



Flickertale

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2025 Public Library Services for Strong Communities Survey

Submitted by Monica Struck

The [2025 Public Library Services for Strong Communities Survey](#), fielded by the Public Library Association is now open. Questions on this year's annual survey ask about how libraries contribute to sustaining and meeting the needs of their communities with programs, services, partnerships, and facilities. Similar questions were asked on the [2022 Services Survey](#) – the baseline year for this topic – so that we can now see in 2025 how the field has evolved.

All public libraries are invited to participate in PLA's annual surveys. Log into your library's free [Benchmark](#) account to complete the survey. One person should submit the survey on behalf of their library – often that's the library director, administrator, or data coordinator. Libraries that complete this year's survey will automatically be entered to win one of seven \$100 gift cards for [Bookshop.org](#) or a free **PLA 2026 conference registration with travel stipend** for a library staff member.

The survey closes **Saturday, December 13, 2025**. Take a few minutes to contribute to the national conversation about the support libraries provide to their communities through programs and partnerships, or through services offered via their library facilities. All inquiries and assistance required to access your library's Benchmark account should be directed to the project team at plabenchmark@ala.org.

Survey results will be released next summer via summary report, conference presentations, and online webinar. Past years' survey reports spotlight Results for Action, providing resources and illustrating how and why the data collected from these national surveys can be applied to and benefit your library.

[Learn More](#)

Focus on Libraries: A Discussion with the North Dakota State Library

The North Dakota State Library is inviting the North Dakota library community to provide feedback on our services and programs to help us determine which are prioritized by the library community. This information will be important if we don't receive federal funding. The information will also be used even if we receive full federal funding to assure that we are best meeting the information and lifelong learning needs of the library community and North Dakota citizens.

Focus on Libraries: A Discussion with the North Dakota State Library

Wednesday, November 19 (10:00 AM - 11:30 AM)
Thursday, November 20 (6:00 PM - 7:30 PM)
Tuesday, November 25 (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)
Wednesday, December 3 (10:00 AM - 11:30 AM)
Thursday, December 4 (6:00 PM - 7:30 PM)
Monday, December 15 (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)

[Register Today](#)



Digital Delight

Liberty Memorial Building on the North Dakota State Capitol grounds

On November 11, 1925 (Armistice Day), the Liberty Memorial Building (LMB) was formally dedicated in a ceremony led by Governor Arthur G. Sorlie. Learn more about the LMB and its 100-year history at the [LMB 100 exhibit](#).



This postcard of the Liberty Memorial Building in Bismarck, North Dakota, is from 1924-1930.

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

Digital Horizons

Kit of the Week

"First Test" by Tamora Pierce

Ten years after knighthood training was opened to both males and females, no girl has been brave enough to try. But knighthood is Keladry's one true desire, and so she steps forward to put herself to the test. Up against the traditional hazing of pages and a grueling schedule, Kel faces one roadblock that seems insurmountable: Lord Wyldon, the training master of pages and squires. He is absolutely against girls becoming knights. So while he is forced to train her, Wyldon puts her on a probationary trial period that no male page has ever had to endure. Further set apart from her fellow trainees, Kel's path to knighthood is now that much harder. But she is determined to try, and she's making friends in the most unlikely places. One thing is for sure, Kel is not a girl to underestimate.



This kit was featured in the Library Kits Unboxed series. View it now at <https://bit.ly/NDCLKitsUnboxed>.

Reserve This Kit

Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

What's New in Niche

We live in an age unparallel in history. An age where we carry around access to more information in our pockets than all the great libraries throughout time. We are bombarded with news that far surpasses the great technological leaps of the past. We literally can scan the world for information while waiting for the water to boil to make a cup of tea. With all this access, it's more important now than ever to develop good critical thinking skills.

Niche Academy has developed a series of tutorials called *Critical Thinking Skills* that we can use to shape our thinking, to avoid the pitfalls of falsehoods and become better communicators. These tutorials can be found in the North Dakota Library Academy under the category *Information Literacy*.

Five new tutorials have been added to this collection, bringing the total to fifteen tutorials. Our latest additions include *Active Listening*, *Challenging Your Own Ideas*, *Expertise and Authority*, *Making and Supporting Claims*, and *Slippery Slope*.

Other subjects in this area that are covered by these Critical Thinking Skills tutorials include *Loaded Questions*, *Straw Man Arguments*, *Lateral Reading*, *False Equivalencies*, and other topics pertaining to our ability to think critically.

Niche Academy



**EPISODE 33: PAUL OLSON
ND VISION SERVICES/SCHOOL
FOR THE BLIND**

**HOSTED BY ND STATE
LIBRARIAN MARY SOUCIE**

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

Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian
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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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