothing really happens. The pace is painstakingly sporadic, jumping ahead months or even years. Here is the basic plot (keep in mind that a lot of nothing happens in between): boy, Quentin Coldwater, goes to magic college and makes friends; boy gets girlfriend; a couple years later the gang graduates; gang parties a lot; boy loses girlfriend; gang decides to go to a magical world called Fillory; gang undertakes a quest; and then the quest goes horribly wrong.

Traveling to this other world is when the story finally starts to get interesting. However, by that point it's already too late. Do yourself a favor and skip *The Magician* trilogy and reread *Harry Potter* or the *Chronicles of Narnia* instead, both of which happen to be available from the State Library in physical and electronic formats.

***The Magicians, The Harry Potter Series, and The Chronicles of Narnia Series* are available from the [State Library](#).**

### OUR MOST POPULAR PRINT TITLES THAT ARE NOT BESTSELLERS/NEW

*The Nightingale* - Kristin Hannah  
*The Eye Of Minds* - James Dashner  
*All The Light We Cannot See* - Anthony Doerr  
*Mrs. Kennedy And Me* - Clint Hill  
*The Stranger In The Woods* - Michael Finkel  
*Look For Me* - Lisa Gardner

*Camino Island* - John Grisham  
*Five Days In November* - Clint Hill  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* - Zora Neale Hurston  
*A Court Of Wings And Ruin* - Sarah J. Maas  
*Tweak : (Growing Up On Methamphetamines)* - Nic Sheff  
*From This Day Forward* - Lauraine Snelling

*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.

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