



Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries

Join us at the State Capitol for our Summer conference, July 28-30, Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries. **Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries** brings together library professionals for a three-day conference to explore how today's innovative services and emerging technologies are shaping the future of libraries and the services we provide to our patrons.

This forward-looking conference will showcase cutting-edge programs, emerging technologies, and innovative programming that redefine the library's role in a rapidly evolving world. Topics such as AI, Cybersecurity, and the developing broadband landscape will be presented as well as sessions on developing a powerful elevator pitch promoting your library to your community, how to market and brand your library, and tell your story through the data that librarians collect (think your annual report and make it a compelling story). We have presentations from community organizations that you can partner with to provide your community with a great program at your library!



Conference registration: Please sign up for each day you want to attend.

[Register](#)

Lodging: Wingate by Wyndham, Bismarck

We have a block of rooms set aside at the Wingate for conference attendees at state rate. When making a reservation, tell the front desk that you are reserving the room under the State Library Conference block.

[Reserve a Room](#)

Shared e-Resources Task Force

Submitted by Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

The North Dakota State Library, in partnership with Minitex, Minnesota State Library Services, and the South Dakota State Library, is seeking volunteers to serve on the Shared e-Resources Task Force (SER). The SER Task Force represents libraries of all types from across the region. The Task force will assist in assessment of the current collection of databases, in drafting requirements, and in evaluating e-resources to meet those requirements. The vendor trials will have a remote option even if held in person in Minnesota.

North Dakota will have 4 representatives on the task force. During the last round, in addition to an NDSL staff member, we had one academic, one school, and one public librarian. We are hoping to have a similar makeup of representatives this round. Volunteers do not need to be the director.

Here is a rough timeline for the work that the task force will complete:

- August 2025 - Convene/background and evaluation/needs assessment
- September-October - RFP requirements drafted
- October 2025 - RFP issued
- By mid-November - Responses due
- November - December - Trial access for selected vendors
- January 2026 - RFP responses reviewed, and shortlist selected for final presentations
- January - February - Vendor finalist presentations

Please complete this [form](#) by July 18 to be considered for the task force. Applications will be reviewed by NDSL and ODIN staff.

Reach out to me via email or phone if you have questions about the task force.

[Complete the Form](#)

Public Comment

Submitted by Monica Struck

During the 2025 legislative session, the legislature passed [SB 2180](#) regarding public comment at regular meetings of public entities. This law goes into effect on August 1, 2025. Since public library boards are subject to open meeting laws, it is important to take steps to ensure compliance. Please bear in mind that I am not a lawyer, and this article is not legal advice.

SB 2180 does several things:

1. Requires that every regular meeting provides an opportunity for public comment.
2. Requires that every person who participates in public comment provide their name and address in writing (The address is an exempt record.).
3. Outlines the limits that can be placed on public comment.
4. Requires the public entity has a policy in place regarding public comment.

The policy can allow for limits on public comment. Comments given during the public comment period:

1. Must be pertinent to the public entity.
2. May not interfere with the orderly conduct of the meeting.
3. May not be defamatory, abusive, harassing, or unlawful.
4. May be prohibited if an alternate procedure exists for this type of comment, the comment contains confidential or exempt information, or the comment is otherwise prohibited by law.

Additional limits that can be put on public comment. A time limit can be placed on the speaker and/or the public comment period. The topic can be limited to the current agenda and the agenda of at least one meeting previous.

So, what do you need to do? As soon as possible (if you haven't already), adopt a policy that will govern how public comment will look like at your board meeting. Starting with your regular meeting in August (or first meeting following the month of August), carve out time in your agenda for a public comment period. If you have questions and want to engage in non-legal banter, you can reach out to Monica (ndsl-ld@nd.gov; 701-328-4680). Please consult an attorney for official legal advice.



What's New in Niche Academy

Niche Academy continues to get reorganized using subcategories.

[Category - Information Literacy](#)

New Sub-Section – [Cybersecurity](#)

- This new sub-section was created organizing Niche created tutorials and featuring NDIT created cybersecurity resources, DefeND, which you can learn about at our [annual conference](#). Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries being held in July.

[Category – Current Topics in Libraries](#)

New Sub-Category – [Mental Health](#)

- A new subcategory, *Mental Health* has been created to address mental health in libraries.

New Sub-Category – [Patron Safety and Well Being](#)

- This new sub-category examines such difficult topics such as identifying abuse, human trafficking, and the need to put children's safety a top priority.

[Category – Accessibility in the Library](#)

New Sub-Category – [Code of Ethics](#)

- This new sub-category has been created tackling issues such as right to privacy, intellectual freedom, respect, fairness, and good faith.

You can check out these great tutorials as well as hundreds of free, professional development resources in the Niche Academy.

Niche Academy



Tammy's Top Picks

By Tammy Kruger

Young Adult Dystopian Novels

Dystopia: An imagined world or society in which people lead wretched, dehumanized, and fearful lives (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). Not the most cheerful of reads. However, there is no doubt dystopian novels pull readers into these worlds, with relatable (typically flawed) characters who undergo great challenges often just to survive. Dystopian novels can help put the real world into perspective, as well as feed the readers' imaginations. July's *Top Picks* focuses on young adult dystopian novels. If you have a topic for *Tammy's Top Picks*, email me at tkruger@nd.gov.

The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline

Publish Date: 2017

Publisher: DCB Young Readers

Summary: People have lost the ability to dream. The cure? Harvesting the bone marrow of Indigenous people. Recruiters hunt those with native blood; the caught never return. This Canadian-based tale follows French, a Métis, and his makeshift family of "leftovers" as they navigate north to safety. Does one of this group have the answer to defeating the Recruiters? *The Marrow Thieves* contains quite a bit of swearing.

Best For: Upper High School +



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Contemplations

By Kathy Cline

Resources to Combat the Summer Slide

Research has shown that students generally lose between one to two months of reading and mathematics skills over the summer break. Students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, who have fewer opportunities to access enrichment activities or educational resources, may experience a higher rate of loss during the summer (Richardson, 2025). Libraries can play a significant role in mitigating this phenomenon by implementing or promoting strategies outlined in this writing.

In her June 20 article, Laura Ascione defines summer slide as "the learning loss that can occur when children take a long break from structured academic activity." She highlights five online learning tools that can help curtail the summer slide through interactive lessons, personalized learning, and fun activities.

[Continue Reading](#)



Digital Delight

Nu Cafe placemat, New Rockford, N.D., July 1983



A placemat from the Nu Cafe that commemorates the 100th anniversary celebration of New Rockford, North Dakota, in July 1983. The placemat includes a schedule of events.

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

[View This Image](#)

Promote Explora for Patron Research

Many North Dakota libraries provide access to Explora, an engaging and easy-to-use research experience from EBSCO. Designed with novice researchers in mind, Explora offers reliable content from the world's leading magazines and reference books. It contains information on thousands of topics covering a wide range of subjects, including art and music, literature, language arts, geography, history, social studies, world cultures and languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, health, and sports.

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- Search for articles, e-books, news, videos and more using a single search box
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If you would like to promote this resource to your patrons, EBSCO provides a variety of promotional materials. You can also request bookmarks from the State Library, which will be sent to your library for free, at <https://bit.ly/ndslpaform>.

If you have any questions about Explora, contact the State Library at statelib@nd.gov or 701-328-4622.

Explora

Upcoming NDSL Webinars

[Public Library Director Hangout](#)

Wednesday, August 13 (1:00 PM - 1:30 PM)

[United for Libraries Overview](#)

Tuesday, August 26 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

[Resources That You Can Use to Support English as a Second Language Students and Patrons](#)

Thursday, August 28 (2:00 PM - 2:45 PM)

[Empowering School Librarians with State Library Resources!](#)

Monday, September 8 (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM)

[How to Order Materials through Interlibrary Loan Using Our ILL Form](#)

Thursday, September 11 (3:00 PM - 3:45 PM)

[School Librarian Collaboration](#)

Tuesday, September 23 (3:15 PM - 3:45 PM)

Kit of the Week

Bocce Ball Outdoor Game

Bocce Ball is a family-friendly game and great for honing the entire family's math and science skills. The object of the game is to throw your bocce balls closer to the pallino than your opponent.

This kit includes a bag with eight bocce balls (two red, two yellow, two green, and two blue), one white pallino ball, a measuring cord, and a folder with an inventory sheet and instructions.



Reserve a Kit Today

New Pathways Through the Prairie Podcast Episode



Learn more about North Dakota State Auditor Josh Gallion and how the North Dakota State Auditor's Office serves the citizens of North Dakota in this week's episode of Pathways Through the Prairie.

[Start Listening](#)

Library Tidbits

Beulah Public Library partnered with the Beulah Water Park to provide Mermaid Story Time

Hazen Public Library partnered with the Audubon National Wildlife Refuge and the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery to provide programs for kids

Navigating Accessibility

By BreAnne Meier



1.2.3: Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)

For people who are blind or visually impaired, silent actions in recordings can go unnoticed. If your library's recordings include writing, screenshots, or other actions that the audience needs to see to understand what's going on, audio descriptions or full-text alternative are required.

Success Criterion 1.2.3 states that "an alternative for time-based media or audio description of the prerecorded video content is provided for synchronized media, except when the media is a media alternative for text and is clearly labeled as such." There are a couple of things you can do to ensure that your prerecorded video content is accessible to everyone in your community.

You can provide an audio description that explains what actions, characters, scene changes, or on-screen text are going on during existing pauses in dialogue. You should do this for any important information that is not described or spoken in the main soundtrack. This can be a separate recording from the main one, as long as it is accessible to people.

You can also provide the information in text form. Full descriptions of all visual information, including visual context, actions and expressions of actors, and any other visual materials are included. You would also want to include descriptions of all non-speech sounds, such as laughter, voices from off-screen, etc.

Reference:

"Understanding SC 1.2.3: Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)." World Wide Web Consortium | WAI. Accessed July 8, 2025. <https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG22/Understanding/audio-description-or-media-alternative-prerecorded>.



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Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian
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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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