



Flickertale

Volume 111 · Issue 4 · September 25, 2025

North Dakota Book and Arts Festival

Submitted by Bethany Rants

North Dakota Book and Arts Festival took place on September 20, 2025, in the University of Jamestown's Reiland Fine Arts Center. It was a day of conversation, writers' workshops, and vendors as well as food trucks and drink vendors. The North Dakota State Library was there to provide information and answer questions regarding library services, with a booth staffed by Academic, Special, and Tribal Library Specialist Bethany Rants. Among other booths were University of Jamestown professors promoting their works, writer's guilds, and authors promoting works ranging from non-fiction to romance to stories of life growing up in North Dakota. Great fun was had by all. Mark your calendars for September 26, 2026, for next year's festival!



[Find Out More](#)

Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

New Digital Collection

The North Dakota State Library (NDSL) has a new digital collection. The "North Dakota School for the Blind" collection is a partnership between NDSL and the North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind (NDVS/SB). The collection contains biennial reports, images, documents, and books relating to the North Dakota School for the Blind, since its inception in the early 1900s to the present.



The NDVS/SB has existed since 1905, when it was established by the North Dakota Legislative Assembly. In 1908, the School for the Blind opened in Bathgate. Several years later, in 1961, the school relocated to Grand Forks.

The digital collection currently contains 75 items, and it is organized into three sub-collections: [Biennial Reports](#), [Images](#), and [Publications](#) (like documents or books). More information about the collection is available in its finding aid on [NDSL's LibGuides](#).

The collection itself is accessible online on the [Digital Horizons website](#).

[View The Collection](#)



The Reading Nook

By Jessica Robinson

2025 New and Upcoming Fantasy

In a spooky plot that fits the season, E.M. Anderson's *The Keeper of Lonely Spirits* features an immortal ghost hunter who finds community and love in a small Midwestern town. Peter stopped aging in his seventies when he was cursed to wander the earth, putting ghosts to rest and moving on in an endless and lonely cycle. This changes when a spirit settles down in the idyllic town of Harrington, Ohio. As Peter works to vanquish this ghost, he can't help but be drawn into the lives of the people he meets, including a charming older widower. The longer he stays, the more it will break his heart to leave but Peter can't turn his back on his work or on the people he wants to protect.



[Continue Reading](#)

Entries Wanted for "I Voted" Sticker Design Contest

Submitted by the North Dakota Office of the Secretary of State

The North Dakota Secretary of State has an exciting opportunity for artists of all ages to contribute their talents to North Dakota's electoral process and become part of our state's election history.



The "I Voted - More Than Just a Sticker" contest invites North Dakotans to design the next official "I Voted" sticker, which will debut at polling locations statewide during the June 9, 2026, Primary Election.

Submissions will be accepted online or by mail until November 15, 2025. A panel will select the top designs, and the public will vote for the winner, which will be announced in March 2026. In addition to seeing their design being worn by voters across the state, the winner will receive a professionally framed copy of their design and recognition from Secretary Howe during an official ceremony in Bismarck.

Libraries can share this opportunity by posting information about the contest on bulletin boards and encouraging patrons to submit a design. Complete contest rules, submission information, and a printable flyer with all the contest details are available on the Secretary of State website at www.sos.nd.gov/civicengagement.

ND Office of the Secretary Of State

North Dakota Library Passport Challenge

Submitted by Ethan Eckholm and Tawnie Scherr
Morton Mandan Public Library

What if exploring North Dakota's libraries felt like an adventure? Inspired by the State Parks Passport Program, Morton Mandan Public Library is dreaming up a Library Passport where visitors can collect a unique stamp or stencil rubbing at every library they visit across the state.

Why join in?

- Boost foot traffic & visibility for your library
- Showcase your community's unique identity
- Connect libraries statewide in a fun, family-friendly way

Sound exciting? We'd love your input! Fill out this quick survey to share your thoughts: [ND Library Passport Challenge by MMPL](#)

So far, we have had 12 public libraries sign up:

- Dickinson Area Public Library
- Divide County Public Library
- Fargo Public Library
- Grand Forks Public Library
- Griggs County Library
- Halliday Public Library
- Lake Region Public Library
- Mayville Public Library
- Minot Public Library
- Valley City Barnes County Public Library
- Washburn Public Library

We hope to get as many signed up as we can. For the libraries already signed up, we are working on a mock-up and designs. Let's make North Dakota libraries a **passport-worthy adventure**!

Fill Out The Survey



Library Tidbits

Bismarck State College is holding a [campus party](#) on October 6 with music, games, and activities about censorship, challenged books, cybersecurity tricks, and more. There will also be a [Banned Books Week Panel](#) on Thursday, October 9.

Minot Public Library hosted a [Literacy in the Field](#) event on September 20, which included hands-on activities, stories, and learning opportunities for all ages. Guest readers shared their favorite stories and participants were able to visit the READ Dogs and connect with local organizations.

Morton Mandan Public Library is celebrating [National Good Neighbor Day](#) with an afternoon of activities at Dykshoorn Park on September 27. The day will include slow flow yoga in the park, a Rhythm Circle with Matilda's Studio, food vendors, live music, and a photo station.

The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library is hosting a [virtual programming series](#), which will feature book talks, discussions of Roosevelt's favorite recipes, and a behind-the-scenes virtual tour of the library.

WebJunction Highlight: Empowering Teens: Enhancing Information Literacy through Games and Interactive Programming

Submitted by Al Peterson

You can help your teen patrons to become better navigators of the information that they find online. Come learn about how you can offer fun and engaging experiences that bring teens to the library and build their information literacy skills. Researchers at the University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public will walk you through programs developed with public libraries, including an escape room game and youth video program.

This one-hour webinar, originally presented on February 6, 2025, will help you discover activities adapted from school libraries that help teens reflect on their interaction with social media and give them the tools to verify questionable posts.

To access this course, go to <https://learn.webjunction.org/enrol/index.php?id=800>. You'll need to either sign in with your WebJunction login or create a free account to access this course.

WebJunction

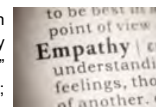
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Tammy Kruger

Empathy

We live in an often-polarized society. This is abundantly apparent from how different social and political subjects are handled. With that in mind, I want to address the topic of empathy in this month's EDI article.

Empathy, as defined in Merriam Webster's Dictionary, is "the action of understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to, and vicariously experiencing the feelings, thoughts, and experience of another" (Empathy, n.d.). Empathy does not require agreement on viewpoints; it does require the understanding that we are all humans.



Empathy is so important in the library setting because all walks of life use that space and its resources. That diversity in patronage is part of what makes libraries so cool!

Continue Reading



Helping students *engage*,
explore and *excel*

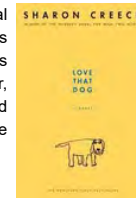


Kit of the Week

"Love That Dog" by Sharon Creech

"A young student, who comes to love poetry through a personal understanding of what different famous poems mean to him, surprises himself by writing his own inspired poem. Jack hates poetry. Only girls write it and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Miss Stretchberry, won't stop giving her class poetry assignments—and Jack can't avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns that he does have something to say."

Target Audience: Ages 9-10



[Reserve This Kit](#)

The Flickertale is a weekly publication of the North Dakota State Library

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ISSN: 1068-5383

This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library.

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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.

Times referenced are Central Time.

Some of these resources and programs are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

