



Flickertale

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Unearth a Story: CSLP's 2026 Summer Reading Program

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

As fall's crispness starts to fill the air, summer has come to an end. However, Summer Reading planning for 2026 is not far away! Online manuals for CSLP's 2026 Summer Reading Program are available. Use this [form](#) to access. This year's theme is Unearth a Story, which takes subjects of dinosaurs, paleontology, and archaeology to show participants that every person and community has stories waiting to be found and shared through books, programs, and local knowledge. Join us for this "dino-mite" adventure!



If your library is interested in hosting a Summer Reading training session, please reach out to me at tlkruger@nd.gov.

[Fill Out the Form](#)

Announcing the 2026 Public Library Grant for Science Kits

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) - *Region 4's Science Kits for Public Libraries (SKPL)* Grant program is offering up to \$2,000 in funding to public libraries to establish a circulating science kits collection. Libraries must be located within Region 4 which includes all of Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and northerly portions of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Grant application is now available on the SKPL website. Completed application may be submitted now until 11:59 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of January (January 15, 2026). Those libraries which have previously applied for the grant but did not receive funding are invited to submit again.

Public Libraries have a long tradition of building stronger communities by providing life-long learning opportunities for children and teens. The SKPL Team is honored to have the opportunity to enrich the services that public libraries offer. SKPL enables children, parents, and teachers the chance to borrow library kits for hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning at home or in classroom.

Visit the SKPL website at <https://r4.ieee.org/skpl/> for the application form, submission details, and a map of Region 4.

Region 4, Science Kits for Public Libraries (SKPL) organization is a volunteer-based organization affiliated with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). SKPL believes all children – regardless of race, gender, financial condition, or home environment – should have access to high-quality, hands-on STEM learning experiences. By making catalyst grants available to public libraries, we empower them to start their own science kit collections that are free and accessible to the public.

[Apply Today](#)



FEBRUARY 22–28, 2026

Library Tidbits

Andrea Placher, Director of Williston Community Library, was named the [North Dakota Library Association's 2025 Librarian of the Year](#).

[The Bernice Ferguson Library \(Michigan, ND\)](#) received \$1,000 from Natalie Vasichek Schultz from Bell Insurance in Fargo.

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library held their [Fall Used Book Sale](#) on October 2 through October 4.

Hayley Ross has been hired as the new librarian at [Lakota City Library](#).

[North Dakota State University Library](#) celebrated their 75th anniversary with an open house, cake, and refreshments.



Not-So-Scary Ghost Stories for Early Childhood

It's the season for a little spookiness! However, to keep your littles from having nightmares, it is probably best to have not-so-scary ghost stories! If you have a request for *Tammy's Top Picks*, please email me at tkruger@nd.gov.

The Ghosts Went Floating by Kim Norman

Publish Date: 2020

Publisher: Farrar Straus Giroux

Summary: Kim Norman takes a Halloween spin on "The Ants Go Marching" in this whimsical tale! Ghosts, skeletons, witches, mummies, werewolves, zombies, goblins, vampires, ghouls, and monsters move by the light of the moon, moon, moon, moon on their way to trick-or-treat!

Side note: *The Ghosts Went Floating* does not have ghosts as primary characters; however, it is just too cute to not include in this list!

Best For: Preschool through Kindergarten



[Continue Reading](#)

In Other News

[Baker & Taylor](#) is planning to shut down at the end of 2025.

[Kirsten Baesler, Superintendent of Public Instruction](#), has been confirmed by the Senate as the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education in the U.S. Department of Education.

October 16, 2025, has been designated as [Poetry on the Prairie Day](#) through a proclamation signed by Governor Kelly Armstrong.

October 2025 has been designated as [Archives Month](#) through a proclamation signed by Governor Kelly Armstrong.

The [20th Annual National Friends of Libraries Week](#) will be celebrated October 19-25, 2025.

The [2025 Public Library Services for Strong Communities Survey](#) administered by the Public Library Association (PLA) is now open. This year's survey aims to better understand how public libraries across the nation serve and contribute to sustaining their communities now and into the future.

Nominations are being accepted for the [Library Journal Movers & Shakers](#), which profiles up-and-coming individuals from around the world.

Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

Niche Academy undergoes fine tuning and tweaks all the time. We hope that our changes and additions make the Niche Academy easier to navigate and find the quality tutorials that you seek for your own professional development and enrichment.

New Categories

Two new categories have been created to better serve school libraries and librarians looking for literacy programs.

[Literacy Development](#) is a category housing resources about Summer Reading programs, Battle of the Books, Beanstack tutorials, and Financial Literacy.

Our new category, [School Librarian Resources](#), provides a space to house tutorials and webinar recordings specifically geared towards school librarians and library aides. In the future, recorded webinars presented by our School Library Specialist will be found here, including *Empowering School Librarians with State Library Resources* and *Ignite a Love of Reading Beyond Your Library Walls*.

New Pathway

The North Dakota State Library staff provides informative and timely webinars on topics important to North Dakota librarians.

Category - [Automation](#), [Cataloging](#), [Collection Development](#), [De-selection](#), and [Shelving](#) - This category will house all the webinars presented by our staff on the subject of cataloging.

- **New Pathway** - *North Dakota State Library Cataloging Tutorials*
 - **New Webinar** - *Becoming More Confident when Cataloging*
 - **New Webinar** - *Introduction to Call Numbers*

You can check out these new categories and great tutorials as well as hundreds of other free, professional development resources in the Niche Academy, The North Dakota Library Academy, at <https://my.nicheacademy.com/northdakotastatelibrary>.

Niche Academy

Digital Delight

Halloween Costume Contest Winners, N.D. School for the Deaf, 1922

Winners of the Halloween costume contest at the North Dakota School for the Deaf in Devils Lake.

Courtesy of Digital Horizons (North Dakota School for the Deaf Collection, ND State Library)



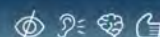
Learn More



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ala.org/LTCAccess



Navigating Accessibility

By BreAnne Meier



Success Criterion 1.2.4 – Captions (Live)

The focus of Success Criterion 1.2.4 is to ensure that all live video content is accessible to people who are deaf or hard of hearing by including real-time captions.

If your library is hosting or streaming a live event, such as an author talk, training session, conference, or other meeting, real-time captions are a must to make sure that everyone can fully participate and engage with the content.

While the primary goal is to support individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, captions also benefit:

- Those whose first language is not English
- Those who process written language more easily
- Those who are in noisy or sound-sensitive environments

Captions must include the following:

- Spoken dialogue
- Sound effects, such as applause, laughter, or music
- Speaker identification
- Relevant background sounds or context

Additional considerations:

- Captions should not block any important visuals on the screen
- Captions must appear almost simultaneously with the audio
- Captions can be open (always visible) or closed (can be turned on or off)
- Captions should be as accurate as possible – even small errors can change the meaning
- This criterion only applies to live audio content in synchronized media. It does not apply to two-way communication, such as Zoom calls
- The responsibility for providing captions lies with the library, not the platform

Reference:

"Understanding SC 1.2.4: Captions (Live) (Level AA)." Understanding Success Criterion 1.2.4: Captions (Live) | WAI | W3C. Accessed October 6, 2025.

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/Understanding/captions-live.html>.

[Learn More](#)

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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

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

Times referenced are Central Time.

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