

## Friendly Competition on Beanstack

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

Do you log your reading in Beanstack? You can compete with friends!

Details:

- Access the Friends option:
  1. On a desktop or laptop – through the Friends tab at the top (next to Challenges) or
  2. On a mobile phone/tablet – through the Community tab at the bottom
- Add friends one of two ways:
  1. By sending them your Friend Code, or
  2. By entering their Friend Code

Codes can be sent via Facebook, Twitter (X), Email, or copied for another form of communication.

- It is important to note that only people from the same library can be Beanstack Friends.
- Track the progress on the Leaderboard. Reading is tracked by minutes or books.
- Have lots of (friendly) competition with other readers in your life!

Did you know that even if your library does not pay for Beanstack, your patrons can still have Beanstack accounts? If you're interested in learning more, reach out to me at [tkruger@nd.gov](mailto:tkruger@nd.gov)!

[Beanstack](#)

## Public Libraries Survey

February 1, 2025 – March 31, 2025

[Click here for more information](#)

## New Digital Horizons Postcards Available

There are new Digital Horizons postcards available for North Dakota libraries!

Digital Horizons is an online resource for thousands of images, documents, video, and oral histories depicting life on the Northern Plains from the late 1800s to today. Here you'll find a fascinating snapshot of the lives, culture, and history of the people who shaped life on the prairies.



With nearly 50 collections and approximately 50,000 items available, Digital Horizons serves several audiences:

- For educators and students, it provides instructional resources and research materials
- For genealogists, it provides research materials
- For the public, it provides personal enrichment
- For commercial users, it provides a tool for locating material for use in publications

With brand new images, your library can use these postcards to promote this online resource. Request materials online at <https://bit.ly/ndsipaform>. We will send them to your library through the mail at no cost to you.

[Digital Horizons](#)

# TODAY'S SKILLS FOR TOMORROW'S LIBRARIES CONFERENCE



ND STATE CAPITOL

JULY 28-30

## Financial Literacy Month

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

April brings more than just showers... it also brings a focus on finances! April is Financial Literacy Month. This time is dedicated to handling money responsibly, which leads to better (and more secure) futures!



Financial Literacy Month was founded in 2003. It followed Youth Financial Literacy Day (started in 2000). Financial Literacy Month intends to encourage and educate people of all ages and income levels to take hold of their own money matters (Christensen, 2025).

### What is Financial Literacy?

As defined by Investopedia, financial literacy is "the ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills, including personal financial management, budgeting, and investing" (Fernando, 2024). Forbes adds that financial literacy involves budgeting and expense management, saving and investing, debt management, retirement planning, insurance and risk management, and understanding financial products and concepts (Tamplin, 2023).

[Continue Reading](#)

The ND State Library Presents:

## PATHWAYS THROUGH THE PRAIRIE

PODCAST

**EPISODE 15: NATHANIEL SMITH**  
ND DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS  
AND REHABILITATION

**HOSTED BY ND STATE  
LIBRARIAN MARY SOUCIE**

## Episode 15: Nathaniel Smith

There's a new episode of Pathways Through the Prairie podcast available. Learn more about Nathaniel Smith, Librarian of the ND Department Corrections and Rehabilitation Libraries, including his pathway to the library and what the libraries offer the residents. 35 minutes.

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. If you would like to be interviewed by State Librarian Mary Soucie, contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov).

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

# Legislative Update

Submitted by Dani Kappel

Here are the updates as of March 13, 2025.

**HB 1013: PASSED HOUSE** – There was a committee meeting on March 10, no decision was made. The bill has passed the House floor with 72 yeas and 17 nays. There were three hearings regarding this bill. This bill appropriates funds for the 2025-2027 biennium for the State Library and its sister agencies, including the Department of Public Instruction, the School for the Deaf, North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind, and the Center for Distance Education.

**HB 1142: PASSED HOUSE** – There was a committee meeting on March 12, no decision was made. This bill has passed on the House floor with 86 yeas and 1 nay after leaving the Political Subdivisions committee with a 13-0-0 Do Pass as originally written. The bill proposes amendments to the North Dakota Century Code to increase the statutory liability caps for political subdivisions and the state.

**HB 1220: PASSED HOUSE** – Was introduced to the Senate and assigned to the Workforce Development Committee. The bill has passed the House floor with 73 yeas and 15 nays after leaving the Education committee with a 9-5-0 Do Pass. The bill establishes a North Dakota accelerated degree program aimed at preparing students for high-demand occupations. State higher education institutions can offer these programs as alternatives to traditional degrees.

**HB 1254: PASSED HOUSE** – Was introduced to the Senate and assigned to the State and Local Government Committee. The bill has passed the House floor with 90 yeas and 0 nays after leaving the Political Subdivisions committee with a 11-1-1 Do Pass. This aligns Century Code with current NDSL practices by allowing all North Dakotans to have a NDSL card.

**HB 1353: DEFEATED** - This bill was defeated on the House floor with 25 yeas and 63 nays. The bill introduces limitations on property tax levies and a cap on increases by taxing districts without voter approval, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024. Cities and counties cannot override these restrictions through home rule authority.

**HB 1420: PASSED HOUSE/PASSED SENATE** – The bill had a hearing on March 10 with a 5-0-1 Do Pass recommendation. It went to Senate floor and passed 47 yeas to 0 nays. The bill left the House Finance and Taxation committee with a 12-0-2 Do Pass. It passed on the House chamber floor with 92 yeas and 2 nays. The bill amends §54-24.4-05 of the North Dakota Century Code to clarify that the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council only approves state funded grants except for State Aid for Public Libraries. It aligns Century Code with current practices.

**HB 1561: PASSED HOUSE** - Was introduced to the Senate and assigned to the Industry and Business Committee. This bill passed the House floor with 91 yeas and 0 nays. It seeks to add a new section to Chapter §51-07 of the North Dakota Century Code to establish liability for commercial entities that publish or distribute sexual material harmful to minors online without implementing reasonable age verification methods.

**SB 2180: PASSED SENATE** – The bill passed on the Senate floor with 41 yeas and 6 nays. It has been received by the House and assigned to the Political Subdivisions Committee. This bill was hog-housed and now creates a new section of Century Code §44-04. It requires opportunity for public comment at a meeting of a public entity and includes stipulations for those comments. It has not been voted on yet.

**SB 2219: PASSED SENATE/PASSED HOUSE** – The bill came out of committee with a 11-0-2 Do Pass recommendation and was passed on the house floor with 91 yeas and 1 nay. The bill was introduced to the House and assigned to the Political Subdivisions Committee. This bill has passed on the Senate floor with 46 yeas and 0 nays after leaving the State and Local Government committee hearing with a 6-0-0 Do Pass. This bill clarifies that libraries must complete the annual Public Libraries Survey to be eligible to receive State Aid for Public Libraries.

**SB 2278: PASSED SENATE** – There was a hearing for this bill on March 10, no decision was made. The bill was introduced to the House and assigned to the Education Committee. This bill has passed on the Senate floor with 44 yeas and 1 nay after leaving the Education committee with a 4-0-2 Do Pass after receiving an amendment to include the fiscal and collection management impact on libraries within this study. The proposed bill mandates a legislative study during the 2025-26 interim to evaluate the feasibility and desirability of requiring state agency libraries, including the State Library and those at state-controlled higher education institutions, to retain copies of original versions of written materials. The study will also assess the impact of artificial intelligence on library material retention, updates, and alterations.

**SB 2307: PASSED SENATE** – This bill was introduced to the House floor and assigned to the Judiciary Committee. No hearings have been scheduled. The bill has left the Senate Judiciary Committee with a Do Pass recommendation after a few amendments were added. The bill had a committee hearing on Feb. 10th where several individuals gave testimony. NDSL is trying to keep up with committee work regarding this bill. The bill proposes updates to North Dakota obscenity laws, focusing on public libraries, school districts, and state agencies to protect minors from explicit sexual material. The bill mandates digital or online resources offered to K-12 students to incorporate safety policies and technology protections.



## Introduction

Hello, and welcome to your new bi-weekly Pages of the Prairie, a series showcasing library histories and current events. This series will focus on a different North Dakota library each week, discussing their history, current activities, how they're enhancing library services to connect to their communities, and other interesting bits of information. This series aims to help connect libraries and their staff to other libraries and give information to readers about their local library, as well as showing how libraries meet challenges they face.

Next week, we will be showcasing Bismarck State College's Library and its collection of unique pieces of history, how it has connected to the state's financial literacy initiative, and a few other interesting tidbits. Stay tuned!



### Dawson, N.D., Boys Basketball Team, 1947

The boys basketball team from Dawson, North Dakota. Eight boys wearing uniforms line up in a row.



Left to right: Coach D. D. McKay, Ervin Dewald, Wesley Nicholson, Gerald Knudson, Richard Eberl, Joseph White, Joseph Briese, Timothy White, John Abbot, Jr., and Richard Luedtke.

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



**Twenty Women Who Changed American History**

Self-Paced, Online Class

[+ Join this Course](#)

North Dakota State Library

15 Lessons	32 Exams & Assignments	8 Hours average time	0.8 CEUs
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### Twenty Women Who Changed American History

Submitted by **Al Peterson**

Women's History Month is an annual observance held in the month of March honoring the contributions and achievements of women throughout history. To better understand who some of these important women were and their contributions, dedication to their work, and sacrifices they made for the advancement of justice and equality, Universal Class offers a course examining the lives of twenty influential women who helped shape the history of the United States. In this course, you will take a look at the lives of influential women such as Abigail Adams, Susan B. Anthony, Helen Keller, Sojourner Truth, Fannie Lou Hamer, Sandra Day O'Connor, and many more.

Each of the 15 lessons contain the main article, supporting stories as well as additional articles and exams. Throughout this course, you'll discover the narratives of twenty exceptional women, each with a unique story of resistance, determination, and grit.





## Surely Poop-ular Titles!

Why did Tigger stick his head in the toilet? To look for Pooh! (Ok, I just had to get one poop joke out of the way.)

Poop, feces, crap, scat, dung, stool, excrement, number two...whatever you call it, everything that eats also needs to eliminate waste products from their bodies through the digestive tract. Feces, my preferred word, is far more than a collection of unused food particles and water. Most of the following titles highlight just how fascinating and useful bodies' waste materials really can be; others are simply for fun! If you have a topic for *Tammy's Top Picks*, email me at [tikruger@nd.gov](mailto:tikruger@nd.gov).

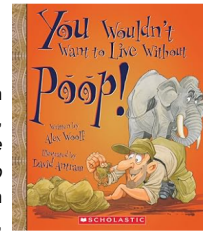
1. *You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Poop!* by Alex Woolf

**Publish Date:** 2016

**Publisher:** Scholastic

**Summary:** Poop is much more than waste matter. It can help build homes, provide energy, diagnose illnesses, grow crops, and more! In true *You Wouldn't Want to Live* series fashion, *You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Poop* takes readers on an educational (and fun) journey through various uses for, dangers of, current sanitation practices, and future potentials of feces. This title contains a glossary and index.

**Best For:** 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade



[Continue Reading](#)

## UniversalClass Webinar

Tuesday, March 25 (12:00 PM)

North Dakota public library patrons can access over 600 continuing education courses in 35 subjects, from digital literacy to DIY skills. But first, they (and you) need to know about the platform and how to use it so they can make the most of it.

Join Transparent Language for this training session where you'll get:

- A look through the catalog of 600+ courses
- A dive into a course to better understand the learning experience & expectations to earn accredited CEUs
- A boatload of ideas to boost usage via social media, email, and more with materials from the new Marketing Kit



If you can't make the training, register to receive a recording of the webinar.

[Register for the Webinar](#)



Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is hosting Nyamka and Mitchell Reese, authors of "Milo, the Little Dino's Adventures," on March 15 and 16. They will read the story, lead an activity, and provide opportunities for photos. Books will also be available for purchase.

James River Valley Seed Library is opening on March 20 at the Stutsman County Library with NDSU Extension Agent Ashley Kjellberg presenting "Timeline for Planting a Successful Garden" and 3D printed garden markers (while supplies last).

## Parent's Guide to Using Mango Languages

Mango Languages is a fun resource for the whole family with its engaging, real-world conversations and self-paced learning.



To help support parents and caregivers, Mango Languages has created the "[Parent's Guide: Using Mango Languages in Your Homeschool Classroom](#)," which includes practical tips for integrating Mango into homeschool curriculum, ideas to make learning fun and interactive, and how to get started with this resource, which is available to anyone with a library card from a North Dakota public library or the State Library.

Mango Languages has also put together a [promotional flyer](#) that your library can display or share to promote this resource.

If your library would like Mango Languages flyers or bookmarks, request them online at <https://bit.ly/ndsipaform> or by contacting BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov). They will be sent to your library at no cost to you.

Mango Languages



## Starting a Library Podcast

### Part 1: Introduction

If you are looking for a fun and engaging way to market your library, you may want to consider starting a podcast. This platform can help your library connect with your community by sharing stories and highlighting your collection(s) and services.

The State Library hosts the podcast "Pathways Through the Prairie," where State Librarian Mary Soucie interviews librarians, elected officials and state agency staff, and other interesting North Dakotans. If you would like to be featured in a future episode, contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov) to get on the interview list.

Podcasting is a growing medium, with over 4.3 million podcasts worldwide and about 504.9 million podcast listeners, including 109.1 million American podcast listeners, as of January 2025 ([Podcaststatistics](#)). Many of your community members are likely tuning in, so this could be a great way to reach them.

Continue Reading

## Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

### What's New in Niche

Over the months of January and February, Monica Struck conducted a series of webinars geared towards training library trustees. These videos are available on multiple platforms, including YouTube, the Public Library Board of Trustees section in the Library Board LibGuide, and in Niche Academy under the category of Library Boards and Friends Group.

The 2025 Trustee Training starts off with an overview video, which is followed by the recorded webinars in the order of the presentations: Governance, Ethics, Budget and Finance, Planning, Policies, Human Resources, and Advocacy. Also included in this tutorial are all the slide decks that Monica used in her presentations in both PDF and PowerPoint format along with a link to the Public Library Board of Trustees LibGuide.

Watch the Trustee Trainings

# Navigating Accessibility

By BreAnne Meier



## Introduction to Accessibility Success Criterion

A [new law](#) will soon require all public entities' websites to meet accessibility standards, with deadlines based on your area's population size:

- If your library serves more than 50,000 people, the law will take effect on April 24, 2026.
- If your library serves fewer than 50,000 people, the law will take effect on April 26, 2027.

While these dates may seem distant, the earlier you begin, the easier it will be to meet the requirements when the time comes. Plus, an accessible website benefits everyone in your community.

Website accessibility is vital for ensuring that your entire community can access your information and services. Over the next few months, this column will break down each success criterion your website needs to meet. Check back each week to learn more and take steps toward full compliance.

If you have any questions about your library's WordPress website, contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov) or schedule a meeting at <https://bit.ly/LibraryWebsiteSupport>.

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Any mention of services or products in this newsletter does not constitute any endorsement or recommendation. The use of any services or products should be evaluated on an individual basis.

[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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