



# Flickertale

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## TODAY'S SKILLS FOR TOMORROW'S LIBRARIES CONFERENCE

ND STATE CAPITOL



JULY 28-30

### Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries

Submitted by Al Peterson

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, lodging information, daily agendas, and credit registration are available at <https://www.library.nd.gov/traininglibraries>.

Register Today

## Talking Book Update

### BARD 2 Offers New Features for Patrons

BARD, the NLS Braille and Audio Reading Download website, now offers expanded functionality and will serve as a gateway to exciting new services in the future.

We are pleased to announce that if you use BARD on the web, you will have access to BARD 2 in late July. If you're not a BARD user, this is your chance to sign up for the service and get instant access to hundreds of thousands of audio and braille books and magazines for reading with an NLS digital talking-book machine, a personal smart device with BARD Mobile, a Braille eReader, or your PC with the BARD Express player. Contact us at 701-328-1408 or [tbooks@nd.gov](mailto:tbooks@nd.gov) to sign up for BARD.

Features of the new website include:

- Reorganization of the Wish List, Reading History, Subscriptions, and Account Settings under one menu.
- New sorting capabilities of book lists. You can now search through book lists and refine the results by format, language, and subject.
- An updated search engine, so finding books is easier and faster than ever before.
- Advanced search functionality.

Access to the new and improved BARD website requires a change in your login procedures. We will contact all BARD web users and provide instructions for the new login procedures. If you have any questions, need assistance, or just want to tell us about your experience with BARD 2, contact us at 701-328-1408 or [tbooks@nd.gov](mailto:tbooks@nd.gov).

Talking Books



## Book Club Kits by North Dakota Authors or About North Dakota

Did you know that we have over 160 book club kits that consist of 10 copies of the book and a list of discussion questions? We have a variety that are written about North Dakota or by authors from North Dakota. Some of these are listed below.

### Fiction

- *Inside voices: a story of survival at the edge of the world* by Sarah Davis
- *Gridlock* by Byron Dorgan
- *The murdered family: a novel* by Vernon Keel
- *Downtown Owl: a novel* by Chuck Klosterman
- *The missing place* by Sophie Littlefield
- *Abercrombie Trail: a novel of the 1862 uprising* by Candace Simar
- *Spiral* by Lindsey Undlin
- *What we leave behind* by Barb Solberg

### Nonfiction

- *Windfall: the prairie woman who lost her way and the great-granddaughter who found her* by Erika Bolstad
- *Color blind: the forgotten team that broke baseball's color line* by Tom Dunkel
- *Mrs. Kennedy and me* by Clint Hill
- *The clean daughter: a cross-continental memoir* by Jill Kandel
- *Selma: Swedish fortitude on the North Dakota frontier* by Lela Selma Peterson
- *Coyote warrior: one man, three tribes, and the trial that forged a nation* by Paul VanDevellder
- *The farmer's lawyer: the North Dakota Nine and the fight to save the family farm* by Sarah Vogel

We also have many more, including some that are for children and teens. To peruse all our book club kits, go to our online [catalog](#) and click on the NDSL Book Club Kits button on the left-hand side, or search by title. We added 17 new book club kits this past spring!

[Online Catalog](#)



## Grand Forks City Directories

The "Grand Forks City Directories" collection features the earliest city directories of Grand Forks, North Dakota. The volumes list the residents, businesses, and organizations present in the city during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. City directories are a valuable resource for establishing the whereabouts of an individual at a certain place and time. They can provide additional biographical information, such as a person's place of residence, occupation, place of employment, and marital status. Information regarding local civic organizations and the city's elected officials is also typically listed. A separate alphabetical listing of local businesses by trade, much like a yellow page directory, is also included in each volume. This digital collection is provided by the Grand Forks Public Library and is available on [Digital Horizons](#).



[Digital Horizons](#)



The field of artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly evolving, and it can be challenging to stay on top of the recent developments. To help with this, here is a highlight of some of the more interesting updates from the last several days.

- [A recent high-profile case of AI hallucination serves as a stark warning](#) – NPR
- [Grok 4 appears to seek Elon Musk's views when answering controversial questions](#) – CNBC
- [Impostor uses AI to impersonate Rubio and contact foreign and U.S. officials](#) – NPR
- [OpenAI to release web browser in challenge to Google Chrome](#) – Reuters
- [Teachers union partners with Anthropic, Microsoft and OpenAI to launch AI-training academy](#) - CBS News
- [Web giant Cloudflare to block AI bots from scraping content by default](#) – CNBC

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## 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 (SER) Task Force. 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](#)



## Toss Across: The Original Tic-Tac-Toe Game!

The classic indoor and outdoor family fun game, which is played just like tic-tac-toe, but with bean bags tossed to a target board. For two to four players, ages 5+.

This kit includes one large Toss Across board, six small beanbags, and a folder with instructions.



[Reserve This Kit](#)



## How to Care for House Pets

Submitted by Al Peterson

Did you know July 16 is Guinea Pig Appreciation Day? Guinea pigs, birds, rabbits, even snakes can offer endless joy, a fresh sense of adventure, and a rewarding pet experience that goes beyond the typical cats and dogs. For those looking to expand their pet family from dogs and cats, there's an exciting world of exotic pets waiting to be explored. Caring for an exotic pet requires more than just love. It demands understanding, knowledge, and a commitment to their well-being. That's where Universal Class's course, "How to Care for House Pets", becomes your invaluable guide. This course is designed to help you navigate the world of exotic pet care, ensuring that both you and your new companion enjoy a fulfilling life together. Whether you're drawn to the charm of a rabbit, the inquisitiveness of a bird, or the fascinating presence of a snake, this course will help you provide the best care possible for your unique pet. Exotic pets bring a distinctive energy into a home. Each species has its own set of behaviors, traits, and needs, making the bond between pet and owner one-of-a-kind. A well-cared-for exotic pet can become a source of endless fascination and companionship. The course guides you through this decision-making process, offering insights into how to match a pet's needs with your lifestyle.

If you have patrons checking out books on exotic pets, let them know about this informative Universal Class course. This course features nine lessons and takes about two hours to complete. To sign up for this course and other great Universal Class courses, click on <https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com/> to get started. Use the search box and enter in "How to Care for House Pets."

**Start Learning Today**

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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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