



# Flickertale

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## State Aid to Public Libraries 2024

State Aid applications will open April 1, 2024, and need to be completed by April 30, 2024. Library directors can access and submit the application via the [Counting Opinions](#) website. The North Dakota State Library will be offering a virtual State Aid Walk-Through on March 28, 2024. Please register in advance for these events through the links below.

State Aid Application Walk-Through  
[Thursday, March 28 at 11:00 AM](#)

If you have any questions regarding State Aid to Public Libraries, please contact NDSL Administration, Allie Suko, at [ndsldamn@nd.gov](mailto:ndsldamn@nd.gov) or (701)328-2492.

[Register for the State Aid Application Walk-Through](#)

## Beanstack Reading Challenges

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

Another month is upon us and while I thought we were headed into spring; it seems like Mother Nature has other ideas. But don't let this late arriving winter stop you from meeting your monthly reading goals! This month we have two reading challenges:

### Read Across America

Celebrate reading with NEA's Read Across America!! Join us and read across America this month. Log your reading to earn badges all month long!



Want to continue reading across America all year long? Check out [their monthly calendar](#) featuring a different topic / genre each month! March focuses on diversity!

### Read Across America Books of the Month:

- Elementary: "A Crown for Corina" by Laekan Kemp
- Middle School: "You Are Here: Connecting Flights" by Ellen Oh
- High School: "Invisible Son" by Kim Johnson

## Women's History Month 2024

Celebrate Women's History Month by logging your minutes for this challenge. Need some suggestions for books centered around the accomplishments of women? Check out [NDSL's LibGuide](#) for a visual book list and to read more information on Women's History.



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
Reading Challenge

**Top Participating Library:**  
North Dakota State Library

Total # of minutes read: 8,539  
Total # of badges earned: 105  
Total # of active readers: 11

Other Participating Libraries:  
Lake Region Public Library  
Mayville Public Library

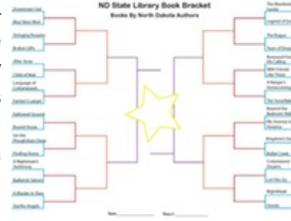
**FOR THE LOVE OF READING**  
Reading Challenge

**Top Participating Library:**  
North Dakota State Library

Other Participating Libraries:      Total # of minutes read:  
Ebensdale Public Library                      16,485  
James River Valley Library System      Total # of badges earned:  
Lake Region Public Library                      160  
Mayville Public Library                      Total # of active readers:  
Valley City Barnes County Public Library      17

## 2024 Book Bracket Program Books By North Dakota Authors

The Book Brackets are back for 2024 with a new theme – Books By North Dakota Authors. With books like “The Round House” by Louise Erdrich, “Stringing Rosaries” by Denise Lajimodiere, and “Hondo” by Louis L'Amour, it is going to be tough to choose a winner! Revisit some old favorites or learn about new ND authors while picking a winner for each battle to decide your ultimate champion.



### The rules are simple:

Only North Dakota residents are eligible to submit a bracket. However, anyone from anywhere can vote **once per battle**. Voting will take place weekdays (March 19-28) on Facebook and the State Library's website. The titles that get the most votes will win their battles and move on to the next round.

Once you have filled out your bracket completely (remember the star in the middle for your championship pick), please submit it to the State Library at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov), or send it to ND State Library, 604 E Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505 or through interdepartment mail (state agency employees).

State Library staff will be at the Capitol across from the Capitol Café on Wednesday, March 13, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Stop by to pick up or drop off your bracket and check out some of the many books by North Dakota authors available at the North Dakota State Library.

Voting will begin on March 19, so please get your brackets in by March 18.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov).

[Book Bracket](#)

[Book List - By Title](#)

[Book List - By Author](#)



## ChatGPT and Library Academic Research

Submitted by Kathy Cline

As you most likely already know, AI and ChatGPT have been hot topics over the past several months. There are pros and cons to almost everything we encounter, and such is the case with ChatGPT. The question is, are there more pros or cons in using ChatGPT as a research tool in the academic library?

In his blog post, “ChatGPT as a Tool for Library Research - Some Notes and Suggestions,” Nick Pavlovski stated that while the value of using ChatGPT and similar AI tools to create original content has been made, there hasn't been much said about using the tools as an aid in academia library research. Pavlovski sees ChatGPT and its alternatives having potential value as a library search tool. The blog post focuses on ChatGPT 3.5, not ChatGPT 4, which is the more advanced and fee-based chatbot (Pavlovski, 2024).

Pavlovski explains that while chatbot tools can be used without training, users who know and apply a few techniques may receive better feedback. First, know the limits of ChatGPT. One limit is that chatbots have “hallucinations” and shouldn't be considered as a single source of accuracy and truth. Another limit is ChatGPT's ability to become confused if a topic is changed during a chat. Chatbots perform best with continuity and focus, so it's best to begin a new chat instead of changing topics in an existing one. A third limit for users to remember is that ChatGPT 3.5 is not capable of updating its information like a search engine. STEM academics and researchers, or anyone needing current information in their field of study, should remember that ChatGPT was trained in 2021 using a finite chunk of data making its information weak in some subjects and useless in others (Pavlovski, 2024).

[Continue Reading](#)

## Bank of North Dakota's College Save Summer Reading Program Webinar

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

Wow! That's a mouthful of a title if I ever read one. Don't forget next week on March 12th at 11:00 CDT, we will have a webinar with James Barnhardt from the Bank of North Dakota. He will be sharing about their College Save program and how libraries can participate. This is a great opportunity for you to ask questions and get a better idea of how you can bring this opportunity to your patrons and community. See you next week!

[Register](#)

## Slam the Scam Day

Submitted by Monica Struck

Technology brings with it many good things, but along with the good comes the bad. According to a Gallup poll published on November 21, 2023, 15% of respondents (adults in the United States) had been scammed in the past year. This means that as many as 21 million American adults (and quite possibly more) have been the victim of some sort of scam. This is a terrifying number, and there is only one way to combat these crimes: education.

Every year, the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) work together to promote National "Slam the Scam" Day. This year it falls on March 7 during [National Consumer Protection Week](#). While there isn't ever a bad time to provide education on scam avoidance, there is a good time to pick up some extra resources. On the [SSA website](#), they have Social Media Toolkits and printables available for distribution. You can also find great resources on [consumer.gov](#).

### Sources

Saad, L. (2024, February 7). Scams: Relatively common and anxiety-inducing for Americans. Gallup.com. <https://news.gallup.com/poll/544643/scams-relatively-common-anxiety-inducing-americans.aspx>

## 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

- History of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bismarck, N.D., 1908-1958



### North Dakota Memories

- Aerial of the Edwin Bender farm, Sheridan County, N.D., 1950s
- Headquarters Hotel Christmas menu, Fargo, 1886
- Henne family history book, 1991
- Wedding portrait of Carl and David Hauser, 1964
- Wedding portrait of Edwin and Martha Bender, 1930



### Political Prairie Fire

- Journal of the North Dakota House, 1921
- N.D. Boss Carpenter [political cartoon, 1920]
- Portrait of W. J. Prater, circa 1919
- Portrait of Walter Thomas Mills, circa 1919
- Waters Resigns N.D. Bank Post [newspaper article, 1920]



[Digital Horizons](#)

# Science of Reading Week March 25 – 28

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

Join Lexia as they celebrate Science of Reading Week! This online virtual learning event celebrates literacy learning through the Science of Reading. Each day features a keynote speaker, kicking off the week with LeVar Burton speaking about the right to literacy. Participants can [register for the full week here](#) or by individual events. Check out the list below.

## [Interview with LeVar Burton: Literacy is a Civil Right – March 25 \(11:00 AM\)](#)

- In a live Q&A, Burton will join Dr. Liz Brooke, Lexia Chief Learning Officer, for a discussion on the national literacy crisis, progress in evidence-based literacy instruction, and equitable access to that instruction for all students.

## [School Admin: Your Leadership Role in Literacy – March 26 \(11:00 AM\)](#)

- In this candid edWebinar, you'll hear from educational leaders with decades of firsthand experience about the challenges, benefits, and long-term systemic impact of implementing Science-of-Reading-based literacy curricula. Discussion topics will include:
  - Strategies to support schoolwide changes to literacy instruction with an approach based in the Science of Reading
  - How to empower teachers and secure their partnership to incorporate the Science of Reading to accelerate literacy
  - The schoolwide ecosystem of educators—principals, coaches, interventionists—with a shared vision of Science-of-Reading-based instruction

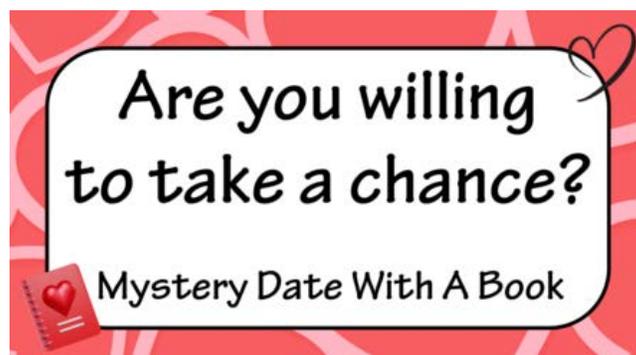
## [District Admin: Create an Ecosystem for the Science of Reading – March 27 \(11:00 AM\)](#)

- This edWebinar with education experts seeks to break down the “why” and the “how” of Science-of-Reading-based instruction for leaders at the district level. Discussion topics will include:
  - Designing curricula aligned to Science-of-Reading-based training teachers receive
  - Creating an ecosystem of educators—principals, coaches, interventionists—with a shared vision of literacy instruction based on the Science of Reading
  - Hiring teachers from prep programs committed to the Science of Reading and providing professional development opportunities grounded in evidence-based, research-backed literacy instruction

## [Teachers: Be the Ultimate Expert in the Science of Reading – March 28 \(11:00 AM\)](#)

- In this edWebinar, we bring together educators and curricular experts to break down how teachers can advocate for Science-of-Reading-based instruction and professional learning in their schools and districts. Discussion topics include:
  - Becoming the expert and advocating for structured literacy instruction
  - Identifying areas of improvement in current literacy programs or curricula and leveling feedback up to decision makers
  - Identifying professional development and training to implement structured literacy
  - Inspiration to achieve a shared vision of Science-of-Reading-based instruction in your classroom and beyond

[Register](#)



# Libraries in the News

## [Bismarck library wants to help you fight allergies \(KX News\)](#)

If allergies stop you from being able to go outside when it's nice, then this little series is right for you. According to a release, the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is hosting health education series on Tuesday, March 12 at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B. Brittany Hugelen is a nutritional health coach at Natural Grocers and will be speaking at the session.

## [Jamestown City Council approves establishing library committee \(Yahoo! News\)](#)

The Jamestown City Council approved in a 3-0 vote establishing a committee of nonelected members to review the memorandum of agreement with Stutsman County on providing joint library services.

## [Myhre's Magical Reading Challenge includes library castle, and magic trick involving principal \(KX News\)](#)

As part of Reading Month in March, Myhre Elementary in Bismarck has transformed its library into a magical place — and now, the school has an extra incentive for its students to hit the books.

## [State's oldest public library opens on a week-to-week schedule \(KNOX\)](#)

After being closed for two months...North Dakota's oldest public library is open once again on a week-to-week basis.



## Serving American Newcomers in the School Library

Historically, North Dakota would be considered a mostly culturally homogeneous state. This is not to say that all citizens' ancestors came from the same area; however, much of the population could trace their heritage back to Native American tribes or those from Northern and Central European countries. In the words of [Bob Dylan](#), the times they are a-changin! Today, the face of North Dakota's population is shifting. Communities are finding themselves serving residents from countries that have not typically made the Midwest their new homes. School librarians, just as their classroom co-workers, are noticing this change and want (and need!) to accommodate for their new students.

[Continue Reading](#)



## "The Safe Library: Keeping Users, Staff, and Collections Secure" by Steve Albrecht

This book provides advice and support to help library employees best deal with sexually harassing patrons, unruly groups of students, gang members, thieves, Internet hogs, and others who can disrupt the safe library environment.



[Check It Out](#)

# Public Libraries Survey

[Click here to learn more!](#)



## Upcoming Free Webinars

### [Library Boards and Intellectual Freedom: How to Combat Censorship with Your Library Trustees](#)

**Niche Academy**

**Wednesday, March 13 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)**

In this webinar, Shannon Oltmann and Shannon Crawford Barniskis will discuss forming and shaping your library board, educating them about book challenges and intellectual freedom, and fielding questions and concerns from the board. We will leave plenty of time for questions and discussion from the audience.

### [Creating a Person-Centered Library: Supporting Patrons While Avoiding Burnout](#)

**WebJunction**

**Wednesday, March 13 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)**

Are you feeling the strain of serving patrons with complex needs? Is your library seeing increased patron behavioral issues and mental health concerns? This session reviews ideas and approaches for how libraries can support both high-needs patrons and staff.

### [Anxiety in Academia: Librarians' Guide to Recognizing, Responding, and Collaborating for Student Well-Being](#)

**Niche Academy**

**Wednesday, March 27 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)**

This webinar is designed to empower librarians with the knowledge to recognize anxiety, their role in supporting student's mental health and the importance of collaboration over direct intervention. This webinar will also explore collaborative strategies with other campus departments equipped to address student's mental health concerns.

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[www.library.nd.gov](http://www.library.nd.gov)

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

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