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North Dakota State Library
FLICKERTALE

Volume 42 Number 2 February 2012

2012 Spring Workshops Schedule Announced

The North Dakota State Library will host the 2012 Spring Workshops in Bismarck on April 2nd and 3rd at our State Capitol. This year's featured workshop will explore teen library services. Shari Haskins, Young Adult Librarian from the Fremont County Library System in Wyoming, will present the workshop "Teen Up" on Monday, April 2nd. Ms. Haskins has previously conducted workshops for the Montana State Library and the Utah State Library with a focus on teen services, summer reading programs, and advocacy.

Other workshops, to be presented by staff of the North Dakota State Library, will feature topics such as: collection development of graphic novels; de-selection and weeding; E-books and E-readers; and, free web applications and blogging basics. Also, Sgt. Pedro Armendariz, Director of Security at the State Capitol for the North Dakota State Patrol, will present a workshop on workplace safety and security.

A block of rooms is available until March 4th at the Kelly Inn in Bismarck. The Kelly Inn is located near to the Capitol Grounds. Please contact the Kelly Inn at 701-223-8001 or 800-635-3559 to make your room reservations. The single room rate is $79.00/night and the double room rate is $89.00/night.

In addition to the workshop opportunities, the staff of the North Dakota State Library would like to invite you out to dinner at one of several restaurants in Bismarck on Monday night, April 2nd. The State Library will provide transportation to two (or more depending on participation and interest) eating establishments. Dining participants will meet in the lobby of the Kelly Inn at 5:30 PM. Each person will be responsible for their own bill and participation is purely optional. Please consider joining us for an evening of food, fun, and networking among your peers!

For more information or to register, please visit www.library.nd.gov/publications/2012springworkshops.pdf or call 701-328-4622.

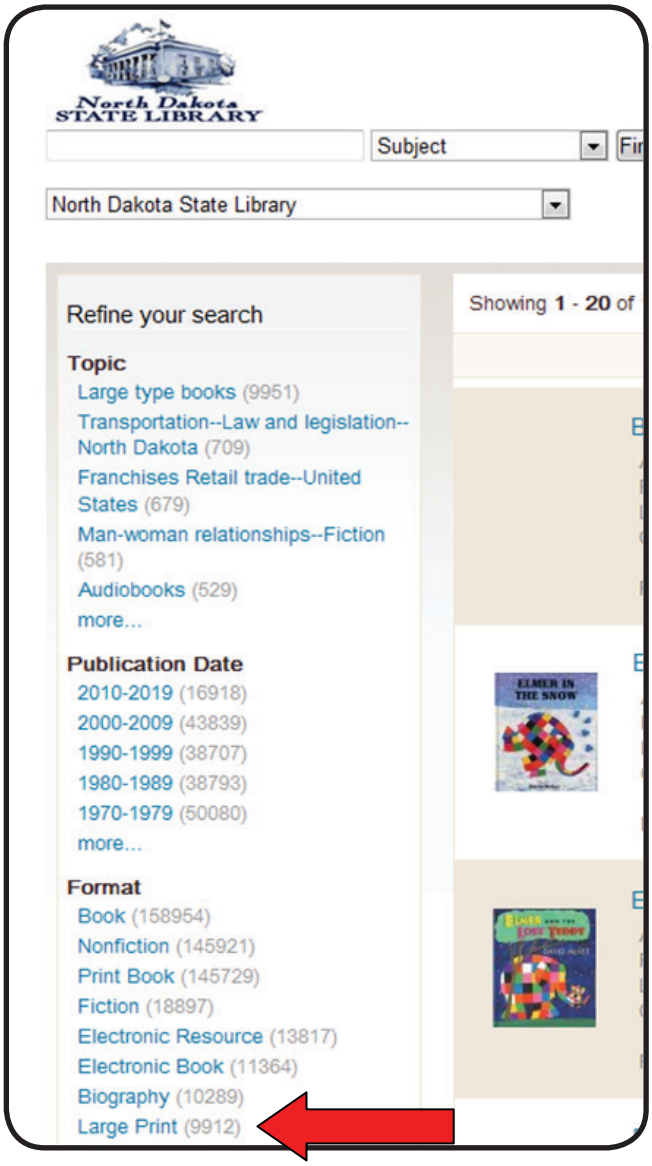
North Dakota State Library Offers Basic Website Design

The North Dakota State Library would like to again remind you about a website development opportunity. If your website is too expensive, if your website is out of date, or if you don't have the expertise to develop a website, you are encouraged to consider an opportunity to have a website designed by the North Dakota State Library.

Through this opportunity, the State Library will design and publish a basic website for your library. The design will incorporate pertinent library information including hours, location, a building photo, and contact information. Additionally, library staff will be able to post additional information and news.

Since the program began in 2011, several North Dakota libraries have taken advantage of the program.

For more information about this opportunity, please contact your State Library Field Services representative at http://www.library.nd.gov/fieldservices.html. To submit a website design application for your library, please download and complete the application at http://www.library.nd.gov/publications/librarywebsiteapplication.pdf. Requests are handled on a "date received" basis.



To find large print books in the State Library collection, go to www.library.nd.gov and select Find Library Items > Library Catalog. The left menu bar has options to refine your search. Under Format, look for "Large Print" as shown above.

Meet the Collection : Large Print

Large print materials are usually defined as materials with a font size of 16 point or larger, however the Americans with Disabilities Act stipulates the type must be 14 point or larger. Large print materials are typically used by people with a visual impairment, so large print items tend to have other distinctive elements as well, such as high contrast between the type and the background, simple fonts, and wide letter spacing. Readers who don't have a visual impairment often find they read large print books faster with less strain on their eyes. The North Dakota State Library collection contains large print fiction and nonfiction materials, for readers of all ages. These materials are loaned for an eight week period. Many times nursing homes around the state request a shipment of large print books for their residents to enjoy. Specific titles do not need to be requested. The State Library can accommodate general requests such as, "Please send 10 romances and 5 westerns." These titles are then checked out and sent to the nursing home, where a staff member is responsible for sending them all back at the end of the loan period. The State Library adds about fifty new large print titles every month. Some of the more recent additions include *The Time of Our Lives* by Tom Brokaw and *The Litigators* by John Grisham. The State Library currently has over 1,200 large print nonfiction books and over 8,500 large print fiction books. People who require large print books because of a disability may also be interested in the North Dakota Talking Books service. Please call 701-328-1408 for more information about Talking Books.

TutorND powered by tutor.com™
www.tutorND.com
Live tutors are available Sunday through Thursday
6:00pm to 10:00pm (Central Time)
A service of the North Dakota State Library.

ND Library Tidbits

- The Hebron Public Library is moving forward with plans to convert the clinic building into the library. A move-in date hasn't been set quite yet, but progress is being made and the library will soon relocate. In an effort to raise funds for the library, Hebron librarian Jean Pascual organized a White Elephant Auction. Signs were placed throughout the community to serve as a reminder that the library is looking for good usable items for the auction. The auction is scheduled for February 26. To make things more interesting, the library also sent 150 letters asking authors, television and movie personalities and singers to donate items for the White Elephant Auction! So far, Gwen Sebastian has graciously donated an autographed CD and two beverage huggies. The library also received autographed books from Mr. David Baldacci and Ms. Maureen McKade.
- North Dakota's First Lady, Betsy Dalrymple, has been visiting schools and libraries throughout the state, speaking about the importance of literacy, reading to school children, and promoting Dolly Parton's "Imagination Library" program.
- Senator John Hoeven donated nearly 300 books to Minot Public Schools to recognize their resilience throughout the year's flooding and to aid in the recovery.
- The ND Library2Go (an OverDrive consortium) continues to grow: Park River School & Public Library and the Bowman Regional Public Library were recently added to the roster of participating libraries.
- Hazen High School has added a circulating collection of six Nook E-Readers for use by their students.

North Dakota State Library : On the Road

February 21
Summer Reading Workshop - Grand Forks

February 22
Summer Reading Workshop - Wahpeton

February 22
Site Visit - *Williston Community Library*

February 23
Summer Reading Workshop - Jamestown

February 28
Student Training - Strasburg

March 6
Training - Fessenden

March 13
Site Visit - McLean-Mercer Regional Library (Riverdale)

CALENDAR

February 20
State Library Closed for Presidents Day

March 4-10
Teen Tech Week

March 6-7
ND Library Coordinating Council Meeting - Fargo

April 2-3
NDSL Spring Workshops - Bismarck

April 8-14
National Library Week

E-Reader & Overdrive Help Sessions at Bismarck Public Library

The Bismarck Public Library has held a number of "E-readers and OverDrive" help sessions over the past few months to show community members how to access and download e-books and other digital content through OverDrive. Two pre-holiday sessions, held on November 29, were attended by a total of 60 people, and two post-holiday sessions, held on January 10, had a total of 110 attendees. Due to high demand, a fifth session was held on February 6. The sessions were presented by State Library Field Services librarian Elizabeth Jacobs, who covered a number of topics, including: the basics of using the most popular e-readers and mobile devices; accessing, searching, and checkout of digital content in OverDrive; and a demonstration of the process of downloading e-books and e-audiobooks to the Nook Color, Kindle Touch, and the iPad/iPhone.

The vast majority of attendees at all sessions were current owners of some kind of e-reader or mobile device, the most popular being the Kindle Fire, Nook Color, and the iPad. Many of the attendees at the November session had very recently acquired an e-reader, and by the time the sessions were held in January, many attendees stated that they owned more than one e-reader and/or mobile device on which they read e-books, which is a testament to the increasing popularity and rapid adoption of e-readers and mobile devices. The Bismarck Public Library is a member of the Library2Go consortium, a group of North Dakota libraries that have joined together to provide e-books and other downloadable digital content to their patrons via the OverDrive platform.

If you are interested in learning more about e-books and e-readers, or are interested in setting up an e-reader training session for library staff or for your community, contact your NDSL Field Services representative. There will also be a session at the State Library's Spring Workshops on e-books and e-readers in libraries—stay tuned for more information!

Looking for Book Club Ideas?

Random House Publishing has a new Random House Book Club catalog available. You may download a free copy or request a print version. Along with suggestions for books to use in a book club, each entry has a list of questions to help get the conversation about the book going. Although this catalog focuses strictly on Random House publications, it's still a great resource for gathering ideas for books to use for your book club. Each title provides a link to a website with additional information about the book and author along with more discussion questions. If you're looking for book club ideas or a place to get one started, check out http://bit.ly/xWXbrC and download this resource.

Library Staff Changes in North Dakota

OUTGOING

Jeanne Narum - Minot Public Library

Judy Toelle - Minot Public Library

Marilyn Holbach - Minot Public Library

INCOMING

Greta Guck - Minot Public Library

Tyson Wheeler - Minot Public Library

Sarah Ethier - Minot Public Library

E-rate News

The 2012-2013 E-rate application window is now open. Form 471 applications will be accepted until March 20, 2012. Applicants must file the Description of Services Requested and Certification Form (Form 470) to begin the competitive process and must ensure an open and fair competitive bidding process. If you are interested in filing for E-rate, you must file a Form 470 by February 21st. Here are a few things to remember for this year.

- Applicants must construct an evaluation for consideration of bids received in response to the posting of the Form 470 that makes price the primary factor in the selection of a vendor. Now, some of you have been receiving offers from out of state vendors and you may not feel comfortable with working with them. One of the factors that you can use is "in state" or "local vendor." Price still has to be the primary factor, but "local vendor" could be ranked second.
- For Block 1, 3b, you must list your FCC Registration Number. If you do not know your number, you may look it up online at https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do. Search for public FRN information. If you are a new director, you may need to look up your library. You may also wish to update your information, which you may do from that same website.
- If you have received no other bids, send yourself an e-mail or write a memo to the fact that you received only one bid and file that away in your e-rate file. That way it is documented that you only received one bid.
- In order to calculate your discount level, you need to find out how many k-12 students are on the free and reduced lunch program in your local school. You can access the National School Lunch Program data from the ND Department of Public Instruction's website at http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/child/reps/index.shtm#NDFR or by contacting your local school's administration office.
- The Item 21 attachment, which describes the products and services you are seeking discounts for, must be filed by March 20, 2012. It is best to complete the Item 21 while you are working on your Form 471 and submit both at the same time. That way you don't forget to file it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Al Peterson at the North Dakota State Library. You may reach him at 701-328-4021 or 800-472-2104 or alpeterson@nd.gov.

Khan Academy

There is a new resource available on the ODIN Statewide Licensed Resources page - Khan Academy. Khan Academy is not a paid database, but is a free resource available for you to use.

According to their website, "The Khan Academy is an organization on a mission. We're a not-for-profit with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education to anyone anywhere." The founder, Salman Khan has a background in mathematics, computer science, and investment management.

The Khan Academy is a collection of videos that teach topics such as mathematics, sciences, computer science, health-care and medicine, history, art history, finance, and test prep. Some of these videos have practice tests that correspond with the lessons being taught. Users can sign in using an existing Google or Facebook account and keep track of the videos and practice tests viewed and created. Teachers can create a Coach site and track students' progress. If you haven't had a chance to check out Khan Academy, take a look at it. It is a valuable resource that may be useful to you, your students, and your patrons.

Grand Forks Public Library Receives IEEE Grant

In support of public libraries that provide enriching educational opportunities in math and science for pre-university students, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)-Chicago Section is pleased to announce the first recipients of the IEEE Science Kits for Public Libraries Grant.

With math and science education declining nationally, the grant is just one effort to generate enthusiasm for the engineering profession, especially electrical engineering. With science kits at public libraries, students will have equal access to learning experiences they would not encounter in the traditional classroom. Students can explore, create, and discover within a guided framework, one that allows them to take control of their education.

Grand Forks Public Library was chosen as one of 26 public libraries nationally to receive the grant award. Congratulations to Wendy Wendt, Director, the Library Board of Grand Forks, and the staff of Grand Forks Public Library as an award recipient.

Visit www.ieeechicago.org for more information.

Creating a New Library Atmosphere

On February 23, the Public Library Association will host a live, hour-long webinar, "Creating Dynamic Library Atmospheres: What We Can Learn from Theater, Retail, Museums, and the Container Store," as part of the division's "Public Libraries at Work" monthly webinar series. Please visit http://bit.ly/Asb9H7 for more information. The deadline to register is February 21st.

Ten Things You Might Not Know About Charles Dickens

February 7 marked the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens's birth, and in honor of the celebrated author, the February 7 issue of the Canadian publication National Post (see the "Arts" section) listed some interesting facts about Dickens that you might not know. For example, he had a thing for nicknames, he was obsessive-compulsive, and he was epileptic. Provided in this quick read are details of interest to any Dickens researcher who visits your library's Reference Desk. Visit http://natpo.st/xbiyhM for the complete list.

YALSA 2012 Best Fiction for Young Adults

YALSA has announced its 2012 list of Best Fiction for Young Adults. This year's list of 112 books comprises a wide range of genres and styles, including contemporary realistic fiction, fantasy, horror, historical fiction, and novels in verse. YALSA has also announced its 2012 list of Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, and YALSA's 2012 Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers . The announcements were recently made at the Midwinter meeting of the American Library Association. Visit http://www.ala.org/yalsa/bfya/2012 for the complete list.

Please submit North Dakota library news to Adam Emter at ndslpa@nd.gov.

Newbery and Caldecott winners

Jack Gantos, author of *Dead End in Norvelt*, and Chris Raschka, illustrator of *A Ball for Daisy*, are the 2012 winners of the John Newbery and Randolph Caldecott medals. The Newbery and Caldecott medals honor outstanding writing and illustration of works published in the United States during the previous year. Past winners are listed at www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia.

National Ambassador for Young People's Literature Chosen

Walter Dean Myers was recently named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by James Billington, the Librarian of Congress. Myers, author of over 100 books, including his best-selling *Monster*, is the second person to be picked for the honor. For more information, read the following January 3rd article from the *New York Times* : http://nyti.ms/AfTUr5.

NISO Publishes New Recommended Practice on Physical Delivery of Library Resources

With the goal of reducing resource sharing delivery time and costs, the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) announces the publication of the new recommended practice: "Physical Delivery of Library Resources" (NISO RP-12-2012). This publication focuses on three key areas: the physical move, automation, and the management of physical delivery. While the scope of the document is limited to the external delivery of items between separately administered libraries, many of the recommendations could apply to delivery between the branches of a single library system as well. The document is available online at http://www.niso.org/publications/rp/rp-12-2012.pdf.

Online Registration Opens for Spring Session of PLA's Free Public Library Advocacy Education Program

Registration has opened for the spring 2012 session (Week of March 19–Week of April 23) of "Turning the Page 2.0," a free, online advocacy training program for public libraries, developed and presented by the Public Library Association (PLA) with generous support from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Participants choose an advocacy goal for their library and are guided through the creation of an Advocacy Work Plan. Highly interactive units cover topics such as creating and telling your library story, building relationships with key decision makers, and project management.

The upcoming March-April session will begin with an optional, in-person kick-off on March 13 at the PLA 2012 Conference in Philadelphia. Registration for this preconference is free; however overall conference registration rates apply. Participants must register for the in-person event separately from the online portion of the program.

Registration for "Turning the Page 2.0" is open to all public librarians, library staff and library supporters, including board members, Friends and local officials. Libraries are encouraged to complete Turning the Page 2.0 with an advocacy team that works through the program together.

For more information about the program, please email ttp2@ala.org.

10 Ways to Make Your Library Age-Friendly

1. Make everyone feel welcome. A friendly smile and "Can I help you?" will let people—of any age—know you are happy they have come. You want them to know the library is their place.

2. Encourage social engagement. What?!! Speed-dating for those 50+?? Maybe. . .but so much more. As people get older, and perhaps retire, their social networks may shrink. Something to do on a regular basis, perhaps exercise or art classes, at a price they can afford (free) will give older adults the opportunity to meet others while pursuing their interests in a wonderful setting—the public library!

3. Be accessible. Don't put materials where they are hard to reach—too high or too low. Make sure aisles are clear and try to ensure that a person using a wheelchair or walker can get not just in the door but to all parts of the library. Make assistive listening devices available for programs and classes. Consider offering real-time (CART) captioning for programs. And have the best lighting possible, please. This is a safety, as well as an accessibility, issue.

4. Use bulletin boards and local newspapers to advertise library locations, hours, programs, and services. Not just Twitter, Facebook, blogs and whatever new social media come along. Post flyers with library information and events in places outside the library as well as inside.

5. Think of the whole person. As you do library outreach to retirement communities, AARP groups, senior centers, and other organizations targeting older adults, let them know about the full range of services at the library, not just "senior" activities. Downloadables may be just the thing for people who have a hard time getting out to the library; information about children's books and programs may be useful for grandparents. Emphasize opportunities to interact with other generations at the library.

6. Have chairs in convenient places, and some of them with arms. Standing in a line to borrow or return library materials or to use a computer is hard for someone who has back problems; a nearby chair can make a world of difference. Also, many older people and people with certain disabilities have difficulty getting in and out of armless chairs—keep this in mind in your program rooms and computer labs.

7. Use older adults as volunteers. They may be looking for ways to be useful, and just waiting to be asked. Every community has older people with talent, experience and time. Think of them as your partners.

8. Consider the collection. Large print books, and other formats for those with vision loss, in as many languages as your community speaks, are vital. And be sure to use large print signs, brochures and flyers. Have various types of magnifiers available and advertise them widely.

9. Offer computer classes for patrons who are 50+. Knowing they will be learning with others who may be new to the computer world can make the classes more appealing. Be patient, though you may need to explain things a few times.

10. Never underestimate the power of a public restroom. If you have one, this may be the very thing that draws people—and particularly older adults—into your library. Share it gladly. Why not a sign? Yes, we have a public restroom!

Reprinted from Age-Friendly New York City, a collaborative effort to respond to and benefit from population change within New York City. Visit http://www.nyam.org/agefriendlynyc/index.html for more information.

YouTube Agrees to New Terms of Service for Government Entities

YouTube recently agreed to modify its terms of service to make its website more government friendly. The ammended terms of service no longer require state government agencies to violate state laws and procurement guidelines. View the full details of the changes online at http://bit.ly/zERVGo.

2011 National Film Registry Choices

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington selected on December 28, 2011 *Forrest Gump* (1994) and 24 other films to be preserved as cultural, artistic, and historical treasures in the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. Annual selections to the registry are finalized by the Librarian of Congress after reviewing hundreds of titles nominated by the public. Other picks this year are *The Kid* (1921), *Bambi* (1942), *The Lost Weekend* (1945), and, *Norma Rae* (1979).

Co-Founder Of Wikipedia Launches Online Phonics Tutorials

Larry Sanger, co-founder of the online encyclopedia *Wikipedia*, recently announced the launch of Reading Bear, an online project of educational videos developed by the non-profit "WatchKnowLearn." Reading Bear promises to be "the first free reading site online that takes students systematically through all — not just a selection — of the main phonics principles, using innovative multimedia presentations."

For more information, please visit WatchKnowLearn online at http://watchknowlearn.org.

> "Life is not divided into genres. It is a horrifying, romantic, tragic, comical, science-fiction cowboy detective novel."
>
> ~ Alan Moore

New Book Offers Guidelines for Business Leaders

Writer Joan Magretta begins her new book with well-known Professor Michael Porter's work by noting that, from the start of his career, Porter (Harvard Business School's Bishop William Lawrence University Professor) has been asking a big question when it comes to understanding everything from the free enterprise system to the individual motivations of managers. The question asked is: "Why are some companies and people more profitable than others?"

Magretta, in a new book, *Understanding Michael Porter: The Essential Guide to Competition and Strategy*, distills Porter's core concepts and frameworks into a concise guide for business practitioners and the leaders of tomorrow. Key concepts include:

- One of the biggest mistakes a manager can make is to assume the best results come from competing to be the best. Competing to be "unique" is a much more effective strategy.
- Other common mistakes include confusing marketing with strategy, overestimating strengths, and misunderstanding the definition of business.
- The worst mistake—but the most common one—is not to have a strategy at all.

Consider adding Magretta's new book to your library's self-help or business development collection.

10 Super Geeky Tips for the New Year

Gwyneth Jones writes in the December 29, 2011 issue of *The Daring Librarian* : "I'm usually not one for New Year's resolutions. If I decide to do something, the calendar doesn't matter and I've blown too many good resolutions to believe an arbitrary day will make a diff. But there are a few things that are easily done and it can feel great for a super geeky safe New Year. So here are 10 geek tips to start 2012: http://bit.ly/x0Or1e.

On Centennial of Birth, Guthrie Gets a Belated Honor in Oklahoma

Native son Woody Guthrie shall be a cause of celebration this year on the centennial of Guthrie's birth. The George Kaiser Family Foundation in Tulsa announced that it is buying the Guthrie archives from his children and building an exhibition and study center to honor his legacy.

Charles Schulz Library Finds New Home After Hurricane Damage

The Center for Cartoon Studies has found a new home for the Schulz Library in the old post office building in White River Junction, Vermont. The building will provide instruction space, faculty offices, and will be the new home to the Schulz Library, a one-of-a-kind cartoon collection that was damaged in flooding after Hurricane Irene in August.

YALSA Launches Online Learning Academy for School and YA Librarians

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has announced the creation of the YALSA Academy, a free online educational video initiative available at www.youtube.com/yalsa1957. The channel offers free training videos on popular professional development topics for school and YA services librarians, as well as other staff who work with teens. Videos include such topics as providing customer service to teens; connecting teens and ereaders; conducting a mock Printz program; and ideas for building a YA collection.

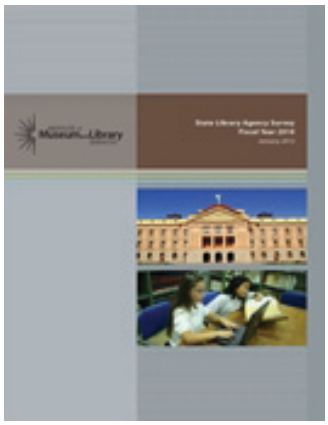
Those interested in posting a short instructional video should consult the guidelines, read the frequently asked questions, and watch the introductory video on the YALSA Academy website at www.ala.org/yalsa/academy.

New Edition of Great Early Elementary Reads

ALSC has revised its popular bibliography *Great Early Elementary Reads*, which features recommended book titles for beginning readers. PDFs of the book list are available online in full color and black-and-white, and are free to download, copy, or distribute. The updated bibliography is organized into two categories: "Starting to Read" and "Reading on My Own." For the complete list of books, please visit visit http://bit.ly/wDpQc3.

IMLS Releases Report

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has released its report (PDF file) on the State Library Survey for fiscal year 2010. The data collected in this annual survey shows that, when viewed nationally, state library agencies' revenues fell by 24.1% in the previous decade and that reduction in staff has been one of the largest impacts of this shortfall. The Survey contained data regarding the North Dakota State Library. Questions regarding the report of NDSL may be directed to members of the agency's Field Services staff. For more details and the full report visit : http://1.usa.gov/wo54v0.



Winter e-Learning From ACRL

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is offering a wide variety of online learning opportunities in winter 2012 to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. Full details and registration information is available at http://bit.ly/yW4Mbj. ACRL online seminars are asynchronous, multi-week courses delivered through Moodle. Registration for all online seminars and webcasts qualifies for the ACRL Frequent Learner Program.

Friends Group Survey

The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF) is conducting a survey of "Friends of the Library" groups. The 10-question survey can be quickly completed. Responses will help ALTAFF develop resources for members, with results to be published at http://www.ala.org/altaff/ and in an upcoming edition of its member newsletter, *The Voice*. Responses will be collected until March 1, 2012.

Multi-Million Dollar Book Auction

The Duke of Portland's four-volume set of John James Audubon's *Birds of America*, sold at auction on January 20 at Christie's. The set, considered one of the most prized collections of ornithological art ever produced, sold for $7.9 million.

T. S. Eliot Poetry Prize

As reported in *The Guardian* (UK), the Scottish poet John Burnside has won the T. S. Eliot Poetry Prize for a collection described as "haunting." Burnside took the £15,000 ($22,980 US) prize for his 11th collection, *Black Cat Bone*. Burnside was presented with the check by Valerie Eliot, widow of the poet, at a ceremony in London. She has funded the prize since it was launched 18 years ago.

National Archives Videos Available

For the first time, the National Archives has launched online videos of its most popular genealogy "how to" workshops. These videos cover hot topics in genealogical research such as census, immigration and military records. Now, these popular workshops, led by National Archives experts, are available on the National Archives YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives.

Every Child Ready to Read webinar

Following the release of the second edition of *Every Child Ready to Read @ your library*, ALSC and PLA are offering a new webinar to update librarians on the new product: Every Child Ready to Read: New Conversations on Research, Relationships, and Partnerships. The webinar will be offered February 16, March 8, and April 12. To register, visit http://bit.ly/znHD0V.

H. W. Wilson Renews LIS Scholarships

The H. W. Wilson Foundation has announced continuation of its support of education in library and information science with a new round of scholarship grants. This year's scholarship program, its 14th consecutive, will deliver grants of $10,000 to each of 58 ALA accredited library schools, for a total of $580,000. Grants will be distributed over four years (2012–2015). Each school will distribute its grant in accordance with its own scholarship criteria so contact should be made with individual schools. For more information please visit http://bit.ly/xA5IfC.

"Sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

Lewis Carroll
(Alice in Wonderland)

New Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Appointed

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has announced the appointment of Karen A. Keninger as the new director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). Since 2008, Keninger has been the director of the Iowa Department for the Blind, a leading provider in the United States of vocational rehabilitation and independent-living programs and library services for blind and visually impaired individuals. Prior to 2008, Keninger served as director of the Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for eight years. The North Dakota State Library Talking Book program is a part of the national NLS network and welcomes the appointment of the national service's new Director.

Upcoming State & National Conferences

PLA National Conference
March 13-17 — Philadelphia, PA

Montana Library Association Conference
April 11-14 — Big Sky, MT

American Library Association Conference
June 21-26 — Anaheim, CA

North Dakota Library Association Conference
September 26-29 — Fargo, ND

Wyoming Library Association Conference
September 26-29 — Casper, WY

South Dakota Library Association Conference
October 3-5 — Huron, SD

Nebraska Library Association and
Mountain Plains Library Association Joint Conference
October 17-19 — La Vista, NE

Top 10 Apps for Android phones

In 2011, with devices using the Android operating system reaching a dominant position in the world's smartphone market, deeper-pocketed developers turned their full attention to them. The result was a slate of new apps that can more seriously challenge Apple's best. Check them out at http://nyti.ms/z3dhaN.

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