

Black History Month LibGuide

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

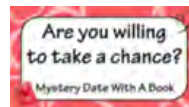


February marks Black History Month. Black history is a vital part of American history that focuses on the experiences of black people from colonial times to modern-day. The North Dakota State Library (NDSL) offers a LibGuide that digs into why Black History Month is important. Some features include important dates, organizations and websites, and books that are available at the State Library.

[View The LibGuide](#)

ND State Library's Mystery Date with a Book Program

The North Dakota State Library announces the start of the annual Mystery Date with a Book on February 14. All the books will be concealed so the only information you will be given is the format - large print or regular print and fiction or nonfiction.



If you would like to participate, visit the State Library in Bismarck, fill out the form at <https://forms.microsoft.com/g/CuQ33D3rvs>, or contact the Information Desk at 701-328-4622 | 1-800-472-2104 or statelib@nd.gov, and a selection will be sent to you at no cost. You will be responsible for returning the item to the library, either through the mail or by bringing it to the building or outside book drop. Be sure to fill out the "Rate the Date" card before you return the book.

"This annual program is a fun way to introduce patrons to new authors or titles," says State Librarian Mary Soucie. "The State Library supports lifelong learning and personal enrichment by providing materials and resources in a wide variety of formats."

Be adventurous and read a book that you may not have checked out otherwise. Who knows, maybe you will find your new favorite book or author!

To participate, all you need is a library card from the North Dakota State Library. If you need a library card, fill out the application online at <https://www.library.nd.gov/librarycard>, and a card will be sent to you in the mail.

State Library staff will be at the Capitol in the hallway across from the Capitol Cafe on Wednesday, February 14, to check out books and chat about the services the State Library provides.

[Fill Out The Form](#)

New Items At The ND State Library

Fiction Books



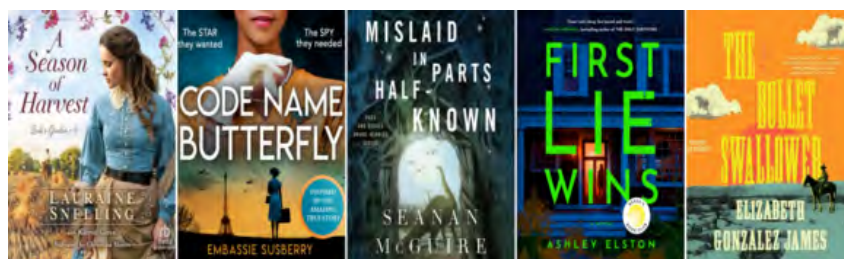
Fiction E-Books



Nonfiction E-Books



Fiction E-Audiobooks



Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



Digital Delight

Ice fishing on Lake Sakakawea, N.D., 1974



A group of men and a boy are preparing to ice fish on Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota. The man on the left is drilling a hole into the ice with an ice auger. A car is parked on the ice next to the group. They are identified as Keith Larson, Leland Olson, & Egil Tangsrud.

Courtesy of Digital Horizons (North Dakota Memories Collection, ND State Library)

[Visit Digital Horizons](#)

Poll Workers Needed for ND Elections

Submitted by Misty Curn, Communications Director
North Dakota Office of the Secretary of State



Become An
Election Hero
Be a Poll Worker!

NORTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE

North Dakota needs about 3,000 poll workers to assist with the 2024 election cycle. The North Dakota Secretary of State is encouraging people to consider helping their community by signing up to be a poll worker.

Working as a poll worker is a great way to meet new people, serve the community, and strengthen our democracy. If you want to be a poll worker, you need to be at least 16 years old, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of North Dakota. You must be able to attend a training session and will be paid for your hard work.

As a poll worker, you will help set up and prepare your polling location, welcome and check in voters, issue ballots, and help close the polls at the end of election day. You may also assist voters by demonstrating how to use voting equipment and explaining voting procedures. Special experience is not needed, and you will learn everything you need to know during a training session provided by the county auditor.

This important role provides a great opportunity for you to be involved in the election process and helps ensure that polling locations are open in your community. Poll workers are needed for both the June Primary and November General elections. If you are interested in volunteering, you can learn more or sign up by contacting your [local county auditor](#).

The North Dakota Secretary of State is the trusted source for election information. If you have questions, visit vote.nd.gov, email sosselect@nd.gov, or call 701-328-4146.

[Learn More](#)

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.



[North Dakota School for the Deaf](#)

- Horse-drawn carriage, ND School for the Deaf, circa 1920s
- ND School for the Deaf boys' basketball teams, 1915-1956
- ND School for the Deaf boys' basketball teams, 1915-1956
- ND School for the Deaf bus, 1931
- ND School for the Deaf football team, 1939
- ND School for the Deaf football teams, 1927-1970
- NDSU undefeated six-man football team, 1957
- Students next to ND School for the Deaf bus, 1977



[Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Annual Report of the Board of Administration [1920-1924]
- Journal of the North Dakota House, 1919 [parts 1-4]
- O'Connor for governor bandwagon [political cartoon, 1920]

[Visit Digital Horizons](#)

New BARD Download Limits

BARD Support Team

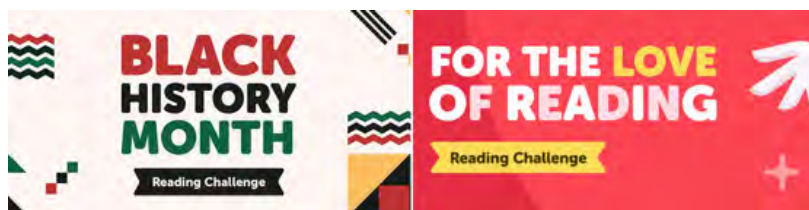
In an additional step to safeguard the NLS collection from improper use, beginning February 6, 2024, patrons will be allowed to download from BARD no more than 250 books and magazines in any rolling thirty-day period. This includes both audio and braille titles across all platforms. It does not matter which platform or combination of platforms are used to download them. A patron may download no more than 250 books and magazines in any rolling thirty-day period regardless of the format or the BARD interface used.

For example, a person could download 30 ebraille books using the NLS Braille eReader, 70 audio magazines via the BARD website, and 150 audio and braille books via the BARD Mobile app, reaching the thirty-day limit of 250. Likewise, a patron only using BARD Mobile to download books and magazines would also be limited to 250 titles in a rolling thirty-day period.

The authorization limit is calculated by adding up the number of "unique titles" downloaded. This means a patron could download the same title on additional devices in that same thirty-day period without that download counting against the authorization limit.

[Learn More](#)

Beanstack Reading Challenges



The North Dakota State Library is offering two reading challenges for North Dakota residents starting February 1.

- **Black History Month:** Learn more about Black history, celebrate Black authors and illustrators, and explore Black history through the arts. Log your reading and activities throughout the month to earn badges. This reading challenge is for all ages.
- **For the Love of Reading:** Fall in love with reading this February! Warm your heart with exciting stories all month long, and don't forget to log your reading to earn new badges throughout the challenge. This reading challenge is for all ages.

"We are so excited to be able to offer this service to ND citizens! It's such an easy and fun way to track your reading," says Literacy Specialist Lexi Whitehorn. "By using the app, participants can track their reading from anywhere at any time and challenge friends and family to a read-a-thon and keep track with the in-app leaderboard. Beanstack makes it so easy to track. My personal favorite part comes at the end of the year when I can look back and see just how many books I actually read that year."

To register, all you need is a library card from the North Dakota State Library or your local public library. Sign up today at <https://librarynd.beanstack.org/reader365> or on the Beanstack app (available on IOS and Android).

"The North Dakota State Library is committed to enriching people's lives by providing access to materials that support personal enrichment and lifelong learning," says State Librarian Mary Soucie. "The Beanstack challenges are one way that we achieve this goal by encouraging people to read more often, in targeted focus areas that they may not be as familiar with, and to have some fun by earning digital badges as they complete the challenges."

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant LS-252477-OLS-22.

For more information, please contact the State Library at 701-328-4622 | 800-472-2104 statelib@nd.gov

[Visit Beanstack](#)

Digital Collection Spotlight

By Trevor Martinson

Concordia College Course Catalog



The "Concordia College Course Catalog" collection contains the official catalog of courses offered by Concordia, together with general information regarding the college, admissions criteria, student life issues, student services and a host of other topics of interest to potential and current students. The content varies substantially over the years with the early catalogs including alumni and current students.

This collection is provided by Concordia College, and it's available on Digital Horizons.

[View the Collection](#)

New Online Exhibit - Education Not Politics

Submitted by Trevor Martinson

In addition to Mickey Mouse entering the public domain, there is another reason to celebrate the new year. The North Dakota State Library (NDSL) is excited to announce the opening of a new online exhibit called "Education Not Politics," a project of the Digital Initiatives Department.

The exhibit, using information and content from NDSL's Political Prairie Fire digital collection, tells the story of Minnie J. Nielson, Neil C. Macdonald, the Nonpartisan League (NPL), the Independent Voters Association (IVA), the political battle over the North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the turbulent first years of the Board of Administration.

[Continue Reading](#)



"Other People's Love Letters: 150 Letters You Were Never Meant To See" edited by Bill Shapiro

Reviewed by Stacey Goldade

This book is exactly what it says it is; love letters from other people. Some are modern emails, some are older letters written on paper in cursive and detail the courtship of a couple from years past. Shapiro once read an old love letter owned by his then-girlfriend, but written by her ex. This prompted him to ask all his friends for any love letters they wanted to share. Some details are redacted, but even with that, these letters are fascinating to read. Some are postcards, others are collages; some have coffee stains on them, which can be understandable for a letter from 1976. This book is fun to read and imagine the people involved and what they're like now. Even better is you don't have to imagine them all because some of them actually have updates in the back of the book! Sometimes the handwriting is hard to read, but it's well worth the effort to decipher the details of these peeks into private lives.



[Check It Out](#)

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www.library.nd.gov

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