

Connections

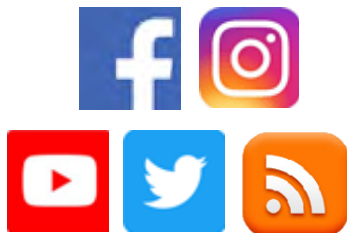


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Mango Languages

Is your New Year's resolution to learn a new language? Learning a foreign language can be daunting. Luckily, the State Library has a database that can help! [Mango Languages](#) is available through a browser or an app to anyone with a public or state library card.

Mango Languages offers over 70 languages, each with a set number of units, chapters, and lessons that will take you from the basics to the more advanced areas. Some of the languages have robust units that will help you gain fluency. There are also lessons on subjects like slang, superstition, or English loanwords.

As of 2020, Mango Languages has a new feature: family profiles. One person can create an account and then add subsequent logins for their spouse or children. This way, your child does not have to have a separate library card or e-mail address.

Visit your local public library's website to access Mango Languages.

If you have any questions about Mango, please e-mail ndsltrain@nd.gov, call 701-328-4622, or check out our webinars and tutorials on our [YouTube channel](#).

State Library Out and About

The State Library may not have any booths in February, but that doesn't mean we don't have any programs going on during this time. At the end of January, we started our Blind Date With A Book program. If you haven't picked out a "Blind Date Book," you can still participate by stopping at the State Library, or by sending an e-mail to statelib@nd.gov.

On Wednesday, March 11, we will be across from the Capitol Cafe to begin our Book Battles event. Stop by between 9:00 and 1:00 to pick up a bracket and compete for a prize.



New Items At The North Dakota State Library

New E-Audiobooks



New E-Books



New Nonfiction Print Books

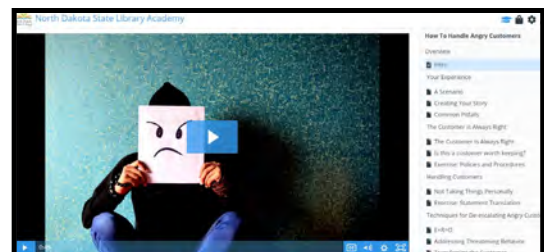


New Bestsellers



Course Of The Month: How To Handle Angry Customers

This month's course, "How to Handle Angry Customers," can be found in the Niche Academy database. Unlike Universal Class, the courses in Niche Academy allow you to jump around the lesson, do not require login information, and do not provide continuing education units.



This course begins with an introduction into the subject matter and then will walk you through different scenarios of an angry or belligerent customer or patron. The course also includes tips on how to not take things personally and techniques for de-escalating an angry customer. The lessons are brief, so it shouldn't take more than one or two hours to complete.

If you have any questions, please e-mail us at nds@train.nd.gov.

***The Martian* by Andy Weir**

Reviewed by Abby Ebach

Apparently, I'm on a "read books that became popular 5 years ago" kick, because I finally decided to sit down and read *The Martian*. While I initially assumed it would be a sensationalized misfit space book with unrealistic answers to even more improbable questions, I was wrong. Instead, *The Martian* turned out to be a surprisingly compelling look at mankind's desire to survive with a whole lot of chemistry thrown in (not my usual cup of tea).

The premise of *The Martian* is not new—the main character is presumed dead and left behind to fend for themselves against all odds. What is new, though, is the protagonist. Mark Watney wasn't just abandoned in a rain forest, he was left for dead on Mars which gives a whole new meaning to the word "alone." Not to be deterred by the fact that everyone thinks he's dead, Watney, somehow, refuses to lose his hope. He is cracking jokes and thinking deeply about the universe and humanity all while trying to figure out how to survive for 4 years on 180 days worth of food, travel 2,000 miles to the next known human landing site, and not die in the Martian atmosphere. His survival is chronicled in a first-person narrative that takes the reader along for a very cold and perilous journey. Somehow, Weir made me feel fear, peace, distress, and relief alongside Watney as he troubleshot one obstacle after another.

The true joy of this book for me, though, is that it all seemed so incredibly possible. The circumstances were surreal, yes, but the trials and solutions that Weir concocted for Watney were plausible. Watney's narrative also felt deeply relatable. 70s music for the rest of your life? Get annoyed. When faced with 2 options—definitive death later or death now with a chance at prolonging your life—who wouldn't choose to take a gamble?

Don't just watch the movie on this one, folks. It leaves 100% of the good parts out. The book is available in our print collection or through [RBdigital](#).

RBdigital News

Checkout periods on RBdigital have been extended! Users can now enjoy e-books and e-audiobooks for up to 21 days. The previous limit was 14 days. Loan periods for e-magazines and e-comics remain the same.

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