

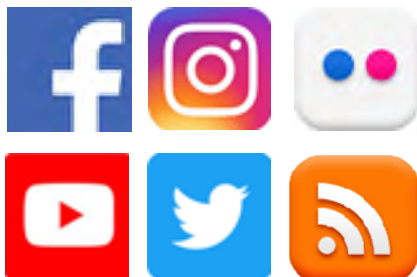
Connections



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TOURS OF THE STATE LIBRARY

The North Dakota State Library offers free tours of the Liberty Memorial Building to anyone who is interested in learning more about the history of the Liberty Memorial Building and the State Library.

Come see the ornamental bronze doors, the Kasota Stone on the first floor, the grand stairway made of travertine that was imported from Italy, and much more.

To schedule a tour, please contact us at 701-328-4622 or statelib@nd.gov.

STATE LIBRARY OUT AND ABOUT

Submitted by Angie Houser

Are you attending the 2019 Secondary Transition Interagency Conference in Bismarck on November 6th? Do you like the stuff we talk about in *Connections*? Then come say "Hi" to us when you are at the conference. We will be with the other vendors promoting library services and handing out free bags and other swag. We'd be happy to answer any library questions you have and tell you more about our services.

UNIVERSAL CLASS COURSE OF THE MONTH: ADVERTISING, MARKETING, AND SALES WRITING

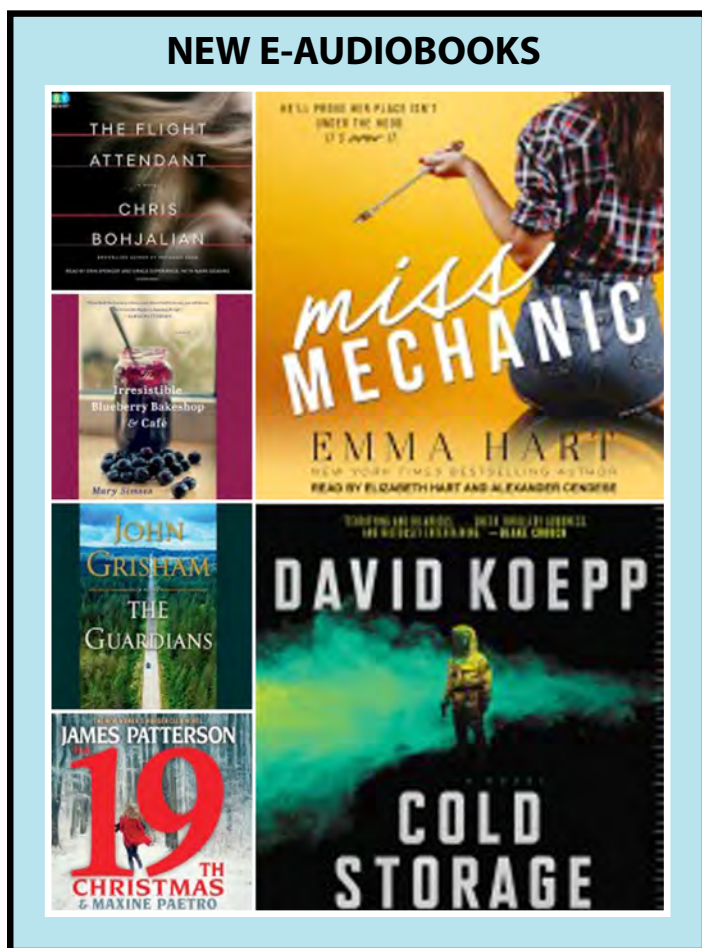
Submitted by Angie Houser

One of the hardest parts about any business is marketing. If you have never done it before, it's difficult to get started — especially if you are unsure of who your audience is. Well, Universal Class has a course for that. Advertising, Marketing, and Sales Writing will teach users how to write effective and efficient advertising for their business. It will begin with an overview and then what not to do in written advertising. It will then go into the different types of advertising and marketing in order to make you proficient in the field.



This course has 13 lessons, 27 exams and assignments, and averages around 12 hours to complete.

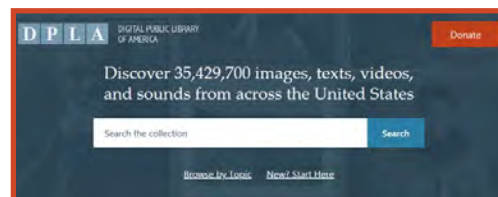
For more information on Universal Class, please contact us at ndsctrain@nd.gov.



DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA

Submitted by Angie Houser

The [Digital Public Library of America \(DPLA\)](https://www.dpla.org/) brings together institutions from around the United States to one digital repository for users to search thousands of records from just one website. DPLA includes institutions like the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, Harvard University, and more. The North Dakota State Library is a member of the Big Sky Country Digital Network hub from Montana and has all of our Digital Horizons collections included on DPLA. Not only does the State Library contribute, but the State Historical Society of North Dakota and Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library also have their collections as part of this consortium.



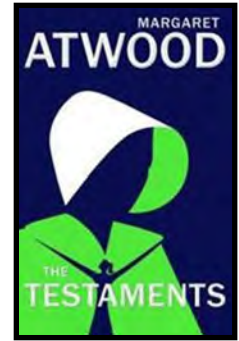
The best part of being a member of DPLA is that users can search all of the records at once and every item that has to do with their search term will come up. So, the records found in North Dakota will be found alongside items from the Library of Congress. With these records all being found in one spot, the site drives traffic to North Dakota items and Digital Horizons. It is also a great place to start your genealogical research. Since you don't need to know which institute to start with, you can search them all and see what comes up for you.

If you have any questions about DPLA and/or North Dakota State Library's involvement in it, please email us at ndlstrain@nd.gov.

THE TESTAMENTS BY MARGARET ATWOOD

Reviewed by Abby Ebach

Last January, I reviewed Margaret Atwood's most popular work, *The Handmaid's Tale*. Today, I bring you my review of Atwood's much anticipated sequel, *The Testaments*. I apologize in advance for not providing any plot details—100% of the details would be spoilers.



This novel, published 34 years after the original, has Aunt Lydia, Nicole, and Agnes tell their stories 15 years after the end of Offred's. The alternating points of view flow together rather seamlessly although it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the voices of the two teenagers. The beauty of the original novel is in its narrow point of view, and that beauty is clearly lacking in *The Testaments*. The rhythm and pace of the story flex too much, and as the three women tell their stories, the reader is bombarded with outside information that leaves storylines dangling never to be picked up again.

The book itself allows the readers to see more of Gilead and its relationship with surrounding governments while also taking a deep dive into the lives of the Aunts within Gilead. This will delight die-hard fans and bore those who, like me, simply don't care since all of the main characters seem to magically break all of the rules with no consequences. There are plot holes and inconsistencies that make this novel lose the sense of impending doom that was ever-present in the original.

While Aunt Lydia's storyline is interesting and develops well, she remains the only interesting part of the novel. The stories of Nicole and Agnes seem more like forced Fan-Fiction by Atwood than the beautiful and well-thought-out prose she is lauded for. Overall, this book is great for those who want a better understanding of Gilead outside of Offred's story, but those who were left unsatisfied by the ending of *The Handmaid's Tale* will not have any of their questions answered in this "sequel."

This novel is reported to be in the developing stages for a screen adaptation—whether that will be a part of the Hulu series *The Handmaid's Tale* or its own spinoff is yet to be decided. Until then, feel free to check it out from [RBdigital](#) or our [print collection](#).

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