



Talking Book Volunteers

Submitted by Steve Hammel

Did you miss your calling as a thespian?

Do people regularly say you have a nice speaking voice?

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer but aren't a "people person"?

Would you like someplace really quiet to hang out for an hour or two every week?

Are you missing something in your life but don't know what?



If you answered yes to any of the above questions, consider becoming a volunteer reader for the North Dakota State Library Talking Books program. The program provides audio books and magazines to North Dakota citizens who are unable to read printed materials due to a visual, physical, or reading impairment. We like the term print disabled.

Anyone can become a volunteer reader for Talking Books, even if you do not work or live in the Bismarck/Mandan area. All you need is a quiet space, a computer with audio recording software, and a good-quality microphone. If you do live near the capitol complex and are looking for the quiet space mentioned above, you are welcome to come use the recording booth here at the State Library.

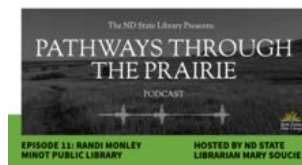
If you are interested in volunteering or would just like more information about the Talking Books program, maybe for a friend or family member, please contact NDSL Patron Services Division Director Steve Hammel at shammel@nd.gov or 701-328-4021. He will be happy to tell you all about the program and all the other services at the State Library.

[Learn More About Talking Books](#)

New Podcast Episode

Randi Monley, Children's Librarian at Minot Public Library

Episode 11 of the Pathways Through the Prairie podcast features Randi Monley, Children's Librarian at the Minot Public Library. Learn about her pathway to the library, the remodel of the children's area, and the programs the library offers to people in the community. 30 minutes



The Pathways Through the Prairie podcast features North Dakota librarians and library staff, state government leaders and employees, and interesting North Dakotans to gain insights into their work and roles in their communities.

Episodes are released every two weeks on the State Library's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/NDSLPodcast>.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.

North Dakota Memories

- Dorothy Demo and Rosemary Demo at the Turf Club, St. Paul, M.N., 1940s
- First Public Sale of Imported Percheron and Belgian Stallions and Mares, 1912
- Military portrait of Rolland W. Demo, circa 1950
- Portrait of Robert G. Thedin, circa 1947



Political Prairie Fire

- Another Good Macdonaldite Given Plum [newspaper article, 1919]
- Burtness Attacks Library [newspaper article, 1919]
- False Statements law, 1919
- Farmers Stand Behind Their Governor [newspaper article, 1920]
- House Bill 30, Special Legislative Session, 1919
- House turns down bill to look into League bank here [newspaper article, 1919]

- Mr. Taft is Learning - But Slowly [newspaper article, 1921]
- President Kane of University to Lose Post Because He Opposed Place on Faculty for Macdonald [newspaper article, 1920]
- Students Refuse to Register Until Assured of Justice in Treatment of President Kane [newspaper article, 1920]



Digital Horizons

The Art of Setting Goals

Self Paced, Online Class

+ Join this Course

North Dakota State Library

15 Lessons

17 Exams & Assignments

5 Hours average time

0.5 CEUs

Video Audit Available

Submitted by Al Peterson

Making New Years resolutions are a tradition for many. Whether it's to get into better physical shape, work on self-care, or develop a new habit or hobby. But how do you develop this resolution into a long-term achievement? You need to set goals.

The Art of Setting Goals, found in Universal Class, is a 15-lesson course that takes you through the goal setting process, whether the goals are for personal or professional development. Goals are not mere checkpoints on life's journey. They're signposts that lend meaning, direction, and purpose to our endeavors. In an era where change is constant and uncertainties abound, having clear, well-defined goals can be the anchor that keeps us grounded. These fifteen steps take you from getting started with the fundamentals of goal setting to figuring out how to make the goals sustain momentum and keep you focused.

Whether you want to set a goal as simple as finishing a morning routine or as intricate as planning a decade-long career trajectory, this course will guide you through the goal setting process.

Start Learning Today

Beanstack Reading Challenges

Be a Reading Machine (Jan. 1, 2025 - Jan. 31, 2025)

Ages: All

Ready, set, READ! We encourage readers of all ages to challenge themselves to become reading machines this winter. From Jan. 1-31, we are participating in "Be a Reading Machine," a reading challenge sponsored by Beanstack and Baker & Taylor.



We challenge our community to read and log as much as they can during the challenge to earn fun, new badges!

25 in 25 (Jan. 1, 2025 - Dec. 31, 2025)

Ages: All

Ready to dive into a year of reading? Join the 25 in 25 Reading Challenge and set a goal to read 25 books in 2025! Whether you're an avid reader or someone looking to explore new genres, this challenge is designed to inspire, motivate, and help you discover new worlds through the pages of great books.



[Beanstack](#)

A banner for "Featured Mango Language" by BreAnne Meier. It features a purple background with colorful speech bubbles containing various greetings: "KUMUSTA", "CIAO", "HI", "BONJOUR", "HELLO", and "HALLO". The text "Featured Mango Language" is prominently displayed in the center, and "By BreAnne Meier" is at the bottom right.

Featured Mango Language

By BreAnne Meier

Mandarin Chinese

The Chinese New Year, also called the Lunar New Year or the Spring Festival, begins on January 29, 2025. This fifteen-day celebration is based on the ancient Chinese calendar that was set according to the lunar phases, the solar solstices and equinoxes, and the Chinese zodiac.



The Mango Languages online resource offers a course on learning Mandarin Chinese. This course delivers a blend of learning features, exercises, and personalized review with a conversational learning process that focuses on the four skills necessary to connect in another language: grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and culture.

[Learn A New Language](#)

Digital Delight

Large snow pile on a street in Coteau, ND, early 1900s

People gather around a large pile of snow in a street in Coteau, North Dakota. Two women with skis stand on top of the snow pile. On the left, a group of men stand at the base of the pile, next to a building. The sign of a restaurant is visible in the background.



Courtesy of Digital Horizons (Gordon and Emma Anderson Collection, ND State Library)

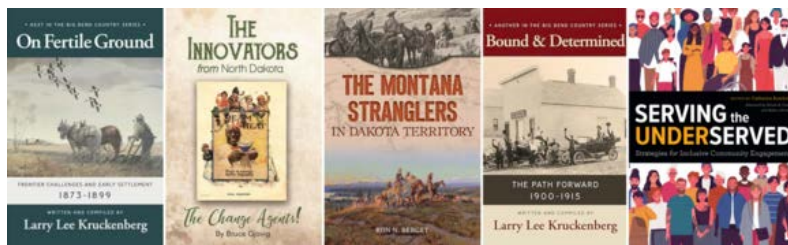
[View the Collection](#)

New Items At The ND State Library

Fiction Books



Nonfiction Books



E-Magazines



Fiction E-Books



Nonfiction E-Books



Fiction E-Audiobooks



Connections is a monthly publication of the North Dakota State Library, a Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent
Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

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To submit content ideas or articles for a future issue of Connections, please contact BreAnne at nds1pa@nd.gov. Times referenced are Central Time.

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