



# Flickertale

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## Public Libraries Survey Changes – The Removals

Submitted by **Monica Struck**

Let's go back in time to summer when I sent an email out about the big changes coming to the Public Libraries Survey. Over the next few weeks, I'm going to break down the changes so that you are prepared for what you will and will not need to report. We will start off with the removals.

The following data items will no longer be collected on the PLS:

1. 7.7, Electronic Books
2. 7.8, Audio - Downloadable Units
3. 7.9, Video - Downloadable Units
4. 7.11, Circulation of Children's Materials
5. 7.17, Electronic Content Use
6. 7.18, Total Collection Use
7. 8.1a, Number of OLRs purchased by library
8. 8.2a, Number of OLRs purchased by consortium or group (excluding Minitex)
9. 8.3, Number of OLRs available through Minitex contract
10. 8.5, Number of OLRs purchased by NDSL
11. 8.6, Total OLRs available
12. 8.7, Successful Retrieval of Electronic Information
13. 10.5b, Website Visits

What does this big list mean?

1. You will no longer need to report the number of e-books, e-audiobooks, e-videos, and OLRs.
2. You will not need to report Successful Retrievals of Electronic Information.
3. You will not need to report Website Visits.
4. Circulation of Children's Materials will still be tracked, but under a new question.
5. Electronic Content Use and Total Collection Use will be calculated in the IMLS Public Libraries Survey Portal. This is back end, so you will not see it in Counting Opinions.

These items were removed to decrease the burden on libraries and to make the process smoother for everyone. So, feel free to celebrate!... and remember to tune in during the coming weeks. There are more changes to go over! My Christmas gift to you is to not make you think of the PLS the week of Christmas. I'll go over more changes as we move into the new year.

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## Library Stories

The North Dakota State Library is seeking true stories/accounts, quotes, and photos from North Dakota libraries and patrons to include during the 2025 Legislative Session. Please consider sharing how a service/program was beneficial to the community or a particular patron (no names for patron confidentiality).

The form can only accept stories or quotes and will close at noon on Tuesday, December 31. To share photos, please send them to BreAnne at [nds1pa@nd.gov](mailto:nds1pa@nd.gov).

[Share Your Stories](#)

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## WordPress Website Open Call

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to discuss your library's WordPress website, join the State Library's next quarterly Teams call on Monday, December 23, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM by going to <https://bit.ly/WordPressCall>.

If that day or time doesn't work for you, use the link below to book a time slot or contact me at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov) or 701-328-4656.

[Book A Time](#)

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## Trustee Training Webinars

Public Library Specialist Monica Struck will be presenting updated Trustee Training webinars. These webinars will be held every Friday at 12:15 PM from January 3 through February 21. Each presentation will last about 45 minutes and will provide time for questions. They will be recorded and available for viewing after the live session.

The first webinar on January 3 will provide a broad overview of the duties of the board, so be sure to share this information with your board members.

[Register](#)



## Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

### What's New in Niche?

A couple new tutorials have been added to Niche Academy.

Category – [Research](#)

Series: Research Essentials

New Tutorial: Addressing Counterarguments

Category – [Library Directors](#)

New Tutorial: Writing Effective Job Postings

Produced by Niche Academy

Category – [Academic Libraries](#)

New Tutorial: HIDOC: The Course Design Model for Online Modalities

A new Niche Academy webinar.

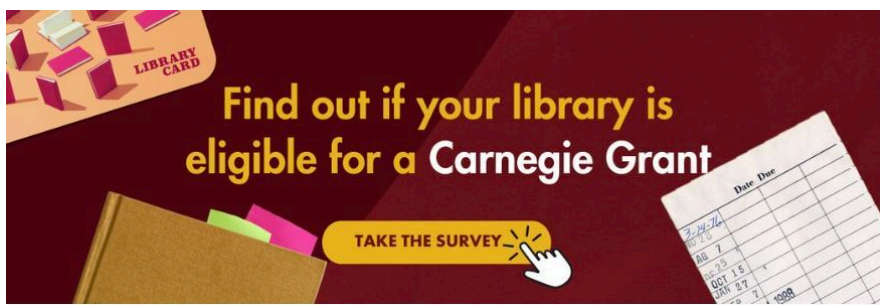
Category – [Library Staff Training and Development](#)

New Tutorial: Using Congress.gov for questions about Congress

As we close out 2024, I want to thank all of you who are using Niche Academy. Our Niche Academy is an evolving platform that continues to have content both from the North Dakota State Library staff and outside providers added for the staff and the director's professional development and library skills building. If you ever have any questions or suggestions for content, please feel free to contact me at [alpeterson@nd.gov](mailto:alpeterson@nd.gov).

[Niche Academy](#)

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**Find out if your library is eligible for a Carnegie Grant**

**TAKE THE SURVEY**

## Digital Collection Spotlight

By Trevor Martinson

### North Dakota School for the Deaf

The “North Dakota School for the Deaf” collection is a partnership between the North Dakota State Library and the North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSB). The collection contains newsletters (The Banner), biennial reports, photographs, videos, objects, and documents relating to the NDSB in Devils Lake, since its inception in the 1890s to today. The collection is available on [Digital Horizons](#).



[View the Collection](#)

## Library Tidbits

Bismarck State College's String Quartet played a pop-up concert at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

Grand Forks Public Library is looking for Grand Forks Central or Red River yearbooks that are not currently in the collection to add to their archive.

Wishek Public Library made a Christmas tree out of books.



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Any mention of services or products in this newsletter does not constitute any endorsement or recommendation. The use of any services or products should be evaluated on an individual basis.

[www.library.nd.gov](http://www.library.nd.gov)

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov).

Times referenced are Central Time.

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