



Flickertale

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Library Vision Grants

Submitted by Mary Soucie, ND State Librarian

Apply Now for the Library Vision Grant!

The State Library, in partnership with the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council, is excited to announce a new **Library Vision Grant** opportunity designed to help libraries bring innovative ideas to life.

Application Window:

Opens **Monday, February 16** | Closes **Friday, March 13**

Funding Available:

- **Small Grants:** \$500–\$1,999
- **Large Grants:** \$2,000–\$10,000

*(Libraries may apply for **one** grant type only. Applications for both will be disqualified.)*

With **\$150,000 in total funding available**, this is your chance to secure resources for projects that strengthen your library's impact and align with the **Library Vision Strategic Plan**. Whether you're planning technology upgrades, community programs, or innovative services, this grant can help make it happen.

Need Help?

Our Library Development team is here to assist! Email us at ndsl-lb@nd.gov for guidance on your application.

Important Note:

Applications will be submitted through **Counting Opinions**, and reports will be completed using forms on our website.

Start planning now! Review the Library Vision Strategic Plan, choose a goal that fits your project, and get ready to apply. Don't miss this opportunity to invest in your library's future!

[Grant Information](#)

Changing the PLS

Submitted by Monica Struck

The Public Libraries Survey is a continuously evolving instrument. Each state can ask questions that they deem important, but there are also federal questions that are answered by everyone. The State Data Coordinators (SDCs) work with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to make sure that the federal level questions are gathering data points that are useful. This means that survey questions are updated regularly. Sometimes it's just a definition update; sometimes questions are removed; and sometimes questions are added.

As you can imagine, any process that involves changing federal level data collection has a lot of steps. For the PLS, this process begins in August with change request proposals solicitation. This window lasts 30 days after which eligible changes are brought to the Library Statistics Working Group (LSWG). This group consists of SDCs, IMLS staff, and researchers. LSWG breaks into committees to review the proposed changes between December and May. At the conclusion of the review period, the subcommittees provide recommendations as to which proposals should be brought forward. Roughly 30 days after the LSWG has received the recommendations, the ballot is sent to the State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs). The State Librarian and SDC both submit the ballot. At the Fall LSWG meeting, the ballots are counted, and the results are announced in October. In December, the new elements are officially announced, and they are added to the PLS in January the year following.

[Continue Reading](#)

AI Insights

Submitted by Trevor Martinson

AI and the Super Bowl

Did you catch all the AI commercials during the Super Bowl? They were everywhere, so they were hard to miss. Here is a breakdown.

OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, had [an ad for its Codex tool](#) that did not make much sense. OpenAI's rival, Anthropic took [expensive](#) shots at ChatGPT (and it's plan to start including ads in its chats) with [multiple ads](#) featuring its product Claude. Anthropic has touted itself as a more responsible AI company. However, like other companies, there are serious questions over how Anthropic [trained its chatbot](#).

Amazon [promoted its new AI-powered Alexa+](#) with the help of actor Chris Hemsworth, Google had a [heartfelt ad](#) promoting its product Gemini, and Meta showed off its [AI-enabled glasses](#).

Microsoft recycled a [football-focused ad for Copilot](#), and Genspark recruited Matthew Broderick to promote the product's efficiency. Broderick reprised his Ferris Bueller persona and helped others [take the rest of the day off](#).

Lastly, [AI.com had a confusing ad](#), but it was seemingly effective. The website could not handle the amount of traffic visiting it, and it promptly [crashed](#).



Football: Don't Fumble These Reads!

February 8 brought the year's biggest football game – the Super Bowl! As such, this month's *Tammy's Top Picks* is dedicated to American football. If you have a topic request for *Top Picks*, please email me at tlkruger@nd.gov.

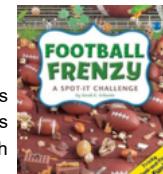
Football Frenzy: A Spot-It Challenge by Sarah L. Schuette

Publish Date: 2013

Publisher: Capstone Press

Summary: Young (and young-at-heart) fans of Seek and Find puzzles will love Sarah L. Schuette's *Football Frenzy: A Spot-It Challenge!* This book takes learners through 13 football-themed puzzles as they search for various objects, including a palm tree, hair dryers, and zebras.

Best For: Preschool through First Grade



[Continue Reading](#)

Digital Delight

Cando Odnac Hockey Team, 1940s

A hockey team, identified as the Cando Odnac hockey team, poses for a photograph between 1945 and 1949.

Front row (left to right): Bernie Elphinstone, Bill [Garber?], Norman Holien, Howard Berg, and Cliff Holien.



Back row (left to right): Coach Al Gorham, [Cougry Gladeau?], Glen Balack, Harold Holien, Robert [Blukus?], Bob Martineau, and Ray Bergdahl.

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

[View The Photo](#)



Guiding the Next Generation of Digital Citizens: Resources, Leadership, and Student Perspectives

In November 2025, Kimberly Wright hosted Discovery Education's *Empowering Digital Citizens* webinar. She informed attendees about the Digital Citizenship Initiative, through which Discovery Education partners with Verizon and Fortinet to provide free tools, resources, and skills that help educators and students navigate today's digital world.

This is part one of a two-part article, with a focus on what [Discovery Education](#) offers educators.

The initiative's goal, which is helping students make safer, healthier, and more informed online decisions, grew from needs highlighted in the white paper [From Risks to Resilience](#). With this goal in mind, Discovery Education and its partners collaborated to create a collection of digital citizenship [resources](#) for educators, including:

- Standards-aligned curriculum
- High-quality videos and activities that promote a more respectful online society
- Educator guides
- Materials for disciplines such as science, health, social studies, and English language arts

[Continue Reading](#)



Voting is open for At-Large Executive Board positions! The election will close at 11:59 PM on Friday, February 20, 2026.

Candidates:

- Cole Cymbaluk, University of Jamestown
- Brittany Fischer, University of North Dakota
- Karlene Clark, University of North Dakota

If you are a current member of NDLA and you did not receive a ballot link, please reach out to President-Elect Maddie Sharpe at president.elect@ndla.info. You can also reach out to her for a brief bio of the candidates!

[NDLA](#)

Upcoming Niche Academy Webinars

[How To Manage Up Without Melting Down](#)

February 25 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

[Navigating Donor Conversations: From Preparation to Partnership](#)

March 4 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

[Rural Libraries, Technology and Funding: Where Do We Go From Here?](#)

March 11 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

[Unlocking Possibilities: Program Design for the Future of Libraries](#)

March 18 (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

What's New in Niche

Category: Library Staff Training and Development

Copyright: The Not-So-Scary Version

Bethany Rants, NDSL's Academic, Special, and Tribal Library Specialist

Category: Library Directors

2025 Public Libraries Survey Walkthrough

Monica Struck, NDSL's Public Library Specialist

Category: Advocacy

Niche Academy Webinar: Telling Your Library's Story

This tutorial reviews research regarding library support, provides a formula for breaking through confirmation bias, and gives the structure of telling an emotionally powerful story.

Category: Library Staff Training and Development

Welcoming All: Inclusivity in Library Spaces

This tutorial looks at ways to promote equity, well-being, and health to create a warm, welcoming space to all potential users.

You can check out these new tutorials as well as hundreds of other free, professional development resources.

Niche Academy

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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 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.

