

Beyond Books: New Items in the Library Lending Machines

The collections in the North Dakota library lending machines, formerly known as book vending machines, are expanding! Along with new and bestselling books, cardholders now have access to new and popular DVDs and WhaZoodles.

WhaZoodles are screen-free learning experiences that engage children through pre-loaded stories, activities, podcasts, and more on an easy-to-use speaker. No wi-fi required! There are multiple themes to choose from, including nature lovers, feathered friends, world's weirdest animals, and garden party.



"The State Library is excited to introduce this new format to further enhance early literacy and begin the lifelong love of reading for our youngest patrons," said State Librarian Mary Soucie.

The library lending machines can be found in ten locations across the state:

- A & S Country Market in Carson
- Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone in Hillsboro
- Burke County Courthouse in Bowbells
- Fort Ransom State Park in Fort Ransom
- McClusky City Hall in McClusky
- McHenry County Courthouse in Towner
- ND State Capitol in Bismarck
- Oliver County Courthouse in Center
- Sioux County Clerk Of Court in Fort Yates
- Slope County Courthouse in Amidon



To apply for a library card, contact the State Library at 701-328-4622 or statelib@nd.gov or visit <https://www.library.nd.gov/librarycard>.

[Learn More](#)



New Podcast Episodes

The Pathways Through the Prairie podcast features North Dakota librarians and library staff, state government leaders and employees, and interesting North Dakotans to gain insights into their work and roles in their communities.

Episode 24: Josh Gallion, North Dakota State Auditor. Learn more about how the North Dakota State Auditor's Office serves the residents of North Dakota. 40 minutes.

Episode 25: Jon Godfred, North Dakota Insurance Commissioner. Learn more about the North Dakota Insurance & Securities Department and how they assist North Dakota residents. 35 minutes.

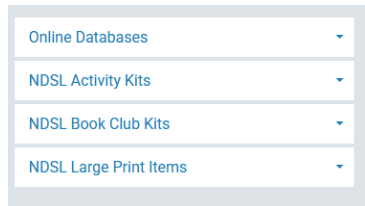
Episode 26: Reice Haase, Director of the Department of Water Resources. Learn more about the North Dakota Department of Water Resources and how they directly impact the lives of North Dakotans every day. 40 minutes.

[Listen Today](#)

Updates to State Library Online Catalog

Submitted by Steve Hammel

The State Library just completed a major update to our online catalog. In addition to a new item carousel, we added four dropdown menus on the left side of the page. (see picture below) The top one is a link to our online resources page and the bottom one is a dedicated search for just large print books. It's the middle two, the specific kit searches, I'm most excited about. As part of the update, we reorganized our kits into two main categories, activity kits and book club kits.



The Book Club Kit dropdown allows patrons to search for and reserve any of the 165 book kits we currently have available.

Regular kit borrowers are also aware the State Library offers STEM kits. Over the past couple of years, the State Library has created kits that are not strictly related to science, technology, engineering, or math. So, we have created a new top-level search we are calling Activity Kits. As you see below, patrons can now search for all 65 activity kits with one click or they can look for a more specific kit type based on activity. For example, you have been tasked with finding entertainment for the company summer picnic. Rather than buying something you might use once a year, borrow an Outdoor Games kit. We have 11 different family friendly games for all ages.



You can reach the catalog from our website at <https://www.library.nd.gov/>, the catalog link is in the upper right on the home page, or you can use the direct link at <https://polaris.odinlibrary.org/polaris/default.aspx?ctx=71.1033.0.0.1>.

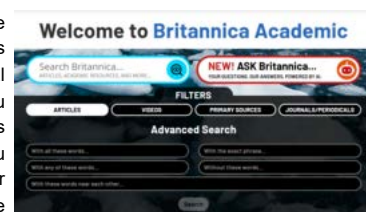
Other exciting kit-related news. The State Library just updated our circulation policy, which now allows all patrons to check out up to three kits at a time. That could be three book club kits, three activity kits, or a combination of both. Please remember, the State Library only pays postage one way for items borrowed from us, including kits. Return postage is based on weight, so some of our kits will cost over \$20 to return. All kit-related questions can be sent to statelib@nd.gov or by calling (701) 328-4622.

[Reserve a Kit](#)

ASK Britannica

Combining AI technology with Britannica's collection of content, ASK Britannica gives students the opportunity to ask questions and receive accurate and concise answers directly from the Britannica knowledge base. ASK Britannica uses natural language processing to interpret queries and pulls insights only from Britannica's extensive library of articles.

Not only does ASK Britannica give you the answer to your question, it also cites its sources, allowing users to explore the original materials to gain a deeper understanding. You will also receive suggested follow-up questions to guide further exploration, helping you navigate complex concepts and expand your knowledge. ASK Britannica is not open source and will not write papers or essays for students. It also will not answer any inappropriate queries outside of its educational scope.



As of right now, ASK Britannica is available as a secondary search function within Britannica Academic, offering college students and faculty a more efficient way to research and find accurate, relevant answers. It will soon be launched in the High School level within Britannica School.

Talking Book Update

BARD 2 Offers New Features for Patrons

BARD, the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download website, now offers expanded functionality and will serve as a gateway to exciting new services in the future.

We are pleased to announce that if you use BARD on the web, you will have access to BARD 2 in late July. If you're not a BARD user, this is your chance to sign up for the service and get instant access to hundreds of thousands of audio and braille books and magazines for reading with an NLS digital talking-book machine, a personal smart device with BARD Mobile, a Braille eReader, or your PC with the BARD Express player. Contact us at 701-328-1408 or tbooks@nd.gov to sign up for BARD.

Features of the new website include:

- Reorganization of the Wish List, Reading History, Subscriptions, and Account Settings under one menu.
- New sorting capabilities of book lists. You can now search through book lists and refine the results by format, language, and subject.
- An updated search engine, so finding books is easier and faster than ever before.
- Advanced search functionality.

Access to the new and improved BARD website requires a change in your login procedures. We will contact all BARD web users and provide instructions for the new login procedures. If you have any questions, need assistance, or just want to tell us about your experience with BARD 2, contact us at 701-328-1408 or tbooks@nd.gov.

North Dakota Talking Book

Threshing crew in Griggs County, N.D., early 1900s

A steam engine with a long belt connected to a threshing machine is set up with wagons, a horse team and a group of men with forks around it. A car with a driver is parked alongside.

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



Digital Horizons

New Items At The ND State Library

Fiction Books



"The Women on Platform Two" by Laura Anthony; "The Accidental Favorite" by Fran Littlewood; "The Woman in Suite 11" by Ruth Ware; "Finding Grace" by Loretta Rothschild; "Whistle" by Linwood Barclay



"I'll Be Right Here" by Amy Bloom; "Thus With a Kiss I Die" by Christina Dodd; "Do Not Disturb" by Freida McFadden; "Bad Lands" by Preston & Child; "Friends of the Museum" by Heather McGowan



"Kill Your Darlings" by Peter Swanson; "Sunny Side Up" by Katie Sturino; "Sounds Like Love" by Ashley Poston; "This is a Love Story" by Jessica Soffer; "The Girl I Was" by Jeneva Rose



"All The Men I've Loved Again" by Christine Pride; "Her Amish Adversary" by Vannetta Chapman; "Lizzie's Little Mouse" by Anne Blackburne; "Amish Country Killer" by Mary Alford; "Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil" by V.E. Schwab

E-Magazines



Woman's World; New Scientist; The Week Junior; Stuff; Delicious



Allrecipes; World Soccer; MiniMag; Simply Sewing; BBC History Magazine

Fiction E-Books



"Rage" by Linda Castillo; "The Bewitching" by Silvia Moreno-Garcia; "Splendor of the Land" by Connilyn Cossette; "Bad Juliet" by Giles Blunt; "The Devil's Advocate" by Steve Cavanagh



"Not Quite Dead Yet" by Holly Jackson; "Dead Line" by Marc Cameron; "The Unraveling of Julia" by Lisa Scottoline; "Typewriter Beach" by Meg Waite Clayton; "Party of Liars" by Kelsey Cox



"How Freaking Romantic" by Emily Harding; "Overruled" by Lana Ferguson; "Maid for Each Other" by Lynn Painter; "Well, Actually" by Mazey Eddings; "The Blonde Who Came From the Cold" by Ally Carter



"Glorious Rivals" by Jennifer Lynn Barnes; "Snoop" by Gordon Korman; "Blood in the Water" by Tiffany D. Jackson; "Fright Night!" by Dan Gutman; "Sugar Shack" by Lucy Knisley

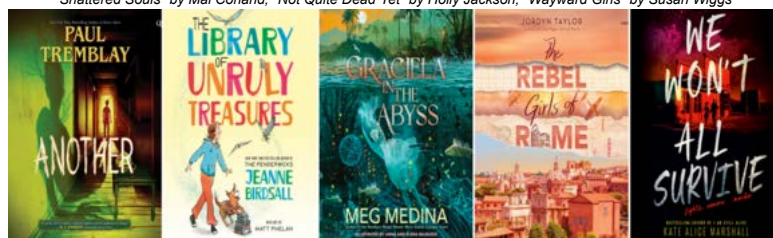
Fiction E-Audiobooks



"Accomplice to the Villain" by Hannah Nicole Maehr; "Happy Wife" by Meredith Lavender & Kendall Shores; "The View from Lake Como" by Adriana Trigiani; "History Lessons" by Zoe B. Wallbrook; "Totally and Completely Fine" by Elissa Sussman



"The Irresistible Urge to Fall for Your Enemy" by Brigitte Knightley; "These Summer Storms" by Sarah MacLean; "Three Shattered Souls" by Mai Corland; "Not Quite Dead Yet" by Holly Jackson; "Wayward Girls" by Susan Wiggs



"Another" by Paul Tremblay; "The Library of Unruly Treasures" by Jeanne Birdsall; "Graciela in the Abyss" by Meg Medina; "The Rebel Girls of Rome" by Jordyn Taylor; "We Won't All Survive" by Kate Alice Marshall

Nonfiction E-Books

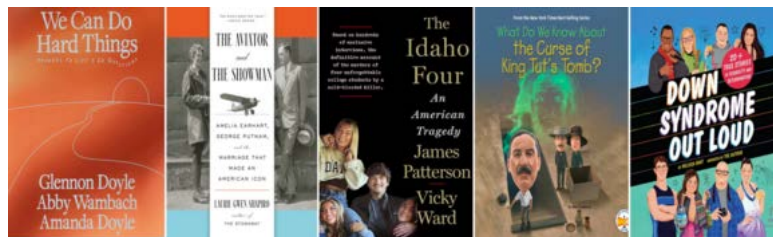


"Yoga for Little Kids" by Nicole Koleshis, OTR/L; "Algospeak" by Adam Aleksic; "Are You Mad At Me?" by Meg Josephson, LCSW; "The Good Investor" by Robin C. John; "We Carry the Sun" by Tae Keller



"Grow Happy" by Jon Lasser, PhD, and Sage Foster-Lasser; "Minecraft Magical Bite-Size Builds"; "World War II Q&A" by R. Kent Rasmussen; "They Better Call Me Sugar" by Sugar Rodgers; "Death in the Jungle" by Candace Fleming

Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



"We Can Do Hard Things" by Glennon Doyle, Abby Wambach, & Amanda Doyle; "The Aviator and the Showman" by Laurie Gwen Shapiro; "The Idaho Four" by James Patterson & Vicky Ward; "What Do We Know About the Curse of King Tut's Tomb" by Ben Hubbard; Down Syndrome Out Loud" by Melissa Hart

How to Live with a Teenager



Self-Paced, Online Class

[+ Join this Course](#)

North Dakota State Library

12 Lessons	29 Exams & Assignments	3 Hours average time	0.3 CEUs	 Video Audit Available
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How to Live with a Teenager

Submitted by AI Peterson

Probably since the dawn of time, the teenage years have been a rollercoaster of emotions and challenges, not only for the teens themselves but also for the parents and caregivers tasked with guiding them through this tumultuous phase. This course, offered by Universal Class, will guide you on a transformative journey, offering insights, strategies, and a fresh perspective on understanding and connecting with your teen. Recent studies highlight that teen years are a vital phase of cognitive, emotional, and social development. As they metamorphose from children into young adults, their quest for identity and independence often leads them to question authority, explore boundaries, and sometimes, make ill-advised decisions. Moreover, with the influx of external influences from peers, media, and the digital world, today's teens face pressures that are markedly different from those of previous generations.

While the teenage journey is inevitably filled with ups and downs, "How to Live with a Teenager" aims to equip you with the skills, understanding, and resilience needed to make these years rewarding for both you and your teen. Enroll in this course and transform the turbulent teenage tide into a harmonious dance of understanding, growth, and lasting connection. This course features 12 lessons and takes about three hours to complete.

To sign up for this course, go to <https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com/> and search for How to Live with a Teenager.

[Start Learning Today](#)



2025 Science Fiction

Daryl Gregory's *When We Were Real* takes an unsettling concept—what if reality is just a simulation created by someone else—and explores what life would be like for the people in that fake reality. JP's cancer might be a part of the simulation but it still devastates him and his best friend Dulin, who decides to take him on a cross-country journey to see all the most infamous glitches that have emerged since the truth of their world was revealed. Along the way JP and Dulin meet people on their own quests for meaning in a constructed world.



[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](#)

- The History of Stanton, North Dakota to 1982: In Commemoration of the Centennial



[North Dakota Memories](#)

- 3rd PLT, Co. C, 5th Hr., Tank Bn., 6th Armd. Div., Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., 1954
- Bismarck High School commencement program, 1936
- Bjelde & Groth hardware store in Mayville, N.D., circa late 1800s
- Donald Olds in a racecar, circa 1945-1955
- Flood at Milo Olds farm, 1911
- Kittel S. Groth house in Mayville, N.D., circa 1897
- Military portrait of Donald Olds, circa 1942
- Sailors by railroad tracks, Hawaii, 1940s
- Snow storm aftermath, Mayville, N.D., 1897
- Train depot in Mayville, N.D., circa 1897



[North Dakota School for the Deaf](#)

- The Banner, 2023-2024

[Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Portrait of Edward B. Cox, 1935

Digital Horizons

North Dakota Book and Arts Festival

September 20, 2025
10 AM - 5 PM

Reiland Fine Arts Auditorium
on the UJ Campus

- Creative Writing and Publishing Workshops
 - Meet Local and Regional Authors
 - Enjoy Food from Local Vendors
 - Writers Panel
- UJ Plainsong Launch

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

THE UNIVERSITY OF
JAMESTOWN

James River Valley
Library System

AUTHOR
SAMIJO MCQUISTON

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www.library.nd.gov

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of Connections, please contact BreAnne at nds1pa@nd.gov.

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