



Flickertale

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TODAY'S SKILLS FOR TOMORROW'S LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

ND STATE CAPITOL



JULY 28-30

Calling All Libraries with Creative Programs!

Submitted by Al Peterson

Does your library offer board games, LEGO clubs, or Dungeons & Dragons sessions? Maybe you host a book club in the park or creative craft nights for adults? The North Dakota State Library is seeking libraries with innovative and engaging programs to participate in a panel at our summer conference.

Librarians are dedicated to their communities and strive to offer meaningful programs for patrons of all ages. We also love to exchange ideas and collaborate with fellow professionals. If your library has a unique program or an idea worth sharing, we invite you to join us at our summer conference on July 28th–30th. We'd love to hear from you!

You can reach out to us at ndsitrain@nd.gov.

Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

Scandinavian American Bank Exhibit

The [Digital Initiatives Department](#) of the North Dakota State Library (NDSL) is excited to announce the opening of another online exhibit called the "[Scandinavian American Bank](#)."

The exhibit uses information and content from NDSL's [Political Prairie Fire](#) digital collection, which focuses on the political battle between the Nonpartisan League (NPL) and the Independent Voters Association (IVA).

This exhibit tells the story of the scandals surrounding the Scandinavian American Bank of Fargo from the late 1910s to well into the 1920s. This seemingly normal bank in downtown Fargo was at the epicenter of the political battle between the NPL and IVA. The scandals would impact more than just this bank. The State Banking Board, the State Examiner's office, the Attorney General's office, NPL enterprises, the Bank of North Dakota, a bank in Valley City, the State Auditor, the courts (including the North Dakota Supreme Court), and several prominent individuals would also be pulled in (many of which, at different times, would be labeled "bank wreckers" for their varied involvement). The arrests, trials, and fanfare lasted for years.

Today, the Scandinavian American Bank has become a mere footnote in the history of the NPL, overshadowed by some of the enduring legacies of that time (like the Bank of North Dakota and the Industrial Commission). However, the bank played a pivotal role in the NPL-IVA era of North Dakota history.

The primary way to navigate the exhibit is to start on the [homepage](#) and then progress through each sub-page under "[The Story](#)" in sequential order (using the "Next" and "Previous" buttons at the bottom of each page). The "[Timeline](#)" page/ tab is a supplement to the main story, and it provides another way to experience the story (in a chronological and slightly condensed way).

This online exhibit is the department's most comprehensive and ambitious yet. Check it out today! The exhibit is available on [NDSL's LibGuides](#) or via the link below.

[View the Exhibit](#)

Public Library Infographics

Each year, the State Library provides a personalized infographic based on the numbers your public library submitted for the Public Libraries Survey/Annual Report. These infographics usually include the number of visits to your library, registered users, items, wireless sessions, programs, and circulations, but it can be personalized to meet your needs.

If you would like an infographic, please fill out the form at the link below or contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.



[Request an Infographic](#)

Spring Into Celebrating Libraries!

Submitted by Kathy Cline

April not only signals spring but also brings several opportunities to celebrate libraries, librarians, and reading. Let's take a look at this month's events!



Since April 1, 1985, the American Association of School Librarians has recognized **School Library Month** during April. Throughout the month, school librarians are encouraged to host events that showcase how essential a strong school library program is to a child's learning experience. Click on this [link](#) to find webinar opportunities, promotional and advocacy tools, and much more.

D.E.A.R., which stands for "Drop Everything and Read," became an event to celebrate when Beverly Cleary wrote about the concept in her 1981 book *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*. Since Cleary's birthday is April 12th, that became the day to celebrate D.E.A.R. across the country. This event was meant to promote reading in families but soon became so popular that it was later expanded to a month-long celebration encouraging everyone to read. While reading is encouraged each day of the month, on April 12th, everyone is encouraged to set aside 30 minutes to read with no distractions. This sounds amazing to me and hopefully it does to you as well!

[Continue Reading](#)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Tammy Kruger

What is Stress?

Stress is a physical or emotional reaction to changes or challenges. Stress, sometimes referred as the "fight-or-flight reaction" can be either positive or negative, or even a mix of the two! (For example, bringing a new pet home is both a positive and negative stressor.)



Physical characteristics of stress include quickened heart rate, aches and pains, exhaustion or trouble sleeping, headaches, digestive problems, and weakened immune systems. When left unchecked, stress can lead to high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity and diabetes (National Institute of Health, n.d., and Cleveland Clinic, 2024). Emotional reactions can involve panic attacks, depression, and anxiety (Cleveland Clinic, 2024).

Stress can manifest from both personal and professional avenues. Work-related stress often comes from too many demands within a job, a lack of communication between co-workers, and feeling unsupported by higher ups (Mates in Mind, n.d.). Personal stress can come from conflicts within relationships, changes in living arrangements (such as marriages or divorces), or modifications in personal habits, such as increasing exercise or quitting smoking.

[Continue Reading](#)

Genre Fiction and Mental Health

Submitted by Monica Struck

In "Asking What If: Mystery as Respite for the Anxious Mind," Kirsten Sundberg Lunstrum (2025) explored the personal appeal mysteries held for her. She noted nostalgia and examples of writer's craft initially, but then she moved on to how mysteries address anxiety. Lunstrum noted that the main benefit of a mystery is that it takes the horrible things that live in our minds, brings them to life on the page, and gives an ultimate resolution. Since anxiety doesn't necessarily have a neat conclusion in real life, having a place to find that resolution is helpful.

Lunstrum's article got me thinking about other genres that might serve the same purpose. Here are my thoughts:

1. Dystopia – In my opinion this does a similar thing to a mystery. It takes the terrible thoughts and brings them to life. However, dystopias do not always have the same neat wrap up as mysteries do. I think this could help with accepting adverse outcomes in daily life.
2. Romance – Did you know that there has actually been research done on why people read romance novels? Check out [Reading the Romance](#) by Janice Radway. She suggested that people read romance novels as a means to escape the stresses of everyday life in a safe, predictable setting. She also says a lot of other things over the course of about 300 pages...but it's been over 10 years since I've read *Reading the Romance*, so I hope you'll forgive me for giving you the short, short version.
3. Fantasy – While we're on the subject of escapism, there isn't a genre more associated with this than fantasy. This genre is full of magical creatures, strange worlds, and everyday problems. When you consider that an elf still must worry about pleasing his parents but is able to navigate the issue, it can help you face the world beyond the book.

Genre Fiction is often maligned by lovers of "literature", but it has earned its place on the bookshelf. So, the next time life gets a bit stressful, don't be afraid to grab your favorite escape. The main character will navigate through the plot, and you will prevail!

References

Lunstrum, K. S. (2025, February 10). *Asking what if?: Mystery as respite for the anxious mind*. CrimeReads. <https://crimereads.com/asking-what-if-mystery-as-respite-for-the-anxious-mind/>

Radway, J. A. (1984). *Reading the romance: Women, Patriarchy and Popular Literature*. University of North Carolina.

Library Tidbits

A new bookstore is opening at the [Morton Mandan Public Library](#) to sell library books at low prices year-round.

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

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