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North Dakota State Library
FLICKERTALE

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DATES

September 24-26
NDLA Conference - Mandan

June 1, 2009
Statewide Summer Reading Kickoff

Reference Corner

Having trouble keeping up with trends in technology and librarianship? Then there are some great new DVDs for you! Fresh from the College of DuPage's Library Learning Network are releases in the *Soaring to Excellence and Library Challenges & Opportunities* Series. Each video runs rampant for 90 minutes with expert panel discussions and professionally produced demonstrations, scenes, and examples. The latest titles include: *Tools of Engagement: Attracting and Engaging Library Users; Trends, Fads, or Folly? Spotting the Trends that Really Matter; Library Spaces: Future Needs;* and *People Watching with a Purpose: Meeting Needs Before They Need It*. All come highly recommended and are available for loan—request them online at www.odinlibrary.org.

North Dakota Libraries Report Great Success with Summer Reading Programs

As the summer comes to a close in North Dakota, many librarians are already looking back fondly at the Summer Reading programs of 2008, Summer Reading programs that in many cases broke records for numbers of participants.

Harmony Higbie, librarian at Underwood Public Library reported that they had over 60 children participate in their program, which featured bug-themed storytime, crafts, and snacks. The library also hosted an end-of-summer celebration with free popcorn and soda to go with the showing of *Bee Movie*.

The Griggs County Public Library also hosted a "Catch the Reading Bug" program. According to librarian Bonnie Krenz, children were encouraged to read for at least 30 minutes every day. The library also extended a challenge to parents, grandparents, teachers and other adults to keep up with the childrens' reading times. "This has brought some adults back to reading and also enticed some children to read that would not normally participate", she writes.

A renovation of the children's room was just one of the ways that Minot Public Library prepared for summer readers. In addition to the many daily storytime options available for children, the library hosted a weekly "Bedbugs" storytime in the evenings for children and parents. Fly fishing and model airplanes were the summer themes for the library's monthly "Guys Read @ the Library" program.

The Grand Forks Air Force Base Library had great success with a "Reading Road Trip" themed summer reading program. Arlene Ott, the library's director submitted some amazing statistics from their program. Over 95 children registered, 177 attended the kick-off party, about 95 attended the final party and most importantly, the children collectively read about 39,500 pages over the summer. Even Col. John E. Michel, Commander of the Grand Forks Air Force Base, came to the final party to celebrate the impressive reading achievements!

Librarians Under Construction: A Life of Continuous Education

The North Dakota Library Association 2008 Annual Conference is slated for September 24-26 at the Best Western Seven Seas in Mandan. "Librarians Under Construction: A Life of Continuous Education" is the theme for this year's convention, which will feature a host of workshops, networking opportunities, business meetings, and social events. Continuing education credits are available through Valley City State University for Library Media Specialists who attend the conference. The North Dakota State Library will feature a booth of library services, including Online Library Resources. For more information about the conference, please visit the NDLA website at www.ndla.info.

The Most Important School Supply: a Library Card

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time to remind parents and children that a library card is the most important school supply of all. Studies show that children who are read to at home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

"A library card has always been the most important school supply of all," says State Librarian Doris Ott. "Children can come to the library to get homework help or check out books, but they can also check out free music, DVDs and use the Internet to make after-school life a little more fun. Children can even use their library card to access the Online Library Resources from home. There's a lot happening at North Dakota libraries."

A recent study by the American Library Association also showed that families use libraries to spend time together. Forty-four percent of survey respondents report taking their children to the library for this reason. For more information about Library Card Sign-up Month and how to promote the event at your library, check out the American Library Association at www.ala.org.

Cindy and Stuart

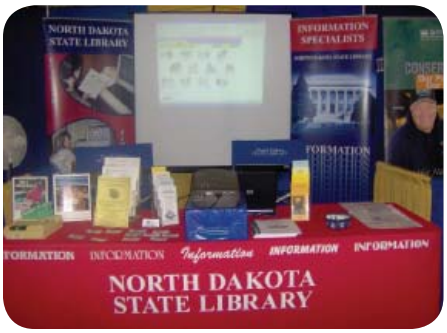
SPOTLIGHT

Information Technology Department

The Information Technology (IT) Department at the North Dakota State Library is responsible for coordinating, managing, and performing internal automation functions for the State Library. Day to day functions include maintaining 60 PCs, setting up hardware, installing software, troubleshooting State Library applications, and providing necessary training to State Library staff. The IT Department also works in conjunction with the North Dakota Information Technology Department on various projects including networking, software updates, and internet access. The IT Department acts as the State Library's technical coordinator for support of ODIN (Online Dakota Information Network), OCLC, and public library internet filtering. Maintenance of the State Library's website at www.library.nd.gov also falls under the umbrella of the IT Department. Whether it's repairing an ailing computer, troubleshooting a broken database, or implementing a new software program, the Information Technology Department at the State Library never seems to have a dull moment!

State Library Booth at the North Dakota State Fair

The North Dakota State Library once again sponsored a booth at the North Dakota State Fair in Minot, July 18-26. This promotional booth highlighted the Online Library Resources, Disability Services, and library services in general. State Library staff had the opportunity to interact with thousands of fair attendees and promote not only the services offered by the North Dakota State Library, but also encouraged people to use the library services provided to them by their local libraries. Many people who stopped by the booth expressed an interest in the Online Library Resources, especially the EBSCO Auto Repair Reference Center which was a huge hit. People passing by the booth also paid compliments to the quality of service that they receive from their local libraries and the State Library. Numerous people were aware of the Talking Books program and commented on how it has made a positive impact on someone they knew who uses the services.



Pottery Road Show Available to Libraries

The North Dakota Pottery Collectors Society has developed an educational program called the "NDPCS Pottery Road Show." The program provides historical and general information about the major producers of the different types of pottery made from North Dakota clay. These include: University of North Dakota Pottery, Dickota Pottery, Turtle Mountain Indian Pottery, WPA Ceramics, Rosemeade Pottery, Ceramics by Messer, Little Heart Ceramics, and Three Tribes Stoneware. According to NDPCS Road Show coordinator Quent Christman, the two-part program includes a visual presentation and an identification/appraisal session which can be adapted to fit many situations.

The NDPCS is inviting libraries across the state to host the Road Show in their community. Details and information about scheduling an event in your community will be worked out on an individual basis. More information is available on the Web page at www.ndpcs.org, or by calling (701) 775-3265.

It's important that the State Library has your library's current contact information. How else can the State Library keep your library up-to-date with library related information? Please contact the State Library if any of your library's contact information has changed. Changes include new staff, e-mail or postal address, telephone or fax number, or library hours. You may contact the Administration Office at the State Library by e-mail at ndsladmn@nd.gov or phone at 701-328-2492 or 1-800-472-2104. Thanks for your cooperation!

New Grant Guidelines Available

The North Dakota State Library and the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council have released the competitive grant guidelines for fiscal years 2009-2011. Categories for this round of grants are: 1) to participate in the statewide online library catalog through WorldCat, 2) an innovative partnership with a non-library entity grant, and 3) a grant for computers for public libraries that have not received a grant in the last five years. Interested libraries who would like to apply will need to submit a letter of intent to the State Library by November 1, 2008. Application forms will be due March 1, 2009. For more information, please visit www.library.nd.gov/grants.html or contact the State Library at 1-800-472-2104 or 701-328-2492.

@ Your Library - Cando Community Library

The Cando Community Library recently faced a big challenge. Due to a budget shortage, the Cando City Council notified the library that funding would be cut drastically. Instead of responding negatively, the library board decided to use the situation as an opportunity to unite the community of Cando around its library. The library board explored many options, including becoming a county-wide library, but after much discussion it was decided to keep the library as a city entity. Board members also decided to approach funding in the form of a ballot measure which would go before the voters. The measure would allow for an 8 mill levy increase in property tax funding, but must be approved by 60% of the voters.

Using a comprehensive marketing plan, the library board did everything they could to encourage citizens to vote in favor of the measure. Lavonne Haugen, president of the Cando Community Library Board reported that the local newspaper editor was eager to assist the library with publicity. Through the use of buttons and door hangers that the Girl Scouts helped distribute, the library was able to encourage the city to support the library. Even the city tax assessor became involved and came up with a formula for folks to use to figure out how much the mill levy increase would cost them personally.

The library took an aggressive approach to the potentially disastrous situation and through concerted efforts by both the library board and other community members, the folks at the Cando Community Library are proud to say that the measure passed with over 75% voter approval! Haugen says, “If anyone would like more specifics about what we did to promote our library and secure future funding, please feel free to contact me.”

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