



**EPISODE 6: TRACI LUND
DIVIDE COUNTY PUBLIC &
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**HOSTED BY ND STATE
LIBRARIAN MARY SOUCIE**

New Podcast Episode: Traci Lund, Director of the Divide County Public and Elementary School Library

A new episode of the North Dakota State Library's podcast is out now!

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.

This episode, which premiered on Wednesday, October 16, features Traci Lund, Director of the Divide County Public and Elementary School Library. Learn about Traci's pathway to the library and how the library supports the community, which can include two states and two countries. 35 minutes.

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

Big Library Read

Get ready to embark on an enchanting journey through Washington Park, Chicago with Montgomery "Monty" Carver in *Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key*, by debut author Tracy Ocomy Crowder.

From November 7-21, Tracy Ocomy Crowder's [*Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key*](#) is available for free as an ebook and audiobook on the [Libby app](#)



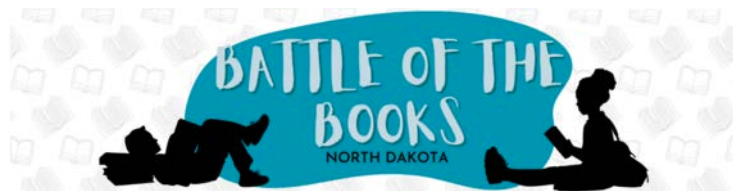
This Big Library Read novel is available through more than 22,000 libraries around the world, including approximately 90 percent of public libraries in North America, and hundreds of thousands of readers are expected to participate. The program is facilitated by [OverDrive](#), the leading digital reading platform for popular ebooks, audiobooks and magazines and creator of the Libby app.

[**More Information and Marketing Materials**](#)

Libraries And Their Impact On Quality of Life

The team at STAR Net is investigating how the concept of Quality of Life presents itself at public libraries, both in interactions with patrons, and in the everyday work of library staff. Please consider completing this short survey, which will be used to identify training resources for public library staff, as well as next steps for a research agenda.

[**Take the Survey**](#)

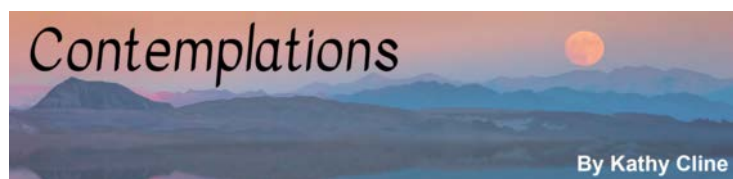


There is still time to sign up for the Battle of the Books! Schools with grades 6-8 can register by October 31 to participate in this year's battle.

Not sure what you're signing up for? Battle of the Books is a friendly competition where students read a predetermined list of books and then compete to answer trivia questions about those books. All registered schools will receive a packet of questions and answers they can use to form their battles and any other resources to have a successful competition.

If you have any questions, contact Tammy at tkruger@nd.gov or 701-328-4744.

[Learn More And Register](#)



Is There a Knowledge Gap About AI in Schools?

If you are a parent, grandparent, or someone who has Gen Alpha or Gen Z individuals in your life, you may be wondering what impact AI has or may have on their education. A survey by [Samsung Solve for Tomorrow](#) sheds light on this topic.

While 88 percent of the parents surveyed believe that AI will be critical in their child's future education and career, 81 percent either don't or are unsure whether learning about AI is part of the curriculum. The article by eSchool News states that such a high percentage of parents not knowing whether their child is learning about AI shows the need for more parental involvement in AI discussions and increased use of AI in K-12 education.

[Continue Reading](#)



Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference and Minnesota Digital Library Annual Meeting

The Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference ([#umdcc25](#)) and the Minnesota Digital Library Annual Meeting ([#mndiglib25](#)) will be held jointly on May 6–7, 2025. It will be an in-person event held in Saint Paul, Minnesota at the Union Depot.

The theme of this year's conference is "Digital Directions: Lessons Learned and Future Pathways."

Consider sharing your experience and expertise by submitting a program proposal. The planning committee has created a list of potential topics, but proposals on any topics relevant to digital collections are welcome. The deadline to submit proposals is **Friday, December 6, 2024**.

[Learn More and Submit Your Proposal](#)

Local Opportunities for Hands-on Learning About AI

Submitted by Kathy Cline

Do you want to strengthen your AI knowledge base? Do you need to earn or renew a Computer Science and Cybersecurity Credential? If so, you may be interested in attending the North Dakota AI Innovators in Education: Training Workshops. EduTech, NCCE (Northwest Council for Computer Education), Microsoft, and the North Dakota Commerce Department collaborated to host hands-on learning workshops in four different locations throughout the state.

During the Train the Trainer two-day workshop, attendees will:

- create a custom AI Resource Guide
- examine AI tools
- experiment with prompt engineering
- evaluate how AI can encourage inclusivity and personalization in education

[Learn More and Register](#)



Grand Forks City Directories

The "Grand Forks City Directories" collection features the earliest city directories of Grand Forks, North Dakota. The volumes list the residents, businesses, and organizations present in the city during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

City directories are a valuable resource for establishing the whereabouts of an individual at a certain place and time. They can provide additional biographical information, such as a person's place of residence, occupation, place of employment, and marital status. Information regarding local civic organizations and the city's elected officials is also typically listed. A separate alphabetical listing of local businesses by trade, much like a yellow page directory, is also included in each volume.

This digital collection is provided by the Grand Forks Public Library and is available on [Digital Horizons](#).



[Digital Horizons](#)

WebJunction Highlight: Data for Good

Submitted by AI Peterson

Businesses have been making use of data analytics to gain valuable insights about their services, customers, and growth opportunities. Libraries can also tap into the power of raw data to identify trends and patterns, enabling them to address issues and make informed decisions for the greater good.

WebJunction has highlighted how to harness the power of data for good.



This collection of resources and information about the project offers guidance and adaptable tools to aid any library in launching its own Data for Good initiative. With data analytics as a powerful tool, libraries can empower patrons, strengthen community organizations, and catalyze positive change. Included with these resources are a webinar recording, project curriculum, micro lesson, and case studies.

[Access This Resource](#)

PLA Public Library Staff Survey

Submitted by Monica Struck

Happy mid-October! Last week, I got an update from the Public Library Association (PLA) regarding progress of their annual survey. We currently have an 11.4% completion rate (just behind the top spot who is at 12.4%). Thank you to those who have already taken the time to fill out the survey. There is still time if you haven't been able to work on this yet. This survey is voluntary, but the data is useful for libraries all over the country. Please consider filling it out. Below is a message from PLA regarding the survey.

The [2024 Public Library Staff Survey](#) fielded by the Public Library Association is now open. Questions on this year's annual survey explore staff roles and representation, hiring and retention practices, and goals and activities aimed at creating a welcoming environment for staff and community members in libraries nationwide. Similar questions were asked on the [2021 Staff Survey](#) – the baseline year for this topic – so that we can see now in 2024 how the field has evolved. The survey updates information for beginning librarian and library director salaries – data points PLA has been collecting nationally since 2002 – and also includes a special section on accessibility of library facilities and services.

All public libraries are invited to participate in PLA's annual surveys. Log into your library's *free* [Benchmark](#) account to complete the survey. One person should submit the survey on behalf of their library – often that's the library director, administrator, or data coordinator. Libraries that complete this year's survey will be entered into a drawing to win group registration for a [live](#) or [on-demand](#) fee-based PLA webinar in 2025 (up to a \$237 value).

The survey closes **Saturday, December 14, 2024**. Take a few minutes to contribute to the national conversation about library staff roles, representation, and retention, as well as the current state of accessibility in library facilities. All inquiries and assistance required to access your library's Benchmark account should be directed to the project team at plabenchmark@ala.org.

Survey results will be released next summer via summary report, conference presentations, and online webinar. Each past years' survey report spotlights Results for Action, providing resources and illustrating how and why the data collected from these national surveys can be applied to and benefit your library. Visit the [PLA Surveys and Data](#) page to learn more.

[Take the Survey](#)

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To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.
Times referenced are Central Time.

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