

Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Libraries

July 30, 2025

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM:

Brynhild Haugland: News Literacy*

Program Description: In an era of information overload and widespread misinformation, libraries play a critical role in helping patrons navigate the news. This session focuses on news literacy—the ability to critically evaluate news sources, and ways to identify misinformation. Librarians will gain ideas for synchronous and asynchronous library programming that will work in any library environment.

Speaker Bio: Dani Kappel is the library services division director for the North Dakota State Library, where she leads library development, and tech services. Dani has over a decade of experience in all different types of libraries. She is passionate about helping libraries throughout North Dakota tell their stories and demonstrate impact. Dani holds an MLIS from the University of Denver. She and her husband are foster parents that live in Mandan with their kids, and two golden retrievers

Pioneer Room: Connecting Through Curriculum

Program Description: Are you a school librarian looking for library curriculum support? If so, this session is perfect for you! We will discuss the upcoming CE Curriculum Development Course, share library lesson ideas, and much more. You are encouraged to bring a copy of one or two library lessons to share with others. Hope you can join us!

Speaker Bio: With over twenty years of experience as an educator and school librarian, Kathy transitioned to the North Dakota State Library, starting as a Copy Cataloger. She later served as the Academic, Special, and Tribal Specialist, before assuming her current role as School Library Specialist, where she supports school libraries statewide.

Kathy resides south of Beulah with her husband and enjoys visits from their four children and four grandchildren. In her spare time, she loves yard work, gardening, reading, and various crafts.

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Brynhild Haugland: The Power of Print: Print Awareness and the Library

Program Description: One of the best ways to prepare students for reading is through establishing print awareness in the early childhood years! This session addresses ways librarians can help young children find connections between print in their everyday lives and the print in books. This presentation is most appropriate for public and school librarians who work with children from toddlers through first grade.

Speaker Bio Tammy Kruger is the Literacy Specialist at North Dakota State Library. She has a background in a variety of library types – school, medical, academic, public, and now government – as well as experience in early childhood education

Pioneer Room: Library Focus Group (10:00 AM -12:00 PM)

Program Description: Join State Librarian Mary Soucie and Library Services Director Dani Kappel for a conversation about state library services and programs. With the uncertainty of federal funding, the state library is seeking feedback from the library community to help determine how we can best provide support to the community.

Speaker Bio: Mary Soucie has served as the State Librarian of North Dakota since 2014. She believes that libraries serve as community centers, connecting all the parts of the community that they serve. When she's not traveling for work, she loves to read, bake and be creative in the form of scrapbooking and papercrafting. Mary loves to spend time with her family- included the 4 footed members- and friends.

Dani Kappel is the library services division director for the North Dakota State Library, where she leads library development, and tech services. Dani has over a

decade of experience in all different types of libraries. She is passionate about helping libraries throughout North Dakota tell their stories and demonstrate impact. Dani holds an MLIS from the University of Denver. She and her husband are foster parents that live in Mandan with their kids, and two golden retrievers.

11:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Brynhild Haugland: Beyond Databases: Connecting with Academic Students

Program Description: In this panel, academic librarians will discuss their experiences connecting with students beyond instruction. From large academic libraries to smaller, more specialized academic libraries, our panel will discuss engaging with students outside of instruction, what has worked for them, what kinds of struggles they have faced in getting students engaged with library services, and what advice they can give to librarians struggling with engagement.

Speaker Bio:

Rebecca Bichel has been the Dean of Libraries at University of North Dakota for 2 years. Prior to that she was Dean of Libraries at University of Texas Arlington for 11 years.

Marlene Anderson has been with Bismarck State College's Library since August 1992. In 2001, she became the Library Director for the library.

Sandi Bates is the SW Clinical Campus Librarian at UND'S School of Medicine and Health Sciences' Southwest Clinical Campus in Bismarck. She has been with the library since January 2021.

Jolie Graybill is the Dean of Librarians with North Dakota State University. She has been with the library since 2022.

Moderator Bio: Bethany Rants is the Academic, Special, and Tribal Library Specialist with North Dakota State Library in Bismarck. She has been in this position since December 2024. Prior to that she was a Probation Outreach Librarian with LA County Library for 4 years.

12:00 PM Conference is over