

Kanopy Access Is Extended

Submitted by Steve Hammel

The State Library is pleased to announce that we will continue to provide access to Kanopy through June of 2026. Kanopy provides access to critically acclaimed movies, inspiring documentaries, award-winning foreign films, TV series, and more. Please spread the word to your patrons. For questions about Kanopy or other online library resources, please contact James Murphy at nds-lid@nd.gov.



Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

June brings us to another month of great continuing education opportunities for North Dakotan librarians. Staff from the North Dakota State Library are hosting several great webinars.

WordPress Website Q&A Session

June 23 (9:00 AM – 11:00 AM)

No registration. On June 23, go to <https://bit.ly/WordPressCall>

Talking Books for Library Staff – What You Need to Know

June 24 (3:00 PM – 3:45 PM)

Register at <https://bit.ly/4drlcoj>

School Library Collaboration

June 24 (3:15 PM – 4:00 PM)

Register at <https://bit.ly/4jfbodl>

Digital Horizons: An Overview

June 26 (3:00 PM – 3:30 PM)

Register at <https://bit.ly/4jeCSJS>

To check out all the great webinar opportunities available this month, visit <https://www.library.nd.gov/traininglibraries>. You can also find out about webinars and events from the Events Calendar at <https://www.library.nd.gov/events-calendar>.



2025 Mysteries and Thrillers

In *The Missing Half* by Ashley Flowers, Nic's wheels have been spinning since the day her sister went missing, leaving behind no clues save the case's similarity to another woman's disappearance two weeks prior. Just as Nic begins to burn through the last of the goodwill people have towards her, Jenna shows up and reveals that she's the sister of the other woman who went missing. Jenna believes she's found a real connection between the disappearances and together both sisters become determined to figure out what happened.



[Continue Reading](#)

Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference 2025

On May 6 and 7, I was fortunate enough to attend the [2025 Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference](#) at the historic and beautiful Union Depot in Saint Paul, Minnesota. I also served on the planning committee for the conference. The [exterior of the Union Depot](#) reminded me of the [Liberty Memorial Building](#) in Bismarck, only on a larger scale.

The first day was the preconference, and I attended a hands-on workshop about the free digital storytelling tools developed by the [Knight Lab](#) at Northwestern University. The Knight Lab has many wonderful tools, and this session focused on [TimelineJS](#) and [StoryMapJS](#). I have previously utilized TimelineJS, an interactive timeline builder, for [online exhibits](#), but I look forward to exploring StoryMapJS. According to its website, it is "a free tool to help you tell stories on the web that highlight the locations of a series of events."

[Continue Reading](#)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Tammy Kruger

African American Music Appreciation Month

"Music, once admitted to the soul, becomes a sort of spirit and never dies."
– Edward Bulwer-Lytton

June is African American Music Appreciation Month! This time honors Black composers, musicians, singers, and songwriters. African American Music Appreciation Month, originally named Black Music Month, was first recognized by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. However, a presidential proclamation was not actually signed until 2000 by President Bill Clinton. Black Music Month was renamed African American Music Appreciation Month by President Barack Obama in 2009 (Black, n.d.).

It is little surprise that bringing (enslaved) people across the ocean would result in African musical cultures spreading to other U.S. residents. Much of the music in the United States springs from African American efforts and talents! This EDI article just scratches the surface of Black influence in American music. I encourage you to dig deeper into any areas of interest. Worst case scenario, you will stumble upon fabulous tunes!

[Continue Reading](#)

Navigating Accessibility

By BreAnne Meier



Success Criterion 1.2.1: Audio-Only and Video-Only (Prerecorded)

The next success criterion we're going to look at is 1.2.1: Audio-Only and Video-Only.

- **Audio-only content** is anything that you can hear but can't see – there's no video aspect. This can include recorded speeches, podcasts, radio dramas, music, etc.
- **Video-only content** is anything that you can see but can't hear – there's no audio aspect. This can include tutorials, GIFs, silent movies, etc.

The goal of this criterion is to make sure that all prerecorded media is accessible for all users. So, if your library's website includes any pre-recorded audio-only or video-only content, you need to provide an alternative to make it understandable for people who cannot hear it or see it.

[Continue Reading](#)



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 <https://www.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 (tikruger@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

WebJunction Highlight

The Cure for Loneliness Might Be at Your Library

Submitted by Al Peterson

How to fight loneliness

Smile all the time

Shine your teeth 'til meaningless

Sharpen them with lies

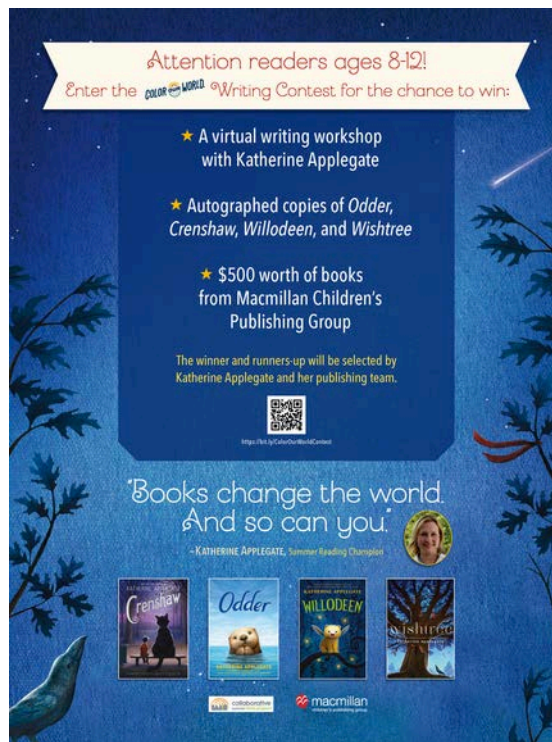
Wilco. Lyrics to "How to Fight Loneliness" *Summerteeth*, Reprise Records, 1999 CD.

Connection and belonging are essential for individual well-being and the health of our communities. But in recent years, loneliness, disconnection, and isolation have swept through the country. According to the US Surgeon General's recent report on loneliness and isolation, up to 50 percent of Americans have reported feelings of loneliness. While there isn't one encompassing cure to fight loneliness, libraries may be part of the solution by offering a way for people to connect with each other through programming.

SocialRX is a program run by the Amarillo Public Library that offers an antidote for isolation and social anxiety. SocialRX is designed to help community members make new connections and introduce them to engaging opportunities available in the community. In this article, published by WebJunction, Program Specialist Cynthia Hunt discusses what SocialRX is, how the concept was developed into a program, what the community response has been like, and what kinds of programs and activities they are running at SocialRX events.

To read more about this program, check out the article on WebJunction, [SocialRX](#). Community gathering spaces like public libraries can play an important role in rebuilding connection and belonging in our communities. Programs like SocialRX are doing just that, by offering spaces for shared learning and interaction.

WebJunction



Library Tidbits

Lars Mytting's *The Bell in the Lake* is this year's selection for the 2025 One Book, One Community reading program, which is a collaborative partnership of the Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo public libraries, Concordia College's Carl B. Ylvisaker Library, Minnesota State University Moorhead's Livingston Lord Library, North Dakota State University Libraries, and the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County

[Washburn Public Library](#) received a \$500 sponsorship from Washburn Life to help with their Summer Reading Program

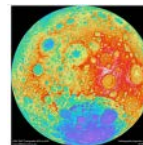
Kit of the Week

NASA@ My Library: Cosmic Connection

Cosmic Connection is a NASA@ My Library kit that focuses on activities and experiences that help patrons and library staff explore art as science and science as art through planetary images.

This kit includes three activities - Art and the Cosmic Connection; Planet Poetry; and UV Kid.

[Art and the Cosmic Connection](#) is designed to engage students in space science education by becoming artist explorers by incorporating the use of the elements of art as a tool to investigate and interpret the mysterious surfaces of our celestial neighbors.



Top: Photo of the Moon
Source: NASA/JPL-California Institute of Technology
Bottom: Photo of the Moon
Source: NASA/JPL-California Institute of Technology

[Planet Poetry](#) provides guidance and examples for using NASA missions and discoveries to get students writing poems to share their knowledge or inspiration.

[UV Kid](#) is a craft that incorporates UV beads to investigate the source of UV radiation and how to best protect "UV Kid" from it.

This kit includes enough components included in the kit to accommodate up to 15 participants/groups. The consumable items (beads, Chenille sticks, drawing paper, and activity sheets) are not expected to be returned.

2025 Flicker Tale Winners

Submitted by Morgan Keyser, SLAYS Chair, NDLA

We are pleased to announce the 2025 Flicker Tale Book Award Winners. With over 4,300 votes, this year's winners are:

Younger Readers

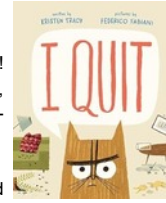
I Quit by Kristen Tracy, Illustrated by Federico Fabiani

When kitty first got adopted, everything was purr-fect.

Then came the rules. NO eating the bread! NO chasing the baby! BAD KITTY! Excuse me? She's not a bad kitty. Left with no choice, she says goodbye to everything she loves (even her favorite crinkled-up receipt) and quits!

But kitty's adventure in the great outdoors doesn't go as planned, and she realizes that she may have made a few mistakes. She knows she can do better, but how can she get home? Would her family even want her back?

A laugh-out-loud picture book perfect for anyone who has ever had that "I quit!" feeling.



Middle Readers

Elf Dog & Owl Head by M.T Anderson, Illustrated by Junyi Wu

Clay has had his fill of home life. A global plague has brought the world to a screeching halt, and with little to look forward to but a summer of video-calling friends, vying with annoying sisters for the family computer, and tuning out his parents' financial worries, he's only too happy to retreat to the woods. From the moment the elegant little dog with the ornate collar appears like an apparition among the trees, Clay sees something uncanny in her. With this mysterious Elphinore as guide, he'll glimpse ancient secrets folded all but invisibly into the forest. Each day the dog leads Clay down paths he never knew existed, deeper into the unknown. But they aren't alone in their surreal adventures. There are traps and terrors in the woods, too, and if Clay isn't careful, he might stray off the path and lose his way forever. Graced with evocative black-and-white illustrations by Junyi Wu, *Elf Dog and Owl Head* is heartfelt and exhilarating, wry and poignant, seamlessly merging the fantastic and the familiar in a tale both timely and timeless.



As always, thank you to all the students, librarians, and teachers who participated in this year's voting.

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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

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

Times referenced are Central Time.

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