



# Flickertale

Volume 115 · Issue 5 · January 29, 2026



## North Dakota Library Joy Week

The North Dakota State Library is excited to participate in the inaugural Library Joy Week! Here are some of the fun things in store for February 1-7:

### Free Return Postage for Kits

During February 1-7, all ND State Library kits will include free return postage for libraries and patrons. This special limited-time perk gives cardholders the opportunity to discover and explore our unique kits that include everything from space science, book club, fairy tales, robots, giant board games, and other STEAM-related subjects.



[Browse the Kits](#)

### Themed Book Bundles

Library Joy Week, running February 1-7, is full of all sorts of events and activities to celebrate libraries. Here is one more: Themed Book Bundles at the State Library!



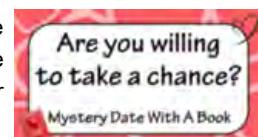
#### About the Themed Book Bundles

- There are ten themes to choose from: Fantasy, Music, Mystery, North Dakota, Poetry, Time Travel, TV and Radio Personalities, Vietnam War, Western, and World War II.
- Each bundle contains three printed books and three e-book and/or e-audiobook suggestions.
- Bundles can either be picked up in person at the ND State Library or requested by filling out the form at [https://bit.ly/NDSL\\_BookBundles](https://bit.ly/NDSL_BookBundles).
- Bundles can be checked out for 8 weeks.

[Request a Book Bundle](#)

### Blind Date with a Book Program

The annual Blind Date With a Book program is back! Be adventurous and read a book that you may not have checked out otherwise. Who knows, maybe you'll find your new favorite book or author!



## About the Blind Date with a Book Program:

- The books are all wrapped, so you won't know what title you are checking out.
- The only information you will be given is the first line of the book, whether it is fiction or nonfiction, and the format (large print or regular print).
- Check out titles by filling out the form at [https://bit.ly/NDSL\\_BlindDate](https://bit.ly/NDSL_BlindDate), checking them out in person at the ND State Library (located on the Capitol Grounds), or visiting our booth at the Capitol on Thursday, February 5.
- Titles can be checked out for eight weeks.

[Request a Blind Date](#)

## Ask A Librarian

Do you have questions for the North Dakota State Librarian and other library staff? Join us on Tuesday, February 3, at 7:00 PM or Wednesday, February 4, at 2:00 PM to get answers. We will be going live on Facebook for these events.



Ask your questions in the comments during the event or send an e-mail to [ndslpa@nd.gov](mailto:ndslpa@nd.gov) in advance, and we'll make sure to get them answered during the livestream.

[RSVP For the Live Event](#)

## State Library Tours

Go behind-the-scenes during a guided tour to learn more about the State Library and the Liberty Memorial Building. Tours will be a half hour long.



There are two days/times to choose from:

- Wednesday, February 4, at 10:00 AM
- Thursday, February 5, at 2:00 PM

[Register for a Tour](#)

## Booth At The Capitol

On Thursday, February 5, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM, State Library staff will have a booth at the State Capitol in the hallway across from the Capitol Cafe. Stop by to check out Blind Date With A Book titles or Themed Book Bundles, apply for library cards, and share stories about how libraries have impacted you.



## #NDLibraryJoy

Share photos, videos, and stories about how your North Dakota library impacts you and your family or community using #NDLibraryJoy. Let's flood social media with examples of how wonderful North Dakota libraries are!

# Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

## Public Domain Day 2026

As we welcome the new year, 2026 gives us another reason to celebrate: [Public Domain Day](#). It's better known as New Year's Day, but it is a celebration of copyrights expiring on certain works from the past (books, movies, music, etc.).



What is the public domain? According to the [United States Copyright Office](#), a "work of authorship is in the 'public domain' if it is no longer under copyright protection or if it failed to meet the requirements for copyright protection. Works in the public domain may be used freely without the permission of the former copyright owner."

[Continue Reading](#)

## LIBRARIES TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT GRANT

A grant offering of the American Library Association

ALA American Library Association

Cultural Communities Fund  
ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH LIBRARY PROGRAMS

LIBRARIES  
TRANSFORMING  
COMMUNITIES

## Your Input Is Needed: Potential New Statewide Databases for MN, ND, and SD

By Matt Lee & Carla Pfahl, Minitex

The [Shared E-Resources \(SER\) Task Force](#) represents libraries across the three-state region and is leading in the effort to select new statewide databases. After creating a Request for Proposal (RFP) that defined what we are looking for in these resources, we received responses and proposals from 22 vendors, many of which submitted multiple e-resources for consideration. The SER Task Force is evaluating these proposals, and we'd like the broader library community's input as well. [Trial access is available to all of the potential new statewide databases.](#)

Please look through the listing, test out resources that are of interest, and [provide feedback on as many as you can using this survey](#). Complete one survey per resource and submit as many surveys as resources you test. Community input will inform our decision-making. We want our online library resources to be as broadly relevant as possible to the library community, so your participation is so valuable. Thank you in advance. The survey will remain open until February 16, though trial access to the proposed resources will be open through April.

The SER Task Force will identify vendor finalists to invite for demonstrations to that group in March. We will pursue negotiations in April, and plan to share as much as we can with the wider community by early May. New contracts will take effect on July 1, 2026. We know that decisions we make at the state level impact local purchasing decisions, and will share as early as possible.

[Learn More](#)

# Contemplations

By Kathy Cline

## Celebrating Reading in February

February is National Library Lover's Month, making it the perfect time to celebrate the importance and joy of reading. The first week in February recognizes Children's Authors and Illustrators, and the first Wednesday of the month is World Read Aloud Day (WRAD). This article focuses on celebrating World Read Aloud Day, which will be observed on February 4 this year.



[Continue Reading](#)

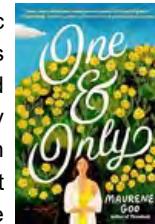


## The Reading Nook

By Jessica Robinson

## Most Anticipated Books of 2026

Maurene Goo's first adult novel, *One & Only*, is a unique romantic comedy centered around the idea of soulmates. Cassia's family has been matching people with their literal soulmates for centuries and she knows exactly who hers is—she just hasn't met him yet. Rapidly approaching middle age and still looking, Cassia starts up a fling with a charming younger man, only to meet his boss and discover that he's the man she's been waiting for. Now Cassia must decide if she wants to embrace her fate or take a chance on the man she chose for herself.



[Continue Reading](#)



## Shelf Additions

By Kathy Cline

## Books that Recognize Women and Girls in Science

A 2013 resolution adopted by the General Assembly recognized that equal access to and participation in science, technology, and innovation for women and girls of all ages is essential for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Fowler, 2023). In December 2015, the UN General Assembly declared women and girls in science would be celebrated annually on February 11 as part of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

[Continue Reading](#)

# Libraries in the News

[Edna Ralston Public Library](#) received a 2025 grant from the Myra Foundation to support their literary efforts.

[Enderlin Municipal Library](#) has a new children's library thanks to the hard work of members of the board and the community.

Fargo Public Library is seeking submissions for its 10th annual [Northern Narratives](#). This winter writing project is for teens and adults. Selected submissions will be included in the library's North Dakota Collection.

[Halliday Public Library's Grand Opening](#) will include events between February 21 and 24 to celebrate the newest public library in the state of North Dakota.

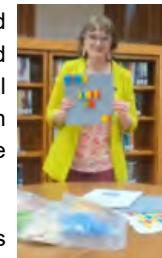
State Librarian Mary Soucie was featured on [Studio 701](#) to talk about the importance of libraries and Library Joy Week.

Brenda Fischer (30 years) and Amanda Walch (5 years) celebrated service anniversaries at the [University of Jamestown Raugust Library](#).

## Kit of the Week

### LEGO Braille Bricks

LEGO Braille Bricks are 3-dimensional bricks with braille dots and printed letters or numbers designed to teach people how to read braille. A variety of number and letter bricks, along with mathematical operation symbols (plus sign, subtraction sign, etc.) and punctuation bricks (upper case, comma, period, etc.) are placed on the base plates to spell words and create mathematical problems.



Learn more about this kit in this week's episode of Library Kits Unboxed at [https://bit.ly/NDSL\\_LibraryKitsUnboxed](https://bit.ly/NDSL_LibraryKitsUnboxed)

[Reserve This Kit](#)

### Upcoming NDSL Webinars

#### [Unearth a Story Virtual Summer Reading Training](#)

Wednesday, February 18 (10:00 AM - 10:45 AM)

#### [Media Literacy in the Age of Misinformation](#)

Tuesday, February 24 (3:15 PM - 4:15 PM)

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

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

[View More Webinars](#)

# In Other News

Request your own free physical [Library Joy Kit](#) - activity booklet, easel, library card holders, tattoo sheets, and a poster

[Crayola Creativity Week 2026](#) (January 26 - February 1) includes activity planning guides, thinking sheets, and more

Applications for the [Native Youth Community Adaptation Leadership Congress](#) are now open. Students from across the country will discuss community adaptation and related environmental issues impacting Native peoples. Apply by February 27.

Join Lyrasis, ReadersFirst, and COSLA for the next presentation in the Digital Shelf series - [Sustainable Ebooks](#) on February 24 (1:00-2:00 PM)

[America's Field Trip](#), sponsored by America250, invites students in grades 3-12 to share their perspectives on what America means to them - with the chance to earn a once-in-a-lifetime field trip experience at one of 16 different iconic American landmarks or cultural sites, including the National Archives Museum, Kennedy Space Center, and Yellowstone National Park. Deadline: March 30, 2026

---

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

Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian  
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.

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](http://www.library.nd.gov)

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at [ndslpa@nd.gov](mailto:ndslpa@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.

