



Flickertale

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Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

[Copyright: The Not-So-Scary Version](#)

Wednesday, January 21 (2:00 PM - 2:45 PM)

Every January, new materials enter public domain from copyright restrictions. Learn about the basics of copyright, what public domain is, the concept of fair use, and how copyright affects libraries.

[Public Libraries Survey Walkthrough](#)

Wednesday, January 28 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

The Public Libraries Survey (PLS) opens on February 1 and will run until March 31. This survey is conducted annually and is the primary information resource for data on public libraries nationwide. In North Dakota, it is also a requirement for public libraries to qualify for State Aid and to meet the minimum requirements to be eligible for Library Vision Grants. Attend this webinar to get information about the upcoming survey.

[WordPress Q&A](#)

Tuesday, February 10 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

This interactive Q&A session is focused on all things WordPress! Whether you are just getting started, needing a refresher, or looking to update/enhance your library's existing website, this session is designed to provide guidance, answers to questions, and assistance in making the most of your library's WordPress website.

[Public Library Director Hangout/Public Libraries Survey Drop In Q&A](#)

Wednesday, February 25 (2:00 PM - 2:45 PM)

There is just about one month left to complete your PLS! Are you tired of slogging through data? Did you come up with a question after the first webinar was finished? Drop in! Monica Struck will be around to answer your questions and help you finish up (or get started)!

Upcoming Events



The American Flag

America 250: Steps to Building a Nation is a new series that highlights historical happenings that have helped shape our country! This twelve-part series will highlight events, symbols, and people.

The first symbol is the American flag.

History of the Flag

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed an act to establish a new flag for the new nation. This new flag must have "thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." [Betsy Ross](#),

born Elizabeth Griscom, is most often credited with sewing the first official flag for the United States of America (Flag, n.d., & Morrison, 2024).



Continue Reading

BITS OF TRIVIA

By Stacey Goldade

Did Santa Snub You?

Did you ask for an electric drill, a craft set, a certain board game, or a fishing pole for Christmas and did Santa ignore your request? Don't fret- try checking your local library for what you wanted! Yes, you'll have to return it after you're done using it, but maybe once you try that board game, you'll learn it's too involved for your young kids. Or once you're done with the drill, you'll realize that you like not having to find a place to store it!

Often, libraries call these kinds of collections "Library of Things," and North Dakota libraries have some exciting items being lent to their patrons.

- Sports items like pickleball racquets, disc golf sets, fishing poles, and life jackets.
- Tools like wrenches, engravers, ladders, paint rollers, and wheelbarrows.
- Things for your home like framed art prints, radon detectors, power use monitors, ice cream makers, stand mixers, food dehydrators, apple slicer-peelers, cookie cutters, and air fryers.
- Fun things like giant and regular-sized board games, jigsaw puzzles, loom knitting kits, video games, and ghost detector kits.
- Items to help you be creative like sewing machines, knitting kits, ring lights, camera tripods, and mobile hotspots.
- Kits for kids that include NASA kits, flash cards, robot kits, fairy tale kits, rock tumblers, and STEM kits.
- Party items like banquet tables, slide projectors, blow up movie screens, canopy tents, and cake pans for fun birthday cakes.
- Outdoor use items like metal detectors, ladder golf games, outdoor exploration kits, tents, camping stoves, bike pumps, bike repair kits, and snowshoes.
- Health related items like blood pressure cuffs and light therapy lamps.
- Activity passes to enter state parks and museums.

Libraries loan so much more than just books, DVDs and ebooks. Check your local library, or the state library, to see what unique items are available!

WebJunction Highlight

By Al Peterson

Library Foundational Training (LiFT) Series

WebJunction, in addition to the Idaho Commission for Libraries, have added new tutorials to their Library Foundational Training (LiFT) series.

Public Library Fundamentals explores the differences between various types of libraries, the fundamental principles of public libraries, and the core functions of a public library in its community. It also covers the code of ethics that guides the library profession.

The Reference Interview focuses on the skills needed to conduct an effective reference interview. Learn how to create a welcoming environment for library users and accurately identify their information needs.

You may already be familiar with the Alternative Basic Library Education (ABLE) courses, created by the Idaho Commission for Libraries, which emphasize essential skills like cataloging and collection management. While the ABLE courses remain popular, they were developed years ago and don't address some of today's realities in 21st century libraries. That's why the Idaho Commission for Libraries, in partnership with WebJunction, created Library Foundational Training.

These recorded tutorials, along with recordings from the Collection Management Series, are available in the WebJunction Course Catalog. Just look for LiFT: Library Foundational Training.

[Learn More](#)

Library Tidbits

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is hosting a [Rosemaled Bookmarks workshop](#) with artist Molly McLain for teenagers. They are also hosting an [Arts & Crafts Supply Swap](#).

Lake Region Public Library and Lake Region State College hosted an evening with author Barb Solberg who discussed her book "What We Leave Behind" on January 14

[Josh Pikka](#) has been hired as Minot Public Library's new director

Williston Community Library is hosting a [K-Pop Demon Hunters party](#) on January 22

Kit of the Week

Adult Snowshoes

Embrace the season this winter with Atlas 8-series snowshoes, which are ideal for adventure trail hiking. These snowshoes are designed for adults and have strong, lightweight aluminum frames and abrasion-resistant decks that are impervious to the cold.

Whether you're looking for a peaceful walk through snowy trails or a guided experience, this kit makes winter recreation easy and fun.

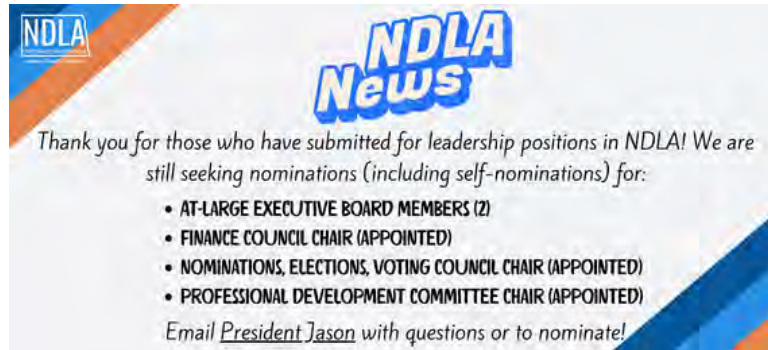
For more information, check out this week's episode of Library Kits Unboxed at https://bit.ly/NDL_SLibraryKitsUnboxed.



[Reserve This Kit](#)

In Other News

- Apply before January 21, 2026, for the [United for Libraries and Penguin Random House Grants to U.S. Rural and Small Libraries](#). The initiative will serve rural and small libraries in need across the country through grant funds, education, and in-depth training.
- To help kick off the celebration of America's 250th birthday, the [Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#) is now accepting applications for its FY26 discretionary grant cycle.
 - [Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program](#)
Supports the training and professional development of library and archives professionals to meet the information needs of their communities.
 - [National Leadership Grants for Libraries](#)
Supports projects that develop, enhance, or disseminate replicable practices, programs, models, or tools to strengthen library and archival services for the American public.
 - [Native American Library Services: Basic Grants](#)
Assists eligible Native Communities in establishing, sustaining, and improving library services and operations with their communities.
- The North Dakota Forest Service is offering three, free in-person sessions about their Project Learning Tree and Project WILD programs for natural resource professionals and nonformal educators like librarians and museum educators. These workshops will explore early childhood resources.



Thank you for those who have submitted for leadership positions in NDLA! We are still seeking nominations (including self-nominations) for:

- At-Large Executive Board Members (2)
- Finance Council Chair (Appointed)
- Nominations, Elections, and Voting Council Chair (Appointed)
- Professional Development Committee Chair (Appointed)

Send an e-mail to NDLA President Jason with questions or to nominate at president@ndla.info!

[Learn More About NDLA](#)

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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.

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