ND250 Commission Launches Community Initiative Grants to Celebrate Nation's 250th Anniversary

Communities across North Dakota will soon have the opportunity to host once-in-a-lifetime celebrations. Beginning Aug.1, the ND250 Commission will offer Community Initiative Grants of up to $10,000 to support events and projects commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

Grants are available to non-profit organizations, as well as city, county, or tribal governments, for projects related to the celebration of the past 250 years of North Dakota's people, places, innovations, and achievements contributing to the nation's story during America's 250th anniversary. Applications will be reviewed quarterly starting Oct. 1.

"This is an exciting opportunity to come together and explore what it means to be both an American and a North Dakotan," said Melissa Klocke-Joyce, North Dakota250 Coordinator. "We encourage communities to ask: What were our ancestors doing 250 years ago? And what does it mean to us today?"

Eligible projects may include:

- Implementing tours
- Hosting exhibits or public programs
- Creating educational materials
- Organizing travel to Bismarck to visit the ND250 exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum (Opening June 2026)

Grant guidelines and the application will be available on both of the following websites:

- **www.nd.gov/north-dakotas-celebration-americas-250th**
- **www.history.nd.gov/hp/grants.html**

For more information, contact ND250 Coordinator Melissa Klocke-Joyce, 701.328.6073 or **melissaklocke@nd.gov**, or Amy Munson, 701.328.3573 or **amunson@nd.gov**. As set forth in North Dakota Century Code, the North Dakota250 Commission was created within the State Historical Society of North Dakota to promote North Dakota observances and activities commemorating the nation's 250th birthday.

Learn More and Apply

ND Library Coordinating Council Public Library Seat

Submitted by Monica Struck

Since our Public Library Representative made the leap over to academic libraries, the Public Library Seat on the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council (NDLCC) is vacant. We are looking for a person who is willing to fill the seat.

The only requirement to fill the Public Library Seat is to be currently employed at a public library in North Dakota. Interested parties will need to fill out the Governor's Board Application (**https://apps.nd.gov/gov/boards/**) and e-mail the State Library's Admin Office at **ndsladmn@nd.gov** to inform them of your interest.

If you like spending time with people who love libraries, this is the Board for you! For more information about the NDLCC, you can check out the State Library website at **https://www.library.nd.gov/coordinatingcouncil**

Please consider putting in an application. The Council would love to have you!

Learn More

The ND State Library Presents:

PATHWAYS THROUGH THE PRAIRIE

PODCAST

EPISODE 26: REICE HAASE
ND WATER RESOURCES DIRECTOR

HOSTED BY ND STATE
LIBRARIAN MARY SOUCIE

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.

North Dakota Histories

- The History of Stanton, North Dakota to 1982: In Commemoration of the Centennial

North Dakota Memories

- 3rd PLT, Co. C, 5th Hr., Tank Bn., 6th Armd. Div., Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., 1954
- Bismarck High School commencement program, 1936
- Bjelde & Groth hardware store in Mayville, N.D., circa late 1800s
- Donald Olds in a racecar, circa 1945-1955

- Flood at Milo Olds farm, 1911
- Kittel S. Groth house in Mayville, N.D., circa 1897
- Military portrait of Donald Olds, circa 1942
- Sailors by railroad tracks, Hawaii, 1940s
- Snow storm aftermath, Mayville, N.D., 1897
- Train depot in Mayville, N.D., circa 1897

North Dakota School for the Deaf

- The Banner, 2023-2024

Political Prairie Fire

- Portrait of Edward B. Cox, 1935

Digital Horizons

Books to Aid the Back-to-School Transition

Submitted by Kathy Cline

In a June 23 article, *Publishers Weekly* shared a list of books that can help make the transition back to school a little easier. *Publisher Weekly* reviews for each of the titles below can be read in the source link provided at the end of this article.

Please note that the content in this article is shared for informational purposes only and is not a recommendation from myself or NDSL.

According to *Kirkus, Big Kids* by **K.L. Going**, is "just the right size for easing school anxieties." Through text and digital illustrations this book tells just how "scary" big kids can seem to youngsters. More information about this picture book can be found in *NoveList*. Visit this **link** to access short *SLJ* and *Booklist* reviews.

First Day Around the World, an informational picture book written by **Ibi Zoboi**, takes the reader around the world as children from various cultures experience their first day of school. Use this **link** to access editorial reviews from *SLJ*, *Booklist*, and several others.

Continue Reading

A.I. Recap
By Trevor Martinson

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.

- **92 Percent of People Don't Check Their AI Answers, a New Report Warns** – Inc.
- **ChatGPT can now pass the "I'm not a robot" test** – Independent
- **ChatGPT's Study Mode Is Here. It Won't Fix Education's AI Problems** – (Wired)
- **Creating realistic deepfakes is getting easier than ever. Fighting back may take even more AI** – AP
- **Deepfakes are becoming a reputational crisis for public figures** – The Hill
- **Google is indexing ChatGPT conversations, potentially exposing sensitive user data** – Fast Company
- **How US adults are using AI, according to AP-NORC polling** – AP
- **OpenAI prepares to launch GPT-5 in August** – The Verge
- **OpenAI says ChatGPT users send over 2.5 billion prompts every day** – The Verge
- **Sam Altman says your ChatGPT therapy session might not stay private in a lawsuit** – Business Insider
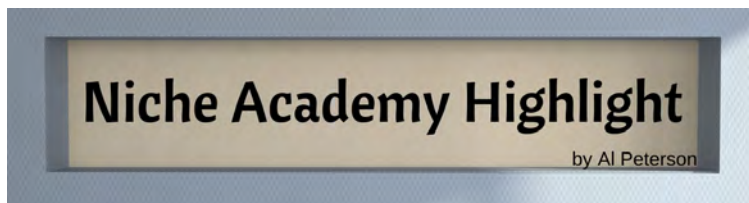

Bots Battling Bots:
How Colleges Use AI to Police AI Homework

Submitted by Bethany Rants

Artificial intelligence (AI) has made life easier in some aspects, giving users ideas for things like packing lists, information and tips, answers to questions, and even title ideas like the one for this article. AI can also make things easier for students to fall into the trap of accidental plagiarism and make grading papers more difficult for teachers. Colleges and universities have already had to handle students using papers from other students or copying parts of papers without proper credit, but AI can also be adjusted to find papers written with AI, catching students trying to take a shortcut. There are a few different AI Detection Software tools, including an already commonly used software that has had AI Detection added in. While these tools can help teachers and professors make sure students aren't having AI write their papers, they can also be useful for students to see if what they're reading or looking at in images is created by people or machines.

Continue Reading

Niche Academy Highlight
by Al Peterson

Volunteers are essential in libraries, whether helping with a book sale, running programs, or filling in for staff in a pinch. Under the category, Library Boards, Friends Groups, and Volunteers, a couple of new tutorials on working with volunteers were uploaded from the Niche Academy marketplace.

Category: *Library Boards, Friends Groups, and Volunteers*
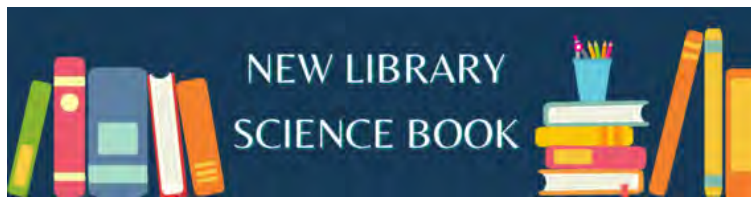**New Tutorial:** *How to Keep Volunteers*
This new tutorial compliments the tutorial *How to Get Volunteers*. This tutorial discusses how to set clear expectations for volunteers, how to ensure a positive experience, and focuses on the importance of recognizing the wonderful work your volunteers do for your library.

New Tutorial: *Book Sale Volunteer Leader Training*
Book Sale Volunteer Leader Training is a tutorial recorded by the volunteer coordinator for the Metropolitan Library System (Oklahoma City). This tutorial is a good resource to pick up tips on coordinating and training volunteers for all aspects of running a book sale.

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

Niche Academy

"Introduction to Public Librarianship"
by Jenny S. Bossaller, Denice Adkins

The newest edition of this resource has been reimagined and restructured to make it even more relevant and useful. The definitive handbook on this branch of the profession, it covers every aspect of the public library, from its earliest history through its current incarnation on the cutting edge of the information environment.

Reserve This Book

Library Tidbits

Dickinson Area Public Library will start construction in September 2025 on a major expansion project, to be completed by July 2026.

Eddy-New Rockford Library is hosting author **Jane M. Cook** on August 7.

Fargo Public Library is hosting an event with Minnesota author and forensic psychologist Frank F. Weber on August 6.

Harvey Public Library hosted Larry Fisher for a special **Artist Meet and Greet** on August 4.

The James River Valley Library System and the North American Bison Discovery Center partnered to provide two Bison Pasture Tours. They also hosted Bingo for School Supplies thanks to the Friends of JRVLS who sponsored prizes for the event.

Leach Public Library (Wahpeton) and the Breckenridge Public Library held a **special event** at the Chahinkapa Zoo on July 30. This event featured animal-themed storytimes, a zoo-wide scavenger hunt, craft stations, and free books for children.

West Fargo Public Library hosted a **500-Piece Puzzle Off**. The winning team put their puzzle together in 32 minutes and 7 seconds.