

Beyond Books: New Items in the Library Lending Machines

The collections in the North Dakota library lending machines, formerly known as book vending machines, are expanding! Along with new and bestselling books, cardholders now have access to new and popular DVDs and WhaZoodles.

WhaZoodles are screen-free learning experiences that engage children through pre-loaded stories, activities, podcasts, and more on an easy-to-use speaker. No wi-fi required! There are multiple themes to choose from, including nature lovers, feathered friends, world's weirdest animals, and garden party.

"The State Library is excited to introduce this new format to further enhance early literacy and begin the lifelong love of reading for our youngest patrons," said State Librarian Mary Soucie.

The library lending machines can be found in ten locations across the state:

- A & S Country Market in Carson
- Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone in Hillsboro
- Burke County Courthouse in Bowbells
- Fort Ransom State Park in Fort Ransom
- McClusky City Hall in McClusky
- McHenry County Courthouse in Towner
- ND State Capitol in Bismarck
- Oliver County Courthouse in Center
- Sioux County Clerk Of Court in Fort Yates
- Slope County Courthouse in Amidon



To apply for a library card, contact the State Library at 701-328-4622 or statelib@nd.gov or visit <https://www.library.nd.gov/librarycard>.

[Learn More](#)

Shared e-Resources Task Force

The North 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, 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 four representatives on the task force along with representatives from Minnesota and South Dakota. 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 August 8 to be considered for the task force. Applications will be reviewed by NDSL and ODIN staff.

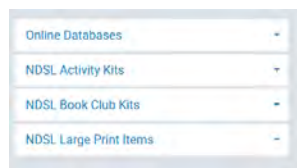
[Fill Out the Form](#)



Updates to State Library Online Catalog

Submitted by Steve Hammel

The State Library just completed a major update to our online catalog. In addition to a new item carousel, we added four dropdown menus on the left side of the page. (see picture below) The top one is a link to our online resources page and the bottom one is a dedicated search for just large print books. It's the middle two, the specific kit searches, I'm most excited about. As part of the update, we reorganized our kits into two main categories, activity kits and book club kits.



The Book Club Kit dropdown allows patrons to search for and reserve any of the 165 book kits we currently have available.

Regular kit borrowers are also aware the State Library offers STEM kits. Over the past couple of years, the State Library has created kits that are not strictly related to science, technology, engineering, or math. So, we have created a new top-level search we are calling Activity Kits. As you see below, patrons can now search for all 65 activity kits with one click or they can look for a more specific kit type based on activity. For example, you have been tasked with finding entertainment for the company summer picnic. Rather than buying something you might use once a year, borrow an Outdoor Games kit. We have 11 different family friendly games for all ages.



You can reach the catalog from our website at <https://www.library.nd.gov/>, the catalog link is in the upper right on the home page, or you can use the direct link at <https://polaris.odinlibrary.org/polaris/default.aspx?ctx=71.1033.0.0.1>

Other exciting kit-related news. The State Library just updated our circulation policy, which now allows all patrons to check out up to three kits at a time. That could be three book club kits, three activity kits, or a combination of both. Please remember, the State Library only pays postage one way for items borrowed from us, including kits. Return postage is based on weight, so some of our kits will cost over \$20 to return. All kit-related questions can be sent to statelib@nd.gov or by calling (701) 328-4622.



[Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library opens Hunger Free North Dakota Garden project drop-off](#)

[E-books are booming at Fargo-Moorhead libraries. The cost may surprise patrons, officials say.](#)

[Grand Forks Public Library partnered with Lotus Yoga and Journey Home Animal Rescue to offer Cat Yoga at the library.](#)

Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

Submitted by Al Peterson

August is back to school for some. This month brings us to another batch of great continuing education opportunities for North Dakotan librarians. Staff from the North Dakota State Library are hosting several great webinars.

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

Tuesday, August 5 (10:00 AM – 11:00 AM)

[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)

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 at <https://www.library.nd.gov/events-calendar>.

Register For Webinars

Spotify Playlists for Library Programs: A New Way to Engage Teens Online

Written by Julia Giantomasi, New Jersey State Library

Marketing tools for your library are not just limited to social media, print, or email. Sometimes it's more effective to think outside of the box and try working with a new medium, like Spotify! Creating themed playlists on Spotify could be a fun and free way for your library to promote upcoming programs, spark conversation, and stay relevant with younger audiences. Keep reading to learn how to build a Spotify playlist tied to your library's events, without using any marketing budget.

How to Use Spotify

Spotify is globally the most used audio streaming service, and is especially popular among teens and young adults. It's free to use and easy to download to a listening device. If your library doesn't have an account yet, [visit this page to get started](#). The platform is user-friendly, so creating playlists won't require any extra expertise. [Check out this tutorial](#) for a step-by-step process on how to create one. Before you build your playlist, have a theme in mind based on your event or program. To make sure this theme is clear, you'll want to add a title, cover image, and short description that represent it. You can either take a photo, use royalty free stock photos or create your own design on [Canva](#).

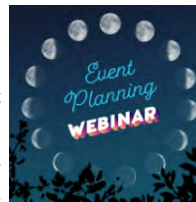
Continue Reading

Free Webinar: Event Planning for International Observe the Moon Night

Wednesday, August 6 (8:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Are you interested in hosting an International Observe the Moon Night event? Join the NASA Night Sky Network and the International Observe the Moon Night team to learn about this global observing program, how you can get involved, and resources available to event hosts this year.

[International Observe the Moon Night](#) is scheduled for October 4, 2025. There are many ways to observe and get involved. Explore this year's Moon maps, advertising materials, and social media shareables. Discover tips and resources for hosting in-person or virtual events. Ask questions of the project leadership team and other event hosts, share your own ideas for event planning, and find out how to stay connected throughout the year.



Watch the Webinar Livestream

Kit of the Week

Rubber Horseshoe Set

Put your throwing skills to the test with a friendly game of horseshoe! The goal is to get your horseshoe as close to the stake as possible, including ringing the stake.

These rubber horseshoes just add to the family-friendly fun! For singles or doubles, this game can be set up outdoors or indoors, in a gymnasium or garage.



This kit includes four rubber horseshoes (two red, two blue), two dowel holders, two round mats, two yellow dowels, two red stakes, and a folder with instructions.

[Reserve a Kit](#)

North Dakota Book and Arts Festival
September 20, 2025
10 AM - 5 PM
Reiland Fine Arts Auditorium
on the UJ Campus

- Creative Writing and Publishing Workshops
- Meet Local and Regional Authors
- Enjoy Food from Local Vendors
- Writers Panel
- UJ Plainsong Launch

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
THE UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN James River Valley Library System AUTHOR SAMIJO MCQUISTON

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www.library.nd.gov

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

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