



Flickertale

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The State Library will be closed:
December 25
January 1

Library Vision Grant Opportunity

Security Grant

This Library Vision Grant provides libraries funding for security equipment for use in either physical or cybersecurity environments. The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council and the North Dakota State Library are offering the opportunity to enhance the security of libraries throughout North Dakota. Maximum Grant Amount: \$15,000

Application Period:
January 2-31, 2024
Award Date:
February 29, 2024
Grant Period:
March 1 - October 31, 2024
Final Report Due:
January 31, 2025

[Learn More](#)



Summer Reading Trainings

New Town - Feb. 6 at 11:00 AM
Minot - Feb. 8 at 10:00 AM
Mandan - Feb. 9 at 12:00 PM
Valley City - Feb. 9 at 9:00 AM
Grand Forks - Feb. 12 at 9:00 AM

[Click here to register](#)



North Dakota Blue Books



The North Dakota Blue Book is a series of volumes that contain a compendium of information about the state's political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental history, along with its status when each volume was published. It contains information not easily accessible from other resources. The "North Dakota Blue Books" collection now contains the most recent edition for 2023-2025.

The collection is administered by the State Historical Society of North Dakota and is available on [Digital Horizons](#).

[View This Collection](#)



Teaching Self-Choice

Welcome to the last *Teaching Tidbit* of 2023! As we enter a break from formal school, let's address the importance of self-choice. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines self-select as "to select (something) by or for oneself." Self-selection (or self-choice) of library materials is a vital part of growing an enjoyment and engagement of reading and lifelong learning in students.

*A little note: Self-selection of audiobooks and ebooks holds the same importance for development of engaged, healthy readers as choice of printed books. Learners who self-select graphic novels are learning skills just as those who choose traditional novels. Yes, variety should be encouraged; however, nurturing a love of learning and stories (both of the factual and fictional variety) is more important than format.

Psychology Behind Self-Choice

Self-choice helps foster motivation. Motivation is often driven by how well someone feels they perform a specific task. When pupils are given more freedom in their reading choices, they naturally practice more reading. Practice, of course, results in better skills growth and retention. Basically, reading more helps make someone a better reader and builds their confidence to take on more difficult texts (Gambrell & Marinak, 2009).

[Read More](#)



New tutorials have been added to the Niche Academy in the last couple of weeks.

Category: [Computer & Social Media Basics](#)

Pathway: Coding in Libraries

New Tutorial: *Introducing Coding to Your Library*

This was a joint venture between Fiero Learning and the North Dakota State Library. This workshop discusses how to bring coding into your library. Whether you are looking to just do a one-time event or if you are looking to create a coding club, check out this tutorial.

Category: [Library 101- Library Directors](#)

Pathway: Equitable Workplace Practices for Managers

New Tutorial: *Strategies for Welcoming new Employees.*

When you're hiring, a lot of time, effort, and money goes into finding the right person, but that effort shouldn't end when they accept your offer. This tutorial talks about taking steps to help new employees feel welcome and included which can improve retention and engagement, making things better for everyone.

Category: [Research 101](#)

Pathway: Research Essentials

New Tutorial: *Making Citations Easier.*

Many students find citations confusing or boring to put together. It can seem like dealing with citations takes you away from actually writing! But there are ways to make citations easier. Using citation generators and managers can save time, make research more efficient, and help you cite like a pro!

[Access Niche Academy](#)



LitWise

By Lexi Whitehorn

Improving Literacy in Middle School

Middle school is hard. Speaking as a mom of a middle schooler – time is spent between school, homework, and sports which doesn't leave a whole lot of time left for something leisurely as reading. My 7th grader used to be such an avid reader; but lately, I cannot even get him to sit down and read for 20 minutes. How do we continue to nurture that love of reading and improve literacy for students when their time is so focused on everything else?

Data from the North Dakota Assessment from 2022-2023 shows only 47% of 8th grade students are proficient or advanced in English Language Arts (ELA). Also, 26% of those students are considered partially proficient, and 27% of students are considered novice.

[Continue Reading](#)

Kit of the Week

Shadows

"Shadows" is a NASA@ My Library kit that uses activities to teach participants about solar and lunar eclipses and the tools scientists use to study the Sun.



This kit includes two sets of the Modeling Meaningful Eclipses activity, four pairs of Sunoculars, and two books ("Moonbear's Shadow" by Frank Asch and "You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Satellites!" by Ian Graham; Mark Bergin (Illustrator))

[Reserve This Kit](#)

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To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.
Times referenced are Central Time.