

Legendary Through Literacy

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn, Literacy Specialist

“To know what you know and what you do not know, that is true knowledge.” – Confucius.

Wow, has that statement been true this month! Jumping into this position feet first, I have dived into a world where I know there is much I don't know. Webinars, meetings, and 1,001 questions to Carmen Redding, NDSL Library Services Division Director, have only solidified that thought. But, for a person who loves to learn and create, this month has been awesome.

One of the biggest takeaways from my first few weeks here is the passion others have to improve the overall knowledge and quality of life for our ND citizens. I feel extremely lucky to be able to work in a place where such passion is fueled and encouraged.

With a goal of supporting our libraries and encouraging more people to read, I will be publishing a monthly Beanstack Challenge. This is an opportunity for you to connect and engage with your patrons (or yourself!). This will also be good practice for using Beanstack with the Summer Reading Program.

This next month? ***For the Love of Reading***. Readers complete this challenge by logging their minutes. Best part? Beanstack has a reading timer already in it!

If you are new to Beanstack, forgot how to use it, never learned how to use it, or would like to add it to your library, please reach out and I can help you get started.

Feel free to use the poster to post on your website, in your library, on social media – whatever you please. It is there to help you promote reading.

In the next few weeks, I hope to start sharing different resources and supports to help promote literacy. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to fill out the survey.



Grant Opportunities

[Collection Development Grant \(NDSL\)](#)

Deadline: January 31

The purpose of this grant is to support collection development for libraries. Libraries are encouraged to use grant funds to develop a new collection for their library or to expand their North Dakota collection. The maximum grant request is \$2,000.

[Laptop and Tablet Grant \(NDSL\)](#)

Deadline: January 31

Libraries and patrons often need electronic devices to access information resources and e-reading materials. Electronic devices have limited lifespans and funding for upgrades and replacements are not always available in a timely manner for libraries. This grant provides libraries funding to purchase laptop computers or tablets for patron use, whether for use in-house or for external circulation. The maximum grant request is \$3,000.

Libraries in the News

[Bloody Sunday Forum at UMary ~ Natural North Dakota ~ Plains Folk Essay ~ Libraries and Healthy Communities \(Main Street Podcast - Prairie Public\)](#)

Betty Adams is the director of the West Fargo Library. She discusses the future of the library, services and programs that are available for patrons, and the role libraries play in healthy North Dakota Communities...

[Book vending machines: bringing books into the hands of rural ND residents \(Valley New Live\)](#)

Many rural areas in North Dakota do not have public libraries within the town or even in the whole county, but the state has come up with a potential solution — book vending machines...

[New Library Director Appointed. Parental Controls and Policy Changes Discussed \(The Dickinson Press\)](#)

Danielle Kappel was introduced as the new library director for Dickinson Area Public library during a board meeting Jan. 17. She was a library media specialist at Dickinson Middle School and had been employed with Dickinson Public Schools for more than seven years...

[Redbox but for books coming to rural communities in North Dakota \(KX News\)](#)

People in small towns in North Dakota don't always have easy access to good books.

Workers at the North Dakota State Library are making it easier for these communities lacking public libraries to get their hands on some books...

Digital Collection Spotlight

By Trevor Martinson

Dakota Mosaic

The "Dakota Mosaic" collection includes nearly 2,000 items from several historical societies, libraries, and museums across the state. The collection is intended to promote the awareness of historical repositories across North Dakota and make available online unique materials unknown outside the local area. The collection is administered by the State Historical Society of North Dakota and is available on Digital Horizons.

Check out this and other Digital Horizons collections at <https://digitalhorizonsonline.org/>.



Engineers Week 2023

Engineers Week 2023 will run from February 19 to 25.

This year's theme — Creating the Future — recognizes how engineers play a vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products and opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place. This Engineers Week we hope that you'll take a moment to recognize and celebrate the work of engineers and engage students in engineering. DiscoverE, the organization behind Engineers Week, has free resources you can use to inspire future innovators, such as hands-on engineering activities and lesson plans, information about engineering education, and pathways to a technical careers.



Two middle school boys and a middle school girl build with blocks.
Photo By Lisa Abitbol.

Visit <https://discovere.org/engage/engineers-week/> and get the help you need to focus on the “E” in STEM.

LEGENDARY THROUGH LITERACY

Last week I sent out the **"What can I do for you?"** survey trying to gauge what those of you in the field actually need from a literacy specialist. Many of you have already responded -- thank you! Many of you also said, *"I don't know what a literacy specialist does, so I don't know what you can do to help me."*

I am so glad some of you responded with that statement. That was exactly the point of the survey. The literacy specialist position is relatively new to the state library (created in 2020). The goal of this position was to add more support and resources for libraries (public, school, academic and tribal) across the state and to empower librarians to best serve their community.

Your responses will directly help us guide and develop more specific duties and supports. If you haven't taken the survey yet, please do so! You can click on the link above or scan the QR code below.

In the upcoming weeks, I will share the results of the survey and the direction it sends us. Already I have some great opportunities on the horizon. Looking forward to learning and literacy-ing with you.

Adventure Awaits,
Lexi



Using Book Clubs To Address Death, Dying, And Grief

Submitted by Conrado Saldivar,
Outreach and Development Librarian at Wyoming State Library

Whether you're dealing with the grief that comes after losing a loved one or facing the reality of your own mortality (or everything in between), it's hard to not only cope with death, dying, and bereavement, but to even talk about it. The irony of death's taboo nature is that dying is a universal issue each and every one of us will eventually face. To help overcome these stigmas, the Natrona County Library in Casper, WY, partners with Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions to offer a quarterly book discussion group that focuses on life, death, and grieving at their 'Til Death Due You Part Book Club.



This gathering provides a comfortable atmosphere in which to share a respectful, thought-provoking, and life-affirming conversation on the topics of death, dying, and bereavement. Anyone is invited to attend, not just those who are currently utilizing hospice services.

This unique book discussion group has been meeting since January of 2019, and the meeting location alternates between the Library and Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions to make the gathering more accessible. Participants even get a free copy of the book. In 2023, the group will read and discuss the following books:

"Everything is Horrible and Wonderful: A Tragicomic Memoir of Genius, Heroin, Love and Loss" by Stephanie Wittels Wachs

"Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: And Other Lessons from the Crematory" by Caitlin Doughty

"Tuesdays with Morrie" by Mitch Albom

"Someone You Love is Gone" by Gurjinder Basran

These books, and the books discussed over the past several years, provide readers with a glimpse into the variety of experiences death offers and the paths others have found through the trials of the dying process. There are no better teachers about death and dying than those who have encountered it already. Starting an end-of-life book club like this in your community is a great way to unite people around a shared human concern that we often ignore until it's too late.

Receive Free Eclipse Glasses For Your Public Library Solar Eclipse Activities For Libraries

With an Annular Solar Eclipse in 2023 and a Total Solar Eclipse in 2024, the STAR Library Education Networks SEAL (Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries) initiative (with major funding support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation) is distributing approximately 5 million solar eclipse viewing glasses to libraries in all 50 states and all US territories and protectorates.

You will have the option to receive 2,000; 1,000; or 500 pairs of eclipse glasses.

Register today at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BT58RYV>.

Programming For Adults With Special Needs

Submitted by Monica Struck

In North Dakota, 24% of the adult population has a disability. This population is more likely to suffer from depression and other health problems (CDC, 2022). How can we serve these individuals and their caregivers?

When faced with this question, the Unicoi County Public Library answered with Story Time! The program started when some caregivers approached staff to ask if adults could join the preschool story time. The special needs adult story time follows a familiar pattern: a few stories, some songs, and a craft. They limit it to the adults and their caregivers, but they welcome volunteers to help with the craft. They hold the program on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the morning. The timing of the program works around staff availability and the daily schedules of the group being served.

Unicoi County Public Library is not alone in implementing programming for this audience. All over the U.S., libraries are finding ways to serve adults with special needs. Programs range from [sensory story time](#) at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library to [Library for All events](#) at Jefferson County Public Library.

If this is a programming area that you would like to develop, here are some best practices:

[Read More](#)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Tammy Kruger

Addressing Antisemitism

School Library Journal published an [article](#) in late December about an uprising in antisemitism. While this EDI article will focus on aversion for those of the Jewish faith, the same principles apply for members of all marginalized faiths and belief systems.

Even in typically homogenous areas, much like rural North Dakota, cultural and religious diversity is on the rise. [Currently, it is estimated that 400 people of the Jewish faith reside in North Dakota; additionally, two active synagogues exist in the state (Jewish, 2023)]. When looking outside of North Dakota, particularly as one moves towards the east and west coasts, the Jewish population becomes more predominant.

[Read More](#)

Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

Public Domain Day 2023

Happy (Belated) New Year! Or, as those of us in the cultural heritage/ digital initiatives field like to call it: Public Domain Day. Every year, on January 1, new works enter the public domain, and that is cause for a celebration. This year, works from 1927 (that were copyrighted in the United States) entered the public domain, which means they can be freely 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.”

What [entered the public domain on January 1, 2023](#)? As always, a lot.

Books from authors Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, and Agatha Christie are now in the public domain. Notably, all of Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes works [are now in the public domain](#). Prepare for even more spinoffs of Holmes and Watson.

[Read More](#)

GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant

Application deadline: February 10

The GroMoreGood Grassroots Grant, brought to you by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening, is designed to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to communities across the United States. In 2023, 160 programs will receive funding to start or expand their youth garden or greenspace.

For more information, visit <https://kidsgardening.org/grant-opportunities/>.

FINRA Foundation Library Grants Program

Application deadline: March 1, 2023

This grant program supports public libraries and academic libraries in their efforts to meet financial and/or investor education needs at the community level by providing high-quality education, services, and resources. The program also aims to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion in access to personal finance education and information.

For more information, visit <https://www.finrafoundation.org/people-we-help/library-grants-program>.



Book Review: An Introduction To Collection Development For School Librarians, 2nd Edition

This 2019 text, written by Mona Kerby and published by AASL, discusses key components of what to expect when taking on the role of a school librarian. Topics covered entail:

What Do I Do First?

This chapter highlights twelve tasks for the first few weeks, including:

- Learn how to use the circulation system,
- Meet the classroom teachers,
- Find and read your district's school library handbook and any policies,
- Plan your lessons,
- Locate the different sections of the library,
- Learn the logins for OPAC and databases (if you need to know your school's remote access to the ODIN databases, email tlkruger@nd.gov),
- Prepare bulletin boards and decorate the library,
- Organize, declutter, and dust (as needed),
- Prepare a school library gradebook and learn students' names (if your school does not give grades for library, then this step would more likely be to study yearbook pictures and practice addressing students by their names),
- Ask to conduct mini workshops for other educators in the school (the point here is to show how the library, and you, the librarian, can help them beyond books),

[Read More](#)

Social and Emotional Health Programming Collaborative Summer Library Program

The Collaborative Summer Library Program's (CSLP) Child & Community Well-Being Committee is collecting examples of library programming that promotes social and emotional health. We are looking for library programs, for any age group/audience, on any topic that supports social and emotional well-being – from self-care, to mindfulness, to community building, to giving back. Please tell us about any programs your library has offered that you're proud of and would like to share. Use the form at <https://bit.ly/3j3vw2G> to share your program(s).

Submissions will be compiled and shared with libraries nationwide in conjunction with planning for the 2023 All Together Now summer program. Thank you for sharing your programs!

STATE AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

By Al Peterson

Legislative Council

The 2023 Legislative Session is in full swing. The North Dakota Capitol is buzzing with the high-intensity activity that comes when the ND Legislature meets.

Before a bill becomes law, in fact, before a bill comes to fruition, a lot of work goes into crafting it. Staff from Legislative Council typically prepare bills requested by Legislators. Even if a bill isn't prepared by staff, Legislative Council will review it to ensure it is presented in the proper form and style required for introduction and processing.

The Legislative Council staff provides a wide range of services to Legislators, other state agencies, and the public.

- Attorneys on staff provide legal advice and counsel on legislative matters to legislators and legislative committees.
- The Legislative Council supervises the publication of the Session Laws, the North Dakota Century Code, and the North Dakota Administrative Code.
- The Legislative Council has on its staff the Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor and assistants who provide technical assistance to the Legislative Management committees and Legislators and review audit reports for the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee.
- The Legislative Council provides computer services to the legislative branch, including research and bill drafting capabilities.
- The Legislative Council's library contains a wide variety of materials and reference documents, many of which are unique and not available from other sources.

For more information about the North Dakota Legislative Council, visit their website at <https://www.ndlegis.gov/legislative-council>.



APPLY BY MARCH 15, 2023

Great Stories Club

is back for a new round of grants

Learn more at ala.org/greatstories

Upcoming Niche Academy Webinars

[Blindsided at Work: One Strike And You're Out](#)

Wednesday, February 1 (1:00 PM)

Join Elaina Norlin for this webinar to explore a topic we rarely talk about in the workplace...how written and unwritten policies are weaponized to marginalize, penalize and push people out the door. In some cases, this is a favorable course of action, but in many instances these actions have long-term consequences that erode staff morale, trust and positive engagement.

This webinar will discuss strategies to communicate clear expectations but lead with compassion, empathy and transparency.

[Privacy Audits For Public Libraries](#)

Wednesday, February 8 (1:00 PM)

Unprecedented threats to the privacy and security of library patrons have emerged in recent years, from book challenges to online data and general AI advances that can prey on our most vulnerable populations. More than ever, it is critical to protect our patrons from the tremendous risks they face when enjoying the resources within our walls.

Join Matt Beckstrom and Brady Lund for this webinar on privacy audits. Matt and Brady will provide a primer on library privacy audits for ensuring the physical and electronic privacy of patrons, including understanding data flows, access, and policy issues. They will further discuss how to train your staff and patrons to be "risk aware" and contribute to the vitality of the library.

Participants completing this webinar will understand the value of the privacy audit and how to conduct one for their organization, whether large or small. Relevant design, policy, and training issues will be learned. Though this session focuses primarily on public libraries, several aspects of the discussion will be relevant to other types of libraries as well.

[Health Insurance Literacy And Older Adults](#)

Wednesday, February 15 (1:00 PM)

Today many adults have difficulty knowing how to find a physician, fill a prescription, use and pay for medications, and use health information to make informed decisions about their health.

Libraries are prominent places in communities - making libraries and librarians excellent resources for advancing health information literacy. For example, librarians can address the unmet information needs that make it difficult to make health insurance choices, particularly for seniors.

Addressing this critical information need, Emily Vardell, Ph.D., will explore the history of Medicare, health insurance coverage for older adults in the United States, and the complex Medicare system itself.

[Speaking Volumes: Podcasts For Patrons And Professionals](#)

Wednesday, March 8 (1:00 PM)

Interested in connecting to your community through storytelling? How about developing an oral history project? Perhaps you'd like a low-barrier way to inform and reach out to patrons? If you'd like to know more, then this webinar is for you!

Junior Tidal will guide librarians through the lifecycle process of creating a podcast. This includes writing the podcast, recording, and publishing. Participants will learn the basics: how to plan out a podcast, make a recording, and share episodes with listeners.

Kit of the Week

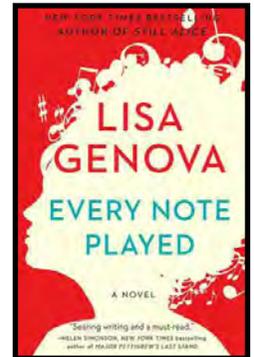
“Every Note Played” by Lisa Genova

An accomplished concert pianist, Richard received standing ovations from audiences all over the world in awe of his rare combination of emotional resonance and flawless technique. Every finger of his hands was a finely calibrated instrument, dancing across the keys and striking each note with exacting precision. That was eight months ago.

Richard now has ALS, and his entire right arm is paralyzed. His fingers are impotent, still, devoid of possibility. The loss of his hand feels like a death, a loss of true love, a divorce—his divorce. He knows his left arm will go next.

Three years ago, Karina removed their framed wedding picture from the living room wall and hung a mirror there instead. But she still hasn't moved on. Karina is paralyzed by excuses and fear, stuck in an unfulfilling life as a piano teacher, afraid to pursue the path she abandoned as a young woman, blaming Richard and their failed marriage for all of it.

When Richard becomes increasingly paralyzed and is no longer able to live on his own, Karina becomes his reluctant caretaker. As Richard's muscles, voice, and breath fade, both he and Karina try to reconcile their past before it's too late.



Reserve it today at <https://polaris.odinlibrary.org>.

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