

## Introducing Library Kits Unboxed!

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

North Dakota State Library has begun a new (short) video series called *Library Kits Unboxed!* Join us every other Wednesday on social media to see a Book Club or STEM Kit offered at NDSL. The first, Yoto STEM Kits, went out October 22nd on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#). We hope you will join us to explore what kits are available at your local State Library!

You can also view and request kits on Polaris, using the search terms "NDSL book club kit" or "NDSL STEM kit". Additionally, there is a STEM Kit LibGuide (<https://library-nd.libguides.com/STEMkits>) and a Book Club Kit LibGuide (Coming Soon).



## New Bookmarks Honor Tribal Languages

The ND State Library has launched a new initiative to honor and celebrate the rich linguistic heritage of North Dakota's Tribal Nations by offering bookmarks featuring the phrase "I read past my bedtime" translated into Native American languages.

These bookmarks are a tribute to the enduring presence and vitality of Indigenous languages with each translation created in collaboration with Tribal language experts to ensure accuracy and respect for cultural context.

- Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Nation
- Spirit Lake Nation
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

These bookmarks are available to all North Dakota libraries at no cost to you. Request copies for your patrons, students, or community at [www.bit.ly/ndslpaform](http://www.bit.ly/ndslpaform). They will be sent through the mail as soon as possible.

[Request Promotional Materials](#)

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Tammy Kruger

### National Love Your Red Hair Day

National Love Your Red Hair Day, observed annually on November 5th, celebrates those with fiery locks! It was started in 2015 by the redheaded sisters Adrienne & Stephanie Vendetti (National, n.d.). The color spectrum of redheads varies greatly from strawberry blondes to deep auburns.

#### Fun Facts About Redheads

1. Red hair and blue eyes are the rarest combination. This is because both red hair AND blue eyes are recessive genes, so children with this combination would need to receive this coloring from both parents (Gardner, 2025).
2. Aside from being a recessive gene, red hair also comes from the MC1R gene. In short, the MC1R gene affects how much and what type (eumelanin or pheomelanin) of melanin a person possesses. Most humans have more eumelanin, thus having dark hair, eyes, and skin that tans more easily. However, those with more pheomelanin have blonde or red hair, light eyes, and fair skin (MC1R, 2018).

[Continue Reading](#)

# Talking Book Update

## New Talking Books Machine Available

The North Dakota State Library, in partnership with National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled at the Library of Congress (NLS), provides audio, Braille, and large print books and magazines to any North Dakota citizen who is unable to read standard print materials because of a visual, physical or reading disability. This program has been available in North Dakota since the 1990s and transitioned from books on cassette to digital cartridges starting in 2009, when Talking Books program patrons traded their big, bulky cassette players for a smaller, digital player, called the Digital Advanced Player (DA1).



Today, patrons have access to an updated digital player, the Digital Advanced Player 2 (DA2). Many features are the same, but there are some differences between the DA1 and the DA2. For one thing, the DA2 is a little wider, but about a half pound lighter than the DA1. The big difference is the new digital audio book player has Wi-Fi and internal memory, allowing patrons to download digital audiobooks directly to their machine. The DA2 also has Bluetooth capability so patrons can use wireless earbuds, external speakers and other peripherals to continue listening to a book in another room without having to physically move the machine.

These new machines allow Talking Books patrons more flexibility in downloading and listening to their books. They also give caregivers, nursing home staff and families the ability to help patrons continue reading when they are out of books.

For more information about the new DA2 player or the Talking Books program, please contact us at 1-800-843-9948 | 701-328-1408 or [tbooks@nd.gov](mailto:tbooks@nd.gov).

[Learn More](#)

## Celebrating the Fall 2025 Children's Book Week

Submitted by Kathy Cline

*November 3-9*

Children's Book Week is so important it's celebrated twice a year—once in May and again in November. For many school librarians, the spring celebration can be challenging due to end-of-year responsibilities like collecting books, completing inventory, and wrapping up other tasks. That's why the November observance offers a second chance to honor children's literature and the joy of reading.

We sometimes celebrate events without knowing why or how they began. So before sharing resources and ideas for celebrating Children's Book Week, let's look at how this initiative was started.

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## Library Tidbits

[Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library](#) has launched their restroom renovation, which will see 12 bathrooms updated to be more accessible, modern, and welcoming to all. They will feature hands-free fixtures, automatic door openers, non-slip floors, and wider layouts.

[Halliday Public Library](#) is open. The state's newest public library has a study space, play room, and a collection for all ages.

[Morton Mandan Public Library](#) was awarded the \$500,000 Destination Development Grant from the ND Department of Commerce, Tourism & Marketing Division to launch a Tourism Makerspace Hub.

# Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

## Chronicling America

[Chronicling America](#) is one of the best websites for viewing and searching historic newspapers. Chronicling America contains millions of newspaper pages from across the country. The website is a project of the National Digital Newspaper Program, which is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

Recently, the Library of Congress [announced](#) a significant overhaul to Chronicling America. The website and its content are now integrated into its digital collections. The upgraded interface has a more responsive design, enhanced readability, and updated searching and filtering.

For [North Dakota](#), Chronicling America has 49 newspapers. From the *Bad Lands Cow Boy* to the *Williston Graphic*, there are over 48,000 issues available from 1873 to 1937. Most of the newspapers are in English, but one or two German newspapers are also available.

Chronicling America is an invaluable research tool, even more so now with the updates. In addition to the [standard search methods](#), users can browse for newspapers with an [interactive map](#), explore a [directory of newspapers](#), and review a [research guide](#).

Start Exploring Today

## WebJunction Highlight: What's on the Horizon for AI and Public Libraries?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is driving dramatic change in our world. It is a transformative tool, revolutionizing industries and impacting daily life. WebJunction has been examining AI in a series of articles. [What's on the Horizon for AI and Public Libraries?](#) is the last article in a four-part series that examines AI and the role public libraries play in the ever evolving and developing AI landscape. As libraries fulfill more complex roles and adopt more sophisticated systems, more data is available to help facilitate decision-making and to tell the library's story. This reality can present challenges in knowing what data to use and how to draw accurate conclusions. AI can process and synthesize large and mixed data sets to quickly generate insights and create narratives. This article explores the role AI will play in libraries' future operations and how libraries will be a resource for the public to better educate themselves on AI and prepare them for a future of AI.

This article is the last part of a four-part series written by WebJunction staff. If you missed the previous articles, here are links to them: [Introduction to AI](#); [Evolving Technology: Using AI on the Job](#); [How Public Libraries are Teaching AI and Digital Literacy Skills](#)

WebJunction

## Kit of the Week

### Magnetic Fraction Circles and Tiles

This kit includes a fun, hands-on and interactive approach that allows parents and teachers to help students master simple fractions with multiple modalities.

Each set includes 102 easy-grip foam pieces representing both circle and bar fractions, plus 14 activity cards that prompt children to build a variety of fractions from halves to twelfths.



Combined with three books about fractions, this kit is a great way to teach fractions to kids.

Request This Kit

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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).

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