Greetings and welcome to the inaugural issue of Connections from the North Dakota State Library.

Our goal is to share helpful information, highlight online resources from the State Library, and share reviews of books that our staff are reading. If you haven’t visited us, we invite you to stop by the Liberty Memorial Building. The Reading Room is located on the ground level.

I have been enjoying the beautiful summertime weather, in between storms, by reading on our back deck at home. I love to read outside… well, really, I love to read anywhere, but I especially enjoy it outside.

I hope that you enjoy reading our new newsletter as much I as we enjoyed putting it together for you. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. You can email me your thoughts and suggestions about the newsletter, great books you’ve read or websites that you’ve enjoyed at msoucie@nd.gov.

Happy reading!

The State Library will be at the 2018 North Dakota State Fair. Stop by our booth in Commercial Building II to get information on what the library can do for you or just stop in to say “Hi”.

SUMMER READING BINGO

Have you printed out your BINGO card yet? You can find it on our website! Complete as many cards as you would like and return them to the State Library by August 31 in order to be eligible for a prize!
**DIGITAL HORIZONS**

Do you like researching family history? How about looking at old photographs and documents relating to local or state history? If any of this sounds appealing, **Digital Horizons** is the website for you!

Digital Horizons is an online library consisting of thousands of images, documents, videos, and oral histories depicting life on the Northern Plains; it provides a fascinating snapshot of the lives, culture, and history of the people who shaped life on the prairies. Digital Horizons was established in 2007 and has grown to include over 40 collections from contributors such as North Dakota State University, Concordia College, Prairie Public Broadcasting, North Dakota State Library, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, and more!

The State Library has four collections available on Digital Horizons. One of them is **North Dakota Memories**, which includes photographs, documents, and objects that have been digitized from the collections of institutions and private citizens across the state. Items are contributed to the **North Dakota Memories** collection through ScanDays.

ScanDay is an event hosted in libraries, schools, and institutions across the state, in which Digital Initiatives staff from the State Library bring scanning and photography equipment to a community and digitize historical items. At a typical ScanDay event, each participant brings about 10-15 items to be digitized, and participants are provided preservation handouts and a flash drive containing digital copies of their items.

The purpose of ScanDay is to get residents to engage in building local and state history by bringing in their items to be digitized and then displayed online on Digital Horizons. To date, over 1,200 items have been digitized and added to **North Dakota Memories**.

**AGENCY TRAININGS**

Have you ever wanted to use the State Library’s materials and just didn’t know how?

Using an unfamiliar library and its resources can be daunting which causes many to not give it a shot. This is why the State Library offers training to state agencies on specific databases the library subscribes to or how to use the library.

The Continuing Education Coordinator will come to your agency to do a training on the library topic of your choice. It is completely free, and the only thing you need to provide is an area to present.

If you have any questions about scheduling a training or about our online offerings, please contact Angie at ndsltrain@nd.gov or 701-328-3495.

**INTERLIBRARY LOAN**

Libraries cannot own everything and so **Interlibrary Loan** (ILL) exists. ILL asks other libraries to share their items with our patrons when our library doesn’t own it. Books, CDs, DVDs, and articles can be shared between libraries, which saves resources at each library.

Generally there is no cost to obtain an ILL except the postage to get it back to the State Library. However, if a fee is required to borrow an item, the State Library will secure permission of the patron before obtaining the item.

**STATE DOCUMENTS**

The **State Document Depository** collects, preserves, and disseminates all North Dakota state government documents produced for public use.

When requesting printing from Central Duplicating, please remember to check the box so the required 8 copies are sent to the State Library.
FREE EBOOKS, AUDIOBOOKS, & EMAGAZINES THROUGH RBDIGITAL

RBdigital is the State Library’s ebook, audiobook, and emagazine service. All of those reading materials are wrapped into one app for your convenience.

Ebooks and audiobooks have a 14-day checkout period and each patron can check out 5 ebooks and 5 audiobooks at one time. Most audiobooks have simultaneous checkout so you will never have to be placed on a hold list. The ebooks, however, can only be checked out by one person at a time. Just put a hold on it like you would a regular library book and, when the 14 day checkout period is over, the item will show up in your checkout list.

The emagazine part of the service allows patrons to check out magazines indefinitely and there is no limit to the amount of magazines that can be checked out at one time.

The app is simple to use and allows patrons to search all these materials in one convenient location. If you have any questions about the database or its app, please email ndsltrain@nd.gov.

BLOGS FOR THE WORKPLACE

http://www.askamanager.org/
Alison Green gracefully answers workplace questions from the ordinary to the eccentric on her daily blog. If you have a question about managing, being managed, hiring, firing, or weird coworkers, it’s probably been asked and answered on this site.

http://www.evilhrlady.org/
A blog that aims to demystify the world of Human Resources, Suzanne Lucas diligently discusses topics that range from diversity to employee retention and everything in between.

https://www.management-issues.com/
Management Issues brings you articles to help you keep focus on the bigger picture.

https://www.inc.com
This blog compiles everything you need to know about starting and growing a business. While state employees may not be growing a business, many of the articles discuss leadership, management, and workplace culture.

https://www.govloop.com/community/blog
GovLoop provides blogs, discussions, trainings and more to public sector professionals. This blog is curated especially for those with an interest in and who work for the federal, state, or local government.

http://linked2leadership.com/
This leadership blog provides straight-forward advice about leadership development, organizational health, and personal and professional growth.

NEW BOOK CLUB KITS

The State Library has a growing collection of book club kits available for check out. Each kit includes 10 copies of the book and list of discussion questions, which can be used to help with conversations about the book.

These titles, along with many other book club kits, can be checked out through Kitkeeper.

The Traveler’s Gift: Seven Decisions That Determine Personal Success by Andy Andrews
Wrong Place, Wrong Time by Tilia Klebenov Jacobs
Selma: Swedish Fortitude on the North Dakota Frontier by Lela Selma Peterson
The Templars by Dan Jones  
Reviewed by Angie Houser

Sometimes reading a history book can feel like you’re back in high school trying to stay awake during class. This is one history book that will never have you feeling like that. If you haven’t had the pleasure of reading any of Dan Jones’s works, I highly suggest you do so.

The Templars is his most recent book that takes on the stylized myth of the Knights Templar. Thanks to popular culture and Hollywood, today many people do not believe that the Knights Templar existed, or if they did exist, that they are still around guarding the Holy Grail.

Jones takes the reader through time to when the Templars were first established as a monastic order. He then proceeds to take the reader through the events that led to the downfall of these warrior monks. Not only does he do all of this with a flair for writing that makes you feel like you’re reading a historical fiction novel, but he also acknowledges the popular myths about the Knights Templar and disproves them with historical references. Jones’s works are historically accurate and a delight to read.

This book and others by Dan Jones are available for checkout at the North Dakota State Library.

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng  
Reviewed by Abby Ebach

Meet two families - the affluent Richardson and the nomadic Warrens. When the Warrens move into the Richardson's rental home in Shaker Heights, the problems that normally simmered under the surface of the families' everyday lives start cropping up in unexpected places. In a classic two-worlds-collide story, Ng delicately navigates her way through small town politics, teenage drama, and the choices parents make to protect their children.

While the novel's main summary would lead you to believe that this is a legal mystery, don’t get your hopes up. Ng instead jumps across decades and perspectives as she explores the complex relationship between a mother and her children with the background of a custody battle. While murky and slow-moving at times, Ng's writing has a flair that keeps you reading. Leaving no stone unturned, Ng uses art, sex, and class to assist her in telling the story of five teenagers, four mothers, and three families desperately trying to find their footing in 1997 suburbia.

With the book’s rampant success, Hulu has slated it for an 8 episode mini series starring Kerry Washington as the enigmatic Mia Warren and Reese Witherspoon as the prim-and-proper Elena Richardson. There is no release date yet, but rest assured, I will be watching.