Future Changes to Online Library Resources

Submitted by Steve Hammel

The State Library recently reviewed all of the Online Library Resources we provide, examining overall cost, yearly usage, and cost per use. Based on that data, the State Library has decided to cancel the current subscriptions to Mango Languages and NoveList. Patrons and library staff will continue to have access to both resources until the contract expires on June 30, 2026.

CSLP Reading Challenge Launched!

CSLP's 2025 Beanstack Challenge is available! This challenge runs May 26 through August 8. Your library does not need to run Summer Reading for that long! I wanted to catch those libraries that start a little earlier and those who end a little later. Preregistration is available.

Color Our World Reading Challenge is broken down into Adults (18+), Teens (13-17), Children (7-12), and Early Literacy (0-6). Participants log the minutes they read in 30-minute intervals. Please tell parents (and older siblings) that they can (and should) count reading with little ones as part of their challenge minutes, too!

Patrons from any library that uses CSLP can participate in this challenge. To register for a challenge, sign up or log into Beanstack. (NDSL's link is found under library.nd.gov --> Patrons --> Programs.) Families may create Beanstack accounts with as many members as they want or need under the one account.

Once participants have signed in or signed up, the version of *Color Our World* Reading Challenge appropriate for their age will show on the first page. Click on the challenge and then Join Challenge.

NDSL does not offer prizes. However, if you want to modify these challenges for your library to allow for prizes, reach out to me (**tlkruger@nd.gov**). I will create a challenge specific to your library.

If your library signed up for Bank of North Dakota's College SAVE program (**https://bnd.nd.gov/summerreading/**), CSLP's Beanstack Challenge can easily be a way to track patrons' reading! Patrons can create and upkeep their own accounts, or librarians can establish accounts for them from paper logs. If you have any questions about the College SAVE program or documenting reading, please reach out to me.

Beanstack

North Dakota Library Law Booklets

Submitted by Monica Struck

The legislative session is over, and we will be working to update the North Dakota Library Law booklet for public libraries in the coming months! We are trying to gauge preference as to print or digital format.

Please fill out the survey below to help us plan accordingly.

Fill Out the Survey

Annual Report to the Governing Body

Submitted by Monica Struck

Now that the Public Libraries Survey is behind us, let's give some attention to its baby brother, the Annual Report to the Governing Body. This report is outlined in **NDCC §40-38-09**. Since much of this article will be dabbling in Century Code, please note that I am not a lawyer. Please consult your favorite licensed legal professional for official law knowledge.

40-38-09 states that the board of directors shall submit a report to the governing body by July 1 of each year. This report should consist of:
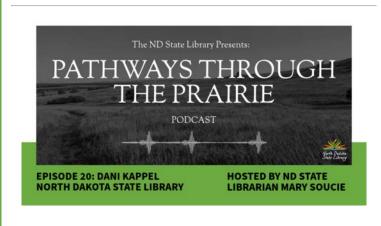
1. The condition of the library and property.
2. The various sums of money received from all sources.
3. How much money has been expended and for what purpose.
4. The number of library materials on hand.
5. The number of library materials added, withdrawn or lost, and number of materials loaned out.
6. The type of library materials contained in the library.
7. Such other statistics, information, and suggestions as the board may deem of general interest or as may be required by the State Library.

In addition to the copy submitted to the governing body, a copy needs to be filed with the State Library.

Even though Century Code assigns this report to the board of directors, it is often delegated to library staff to create this report. It makes sense to do it this way because the library staff is better placed to gather these statistics. Century Code does not specify a format for this report, so libraries have a great deal of freedom in how this report looks. We have libraries who utilize Word documents, Excel Spreadsheets/graphs, State Library generated Infographics, and any combinations thereof.

If you have questions regarding the Annual Report, or if you need to send a copy of your report to be filed with the State Library, please send an e-mail to **ndsl-ld@nd.gov**!

More Information

The ND State Library Presents:
PATHWAYS THROUGH THE PRAIRIE
PODCAST

EPISODE 20: DANI KAPPEL
NORTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY

HOSTED BY ND STATE
LIBRARIAN MARY SOUCIE

BITS OF TRIVIA
By Stacey Goldade

Paper Plates, But Not the Kind for a Picnic

Have you ever read a biography and in the middle of the book there's some thick, glossy paper that has whole-page photos of the person you're reading about? There's likely no page numbers printed on them either. Those illustrated pages in amongst the regular text are called plates, even if they're not glossy, although many times they are on special paper. If they are one sided, they are called leaves, while double sided papers are called pages. If you're ever looking at a bibliographic record that looks something like this: **446 pages (large print), 32 unnumbered pages of plates** then you know you're likely in for some special content. If you're curious, that description is from *Sonny boy: a memoir* by Al Pacino that's currently on our shelves.

Librarians, do you have a question about cataloging or want to discuss an idea with another cataloger to flesh out some options? Contact me at **sgoldade@nd.gov**.

By Kathy Cline

AI Social Companions and Users Under 18

In an email from Common Sense Media, Senior Editor, Bianca DeJesus discusses the impact AI may have on students. While many of us are likely familiar with generative AI like ChatGPT or Gemini, we may not be as familiar with AI social companions.

Social chatbots, or companion tools, are created to encourage meaningful bonds with users by carrying on conversations humans would normally have as friends, family, or intimate relationships. While the social chatbot creators say these tools have the potential to curb loneliness and other social struggles such as isolation or anxiety, Common Sense's risk assessments show unacceptable risks when these tools are used by children aged eighteen and younger. Common Sense's assessment evaluated Character.AI, Nomi, Replika, and others. Use this **link** to access more information on these assessments and social AI companions.

Continue Reading

Wings and Blooms: Create Perfect Butterfly Gardens

Submitted by Al Peterson

Imagine stepping into a vibrant oasis where delicate wings flutter through the air, sunlight dances across colorful blooms, and nature's beauty comes to life before your eyes. Welcome to the world of butterfly gardens. A butterfly garden is more than a garden, it's a sanctuary, a living work of art, and a way to connect deeply with the natural world. In this course, you'll learn how to create a haven for butterflies, providing backyard beauty as well as encouraging pollination and building an ecosystem. Learn which flowers and plants provide the necessary nectar and habitat that butterflies need to thrive. What sets this course apart is its focus on blending practicality with creativity. You'll learn not only how to maintain a garden that meets the needs of butterflies, but also how to make it a stunning, inspiring space you can enjoy year-round. Whether it's creating shelters to protect your butterflies from predators or designing feeders that provide essential nourishment, every lesson will empower you to make a real impact. Not only will you learn how to maintain a butterfly garden, but you'll learn about the lifecycle of butterflies themselves. This ten course class blends ecology, garden design, the taxonomy of butterflies, and delicate balance of the ecology and biodiversity that keeps our planet ecologically sound.

To sign up for this course and other great Universal Class courses, click on **https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com/** to get started. *Wings and Blooms: Create Perfect Butterfly Gardens* can be found by searching for it by title in the search box.

Start your perfect butterfly garden today!

Johannes and Christiana (Ehni) Schock Letter & Photograph Collection

The "Johannes and Christiana (Ehni) Schock Letter & Photograph Collection" contains letters and photographs sent to Johannes and Christiana (Ehni) Schock from relatives in Germany, Bessarabia, and Poland, between 1936 and 1996. The bulk of the letters are from 1947 to 1951. The letters detail the living conditions in post-World War II Europe and how families were able to survive. Included with the letters are typed transcriptions in German and English. The collection is made available on **Digital Horizons** by the Germans From Russia Heritage Collection.

View the Collection

Starting a Podcast:
Part 5 – Location and Final Thoughts

Part 5 is the final article in this Podcast series. We'll go over locations and some final things to consider before starting a podcast.

An important thing to consider is where will you record? Many people end up recording in a closet, which will be awkward if you decide to do an interview style podcast – unless it's over a video platform (Zoom, Teams, etc.). A great location will be separate from the following:

- People who are talking/making noise
- Traffic noise
- Background noise – air conditioning, machinery, etc.
- Hard surfaces

Continue Reading

Success Criterion 1.1.1: Non-Text Content

The next few months, this column will be dedicated to the success criterion to make sure your library's website adheres to the accessibility rule requirements when it's implemented in 2026 and 2027.

If you've ever visited a website and noticed [Image: A tree in a field], you are seeing an example of WCAG Success Criterion 1.1.1 - Non-Text Content. This short text is a way to help make the web more accessible for everyone.

According to Web Accessibility Initiative, success criterion 1.1.1 Non-Text Content means that "all **non-text content** that is presented to the user has a **text alternative** that serves the equivalent purpose," except for certain situations.

Continue Reading

Library Tidbits

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library received a 2025 PR Xchange Award for their **Phantom Finds video**

Dollar General Literacy Foundation awarded grants to North Dakota public libraries - Hazen Public Library / City of Hazen ($3,000), Minot Public Library ($2,000), and Morton Mandan Public Library ($3,000)

Minot Public Library will be hosting Project: Constellation, a band who will be performing traditional Scandinavian songs and modern music, all performed in Swedish and Norwegian

Mott Public Library was approved for a $1,500 North Dakota Community Foundation grant to purchase new adult fiction books

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STAR Net and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios Present *Flight Path*, a New Project for Public Libraries!

Space Science Institute STAR Net

FLIGHT PATH, the first campaign in the initiative, launches this month and focuses on the science of birds and bird migration. Free films - including two episodes from HHMI Tangled Bank Studios' award-winning **Wild Hope series**, activities and educational resources will raise awareness about bird migration and offer suggestions for how communities can observe and protect birds during peak migration periods by doing things like turning off lights and marking windows to prevent bird strikes. Library activities are designed to invite communities to get to know their local and migratory birds; gain a deeper understanding of how and why birds migrate; explore the science of how birds see and why window collisions happen; and contribute to citizen and community-based science efforts that help bird conservation, research, and identification efforts.

Check out our Application Blog Post Below to Apply, and to learn more about STAR Net and Tangled Banks Studios new collaboration! Also be sure to visit us at our ALA Booth to learn more, or sign up for our Pre-Conference Session to get a sneak peak of project activities and resources!

Learn More and Apply