

## Education Not Politics Online Exhibit

The North Dakota State Library (NDSL) is excited to announce the opening of a new online exhibit called "Education Not Politics," a project of NDSL's Digital Initiatives Department.

Over 100 years ago, during the Nonpartisan League era, there was a political battle in the state over the Superintendent of Public Instruction's office. This contributed to the creation of the Board of Administration, a state entity that had significant turnover and turmoil in its first few years of existence.

"This online exhibit, using information and content from the North Dakota State Library's "Political Prairie Fire" digital collection, tells a fascinating story that deserves to be remembered," says Digital Initiatives Specialist Trevor Martinson. "The project has been a labor of love, and I hope everyone will be as captivated about the story as I was."

Get a comprehensive look at 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.

"The State Library collects documents that are created for the public by all state agencies," says State Librarian Mary Soucie. "We have materials in our collection that date back to territory times. We are excited to highlight some of these materials in a different way to bring awareness to these documents and hope that people will be as interested in the information as we were."

View the exhibit and learn more about this time period in North Dakota history at <https://library-nd.libguides.com/EducationNotPolitics/>.

[View the Exhibit](#)

## Public Domain Day 2024

Submitted by Trevor Martinson



What is [Public Domain Day](#)? It's only the best of unofficial holidays (in the eyes of those in the cultural heritage field).

Every year, on January 1, new works enter the public domain, and that is cause for a celebration. This year, certain works from 1928 that were copyrighted in the United States (like books and movies) and sound recordings from 1923 enter the public domain, which means they can be freely to shared, reused, copied, edited, etc.

What is the public domain? According to the [United States Copyright Office](#), a "work of authorship is in the 'public domain' if it is no longer under copyright protection or if it failed to meet the requirements for copyright protection. Works in the public domain may be used freely without the permission of the former copyright owner."

The works entering the public domain that have been getting the most attention are *Steamboat Willie* and *Plane Crazy*. They are both animated short films that introduce Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Over the years, Disney, the company behind the films, has famously lobbied to extend copyright protection every time the protection for *Steamboat Willie*/ Mickey Mouse was about to expire (until now).

*Steamboat Willie* (and that version of Mickey Mouse) may be entering the public domain, but those wanting to share and remix it must still tread carefully. Disney and Mickey Mouse have had a complex history with copyright. There are many other versions of Mickey that are still protected by copyright (and will be for many years). There is also trademark rights to consider.

Thankfully, the Center for the Study of the Public Domain (Duke University) has created a [guide for users](#) to safely navigate the *Steamboat Willie*/ Mickey Mouse waters.

## Kanopy: Free, Enriching, Entertainment

Submitted by Kathy Cline

According to Kanopy, "The films that truly resonate with us do more than just entertain. They inspire us, enrich us, and challenge our perspectives." This streaming service is offered by North Dakota State Library (NDSL) for public libraries to share with their patrons. This article explains what Kanopy offers and how to access the service.

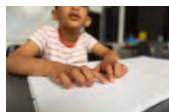
**Who** is Kanopy? In 2008 Kanopy made its debut in the educational market. It later became known as a free streaming service in late 2017 and early 2018. As Netflix began to focus its content on television, Kanopy began marketing itself to public libraries with its free streaming service and collection of classic films. The company currently works with 4,000 plus libraries and 158 million library card patrons from around the world.

[Continue Reading](#)

## World Braille Day

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

January 4, 2024, marked World Braille Day. This is the birthday of braille's founder, Louis Braille. World Braille Day became a recognized celebration in 2018, with its first formal observation occurring the following year. Those who read braille belong to a subcategory of the blind and visually impaired patron population. In North Dakota, the School for the Blind provides blind instruction.



### Who Created Braille?

Louis Braille created braille in the 1820s. Louis lost his eyesight as a child when he accidentally stabbed himself with his father's awl. Louis attended the Royal Institute of Blind Youth in Paris, France. While there, he became quite frustrated with the current method of reading for the visually impaired, which involved using raised print of traditional letters. This system was extremely costly, which resulted in fewer book options, as well as difficult for learners to read. At the age of 15, Louis employed the idea behind [écriture nocturne](#) (or night writing) used by the military to create braille (What, n.d., & World, n.d.). In 1952, blind mathematician Abraham Nemeth added braille numbers by placing a symbol in front to indicate the following codes represent numbers and then using much the same type of system as Louis (How, n.d.). Music braille (where the dots represent pitch and rhythm) and braille in other languages also exist.

[Continue Reading](#)

## New Items At The ND State Library

### Fiction Books



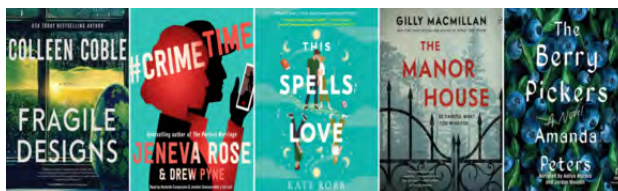
### Fiction E-Books



### Nonfiction E-Books



### Fiction E-Audiobooks



### Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



## US Currency Reader Program

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) has partnered with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) to provide currency reader devices free of charge to eligible individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The iBill Talking Banknote Identifier is a compact device that announces a note's value in one of three ways: voice, pattern of tones, or pattern of vibrations.

This program is part of the Meaningful Access Initiative to assist individuals who experience difficulties identifying US currency.

To learn more about the US Currency Reader Program or other aspects of the US government's initiative to provide meaningful access to US currency or if you need help with your iBill device, call 844-815-9388, e-mail [meaningful.access@bep.gov](mailto:meaningful.access@bep.gov), or visit <https://www.bep.gov/services/currency-accessibility/meaningful-access-program>.

For information about the North Dakota Talking Book Program, contact us at 701-328-1408.

[Apply for an iBill Talking Banknote Identifier](#)

## National Poverty In America Awareness Month

Submitted by Kathy Cline and BreAnne Meier

January is National Poverty in America Awareness Month. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the official poverty rate in 2022 was 11.5 percent with 37.9 million people living in poverty.



This month-long initiative is used to raise awareness of poverty and to take a look at the disparities in society and what we can do to help change the situation. It is also a time to learn about and understand the circumstances that can cause people to live in poverty, getting away from the preconceived notions that may or may not have anything to do with it.

National Poverty in America Awareness Month calls on people to show empathy and donate to those in need. It also is a time to look at measures and public policies that can help eliminate poverty in the country.

Visit the North Dakota State Library's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion LibGuide for more information and resources about poverty in America at <https://library.nd.libguides.com/EDI/poverty>. This LibGuide will soon be the home for other upcoming awareness months.

### References:

Shaw, Toby. "National Poverty in America Awareness Month in USA in 2024." There is a Day for That!, December 25, 2022. <https://www.thereisadayforthat.com/holidays/usa/national-poverty-in-america-awareness-month>.

Shrider, Emily A., and John Creamer. "Poverty in the United States: 2022." Census.gov, September 12, 2023. <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.html>.

[View the LibGuide](#)

# Features of the NDSL Website

Submitted by Cindy Olson

The State Library unveiled its new website in June 2023. In this article, our goal is to give you a glimpse of the different sections, helping you discover new features and gain valuable insights.

On the right side of the header, you will find our social media icons. Right next to these icons, there is a dedicated search box designed exclusively for exploring our website and will not search the catalog. Just above the search box, you will see quick links for the Library Catalog, Library Card, and LibGuides.



Directly below the header, you will come across the Navigation Bar. It is divided into six tabs, each with various dropdown options.

- About Us – This area provides details about our collections, general information, our history, newsletters, the Library Coordinating Council, our mission, policies and publications, staff directory, and a special focus on our State Librarian.
- Libraries – Here, you can locate forms for assistance requests, library information updates, and reference requests, in addition to details about grants, marketing, and summer reading programs. Public libraries can also access resources, our blog, statistics, and training in this section.

[Continue Reading](#)

## 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 Histories](#)

- Benedict, North Dakota, 1906-1976
- Grafton, Dakota Territory, and Her Industries, 1882
- Official Souvenir Program of Bismarck's Diamond Jubilee, 1872-1947
- Presenting Bismarck, North Dakota, 1960

### [Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Journal of the North Dakota Senate, 1919 - special session
- Portrait of Sveinbjorn Johnson, circa 1940s

### [Prairie Recipes](#)

- 1973 Christmas Recipes

### Top 5 E-Books checked out in 2023



### Top 5 E-Audiobooks checked out in 2023



### Top 5 E-Magazines titles checked out in 2023



### Top 5 Books checked out in 2023



# Book Club Kit

## "Nine, Ten: A September 11 Story" by Nora Raleigh Baskin

Relates how the lives of four children living in different parts of the country intersect and are affected by the events of September 11, 2001. Ask anyone: September 11, 2001, was serene and lovely, a perfect day - until 8:46 a.m., when a plane struck the World Trade Center. But that hasn't happened yet. Right now, it is a few days earlier, and four kids in different parts of the country are going about their lives. Sergio, who lives in Brooklyn, is struggling to come to terms with the absentee father he hates and the grandmother he loves. Will's father is gone too, killed in a car accident that left the family reeling. Naheed has never before felt uncomfortable about being Muslim, but at her new school, she's getting funny looks because of the head scarf she wears. Aimee is starting a new school in a new city and missing her mom, who has to fly to New York on business. These four don't know one another, but their lives are about to intersect in ways they never could have imagined. Award-winning author Nora Raleigh Baskin weaves together their stories in an unforgettable novel about that seemingly perfect September day - the day our world changed forever.



Ages 8-12

This kit includes ten copies of the book, a sign-in sheet, and discussion questions.

[Reserve This Kit](#)

## Beanstack Reading Challenge: Where We Come From

Every person has a rich history and unique stories to tell — dive deeper into your own this winter! Explore topics like family, history, and identity while reading *Where We Come From*, a poetic picture book for all ages written by John Coy, Shannon Gibney, Sun Yung Shin, and Diane Wilson and illustrated by Dion MBD. Log your reading minutes and reflect on your own story — all while earning badges on your virtual bingo card! From January 1-31, North Dakota Libraries are participating in "Where We Come From," a reading challenge sponsored by Lerner. We challenge our community (statewide!) to read and log at least 15,000 minutes during the challenge.



[Join the Challenge](#)

## 24 Resources and Services For 2024

Submitted by BreAnne Meier

Ring in the new year with these 24 resources and services offered by the State Library! Whether you need help for your professional or personal life, the State Library has something for everyone.

1. [Books](#)- Large print and regular print formats, nonfiction and fiction.
2. [Interlibrary Loan](#)
3. [Book Vending Machines](#)
4. [E-Books, Audiobooks, and E-Magazines](#)
5. [Talking Book Program](#)
6. [Digital Newspapers](#)
7. [Book Club Kits](#)
8. [Readers' Advisory](#)
9. [Research Assistance](#)
10. [General Research](#)
11. [Continuing Education](#)
12. [Digital Horizons](#)
13. [Learn a New Language](#)
14. [Streaming Service - Kanopy](#)
15. [Online Reading Challenges](#)
16. [Other Programs](#) - Mystery Date With A Book (February) and Book Brackets (March)
17. [State Park Passes](#)
18. [STEM Kits](#)— These can be checked out by libraries, state agencies, institutions, and organizations
19. [State Documents](#)
20. [Federal Documents](#)
21. [ND County Atlases](#)
22. [LibGuides](#)
23. [Trainings for State Agencies](#)
24. [State Employee Book Discussions](#)

If you have any questions or want to learn more about any of these services, please contact us at [statelib@nd.gov](mailto:statelib@nd.gov) or 701-328-4622. We are happy to assist you!

[Learn More](#)

### Featured Language (Mango and Rocket)

By BreAnne Meier

### Chinese (Mandarin)

The Chinese New Year, also known as the Lunar New Year, begins on January 22 this year. This annual 15-day festival begins with the new moon and lasts until the following full moon.

There are many traditions that take place during this time, including celebrations with fireworks and decorations, giving young people money in colorful red envelopes, visiting family members, honoring those who have died, and thoroughly cleaning their homes.

If you would like to learn to speak Chinese (Mandarin), Mango and Rocket Languages have you covered. Rocket Languages offers a Level 1 course that includes audio, writing, and language and culture lessons. Mango offers five units and hundreds of lessons to help you become proficient in the language.

#### Reference:

Britannica Library, s.v. "Chinese New Year," accessed January 2, 2024, <https://library.eg.com/levels/referencecenter/article/Chinese-New-Year/623481>.

[Start Learning Today](#)



### “Smart Brevity: The Power of Saying More With Less” by Jim VandeHei, Mike Allen, and Roy Schwartz

Reviewed by BreAnne Meier

“Smart Brevity” is a very quick read, which makes sense since the whole point of the book is about brevity. Built by Axios journalists, Smart Brevity is a communication formula aimed to prioritize essential news and information, explain its impact, and deliver it in a concise and visual format.

For people who write articles for the local newspaper, newsletters, or blogs, it may seem like you should write long narratives that provide detailed descriptions of everything. Instead, this book suggests being concise and using regular, everyday words. According to the authors, articles should be less than 200 words with links that readers can click on to delve deeper. Using bullet points to break up clumps of data or long paragraphs are also recommended.

With chapters on how to use Smart Brevity in your e-mail correspondence, at meetings, when presenting/giving speeches, for social media posts, and articles, you may find this book useful for work and personal life.

This title is available through Libby as an audiobook and e-book.

[Check It Out](#)

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