

## Presidential AI Challenge

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be harnessed to address emerging local, state, and regional problems, driving innovation and the renewal of America in our nation's Golden Age.

The Presidential AI Challenge seeks to inspire young people and educators to create AI-based innovative solutions to community challenges while fostering AI interest and competency. Students and educators of all backgrounds and expertise are encouraged to participate and ignite a new spirit of innovation as we celebrate 250 years of independence and look forward to the next 250 years.

The Presidential AI Challenge will foster interest and expertise in AI technology in America's youth. Early training in the responsible use of AI tools will demystify this technology and prepare America's students to be confident participants in the AI-assisted workforce, propelling our Nation to new heights of scientific innovation and economic achievement.

Student participants will complete a project that involves the study, development, or use of an AI method or tool to address community challenges, while educators will focus on creative approaches to teaching or using AI technologies in K-12 learning.

[Learn More](#)



We would like to hear from you! Please take this quick survey to let us know how we can improve the Flickertale newsletter. Does it come out too often? Are the articles engaging? Do you have ideas for future topics and columns? Now's your time to let us know (anonymously) how you feel! This survey will be open until Wednesday, September 3.

[Take the Survey](#)

## Happy Birthday, Jane Austen!

Submitted by Monica Struck

On December 16, 1775, Jane Austen was born. She went on to write six complete novels and assorted other works. When she died on July 18, 1817, she did not know how popular she would become. Her works have not yet gone out of print. Many have been adapted to the big screen (some more than once!), and horror parodies like *Pride & Prejudice & Zombies* and *Sense & Sensibility & Sea Monsters* have entertained audiences as well. This year we get to celebrate 250 years of Jane! Here are what some libraries (and other organizations) are doing:

1. Several libraries are going the tea party route. [Dickinson Public Library](#), (Texas, not North Dakota) is including Austen Trivia with their tea and snacks. [Springfield-Greene County Library District](#) in Missouri is bringing kids into the mix by hosting a Teddy Bear Tea.
2. [Winter Park Library](#) in Florida went all out and has been hosting A Year with Jane Austen with regular programming celebrating the author throughout 2025. They have held events like Author Salons, Letter Writing, and book/film discussion groups.
3. Book clubs have been popular. At [York County Public Library](#) in Virginia, they began a book club in July that will cover Austen's six published works. [Red Deer Public Library](#) in Alberta has been hosting a Read or Re-Read book club covering Austen's books that includes a reading list of the originals and retellings.
4. [Boston Public Library](#) posted a curated book list that had books written by and about Jane Austen, adaptations, and spin offs.
5. Chandler Downtown Library in Arizona brought Jane Austen into their Summer Reading programming. The program involved a movie viewing (*Sense & Sensibility*), embroidery, and tea.
6. [Albans Museum and Gallery](#), just north of London hosted a period dance! A dance caller was there to instruct the attendees. Formal dress was requested, and dancers were encouraged to dress in period clothes.

If you choose to celebrate, there are many ways to remember the life of Jane Austen, but I hope you will join me this December in saying "Happy Birthday, Jane Austen!"



## Adult Graphic Novels

I've done kids' and teens' versions (November 2023 and December 2023); now it is the adults' turn! *Tammy's Top Picks* for the month of August is Adult Graphic Novels. These titles are a combination of heartwarming, heart-wrenching, humor-filled, and thought-provoking. All use pictures, in a variety of styles, to convey their messages...even for adults, graphic novels are an excellent way to draw inferences! If you have a topic for *Tammy's Top Picks*, e-mail me at [tkruger@nd.gov](mailto:tkruger@nd.gov).

**Solutions and Other Problems** by Allie Brosh

**Publish Date:** 2022

**Publisher:** Gallery Books

**Summary:** In *Solutions and Other Problems*, comic artist and blogger Allie Brosh dives into childhood stories, strange neighbors, joys (and confusions) of having pets, and her own shortcomings. The author pokes fun at herself while tackling rough situations, such as the death of her sister and learning to like herself. This title does contain some swearing.

**Best For:** Adults



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## Connecting with Teens Through Anime and Manga

Submitted by Kathy Cline

Have you considered creating an anime club for your teen patrons? Are you uncertain about how to begin or where to find resources? If so, this article may assist you.

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

First, let's define anime and manga. Japanese comic books and graphic novels are called manga, while Japanese animation is referred to as anime. Manga is usually created in black and white and is quicker and cheaper to publish than anime. Unlike in the West, where animations are often cartoons that tell children's stories, anime usually has complex storylines and characters.

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## Talking Book Update

### BARD Office Hours

The Patron Engagement Section is offering a new program to assist patrons using the new BARD 2.0 website. BARD 2.0 Office Hours will be held each Tuesday night from 8:00 PM until 9:00 PM, starting September 16, 2025, and ending November 25, 2025. Each session will be informal in structure, specifically designed to assist patrons as they learn and use the new BARD website.

Sessions will not begin with a presentation and will not be recorded. Patron questions will be addressed on a first come, first served basis. Staff will share their screen reader sound for the patrons as they answer patron questions and demonstrate features.

[Learn More](#)

## Grant Opportunities

The [Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize](#), developed in partnership between Gerald M. Kline Family Foundation and Library Journal, was created in 2019 to recognize the public library as a vital community asset. When libraries, civic entities, organizations, and the people they serve become close partners, their communities thrive. One winning library will receive \$250,000 in unfettered grant monies and will also be profiled in the March 2026 issue of Library Journal and online. Honorable mentions may also be named. **Upcoming grant application deadline:** September 15, 2025

Every summer, the [I Partner With My Public Library Award](#) invites you to recognize the accomplishments of exceptional partners. Each year, 10 are honored at an online ceremony held in their honor. This award exists to publicly celebrate individuals, businesses, and organizations that make a difference by teaming up with public libraries. The I Partner With My Library Award also shines a light on positive things happening around the world through library–community collaborations. **Upcoming grant application deadline:** End of August

The [Children's Book Project Grant](#) is a community-supported matching grant program for libraries experiencing budgetary declines due to reduced or eliminated funding. The Pilcrow Foundation, a national non-profit public charity, provides a 2-to-1 match to rural public libraries that receive a grant through its Children's Book Project and contribute \$200-\$400 through a local sponsor for the purchase of up to \$1,200 worth (at retail value) of new, quality, hardcover children's books. **Upcoming grant application deadline:** October 1

Rural public libraries in the United States that have suffered loss and damage due to recent natural disasters may be eligible for special non-matching grants. Libraries qualified to receive a [Children's Book Project: Disaster Relief](#) grant can select \$800 worth of new, quality, hardcover children's books from The Pilcrow Foundation's book list.

The [T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#) program funds projects to build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections in your town of less than 50,000 people. Projects should be shovel-ready, physical builds or improvements that can be completed within 12 months of receiving Hometown Grants funding. **Upcoming grant application deadlines:** Fall Applications open July-September; Winter Applications open October-December

The [Social Impact Funds](#) comprise an impact-focused venture program that supports organizations tackling social drivers of health so that more people have the opportunity to live longer, healthier lives. Through purposeful funding, the American Heart Association catalyzes solutions that overcome barriers to health care, food security, and economic empowerment. **Upcoming grant application deadlines:** Year-round

The [SpartanNash Foundation](#) invites 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that align with [our focus areas of Hunger, Heroes and Hope](#) to submit a grant application. To be eligible, an organization must be located within a 30-mile radius of any of our [SpartanNash corporate offices, distribution centers or retail stores](#), in order to support the communities we serve together. **Upcoming grant application deadlines:** September 12; December 12

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## Save the Date and Call for Proposals for the Minitex Technical Services Symposium

The [Minitex Technical Services Symposium](#) will be held in person on Monday, November 3, 2025, at the Minnesota History Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The 2025 theme is "Navigating Uncharted Waters in Technical Services." Please consider sharing your own experiences by submitting a proposal by August 29th. We welcome proposals from staff working across technical services: collection development, cataloging, processing, acquisitions, etc. Presentations may be about complete projects, works in progress, or other emerging ideas. Contact Sara Ring ([ring0089@umn.edu](mailto:ring0089@umn.edu)) with questions.

[More Information](#)



[Bowman Regional Public Library](#) is partnering with the Pioneer Trails Regional Museum for Rock the Block for a Messtival Festival. They will be launching a foam cannon, smash painting, exploding popsicle sticks, watching Stitch Snot, and more, thanks to the Play It Forward grant, Bowman Public Library Foundation, Thrivent Financial, and volunteers.

[Kindred Public Library](#) hosted a Festival of Tables with a Story Book Runway, lunch, entertainment, and purse raffle.

# Digital Delight

## Threshing Crew in Griggs County, N.D., Early 1900s

A steam engine with a long belt connected to a threshing machine is set up with wagons, a horse team and a group of men with forks around it. A car with a driver is parked alongside.



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

Digital Horizons

## How to Live with a Teenager

Submitted by Al Peterson

Probably since the dawn of time, the teenage years have been a rollercoaster of emotions and challenges, not only for the teens themselves but also for the parents and caregivers tasked with guiding them through this tumultuous phase. This course, offered by Universal Class, will guide you on a transformative journey, offering insights, strategies, and a fresh perspective on understanding and connecting with your teen. Recent studies highlight that teen years are a vital phase of cognitive, emotional, and social development. As they metamorphose from children into young adults, their quest for identity and independence often leads them to question authority, explore boundaries, and sometimes, make ill-advised decisions. Moreover, with the influx of external influences from peers, media, and the digital world, today's teens face pressures that are markedly different from those of previous generations. While the teenage journey is inevitably filled with ups and downs, "How to Live with a Teenager" aims to equip you with the skills, understanding, and resilience needed to make these years rewarding for both you and your teen.

This course features twelve lessons and takes about three hours to complete. If you have patrons looking for books about raising teenagers, you can refer them to this course in Universal Class.

To sign up for this course and other great Universal Class courses, click on <https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com/> to get started.

Universal Class

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[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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