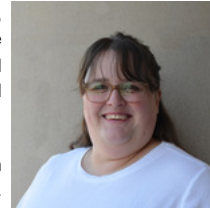


Academic, Special, and Tribal Library Specialist

Submitted by **Bethany Rants**

Hello! My name is Bethany Rants and I am the new Academic, Special, and Tribal Library Specialist with the North Dakota State Library. I am very excited to be working with the libraries and their staff in my position and assisting them extend and expand library services and helping them be as successful as possible.



A little bit about me: I was born and raised in Bismarck, North Dakota and got my MLIS from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota. I spent a year as a reference associate at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library before accepting a position as a Probation Outreach Librarian with LA County Library in sunny Los Angeles. I then spent a little bit of time in Washington state before moving back to North Dakota to accept this wonderful position. I enjoy watching baseball (huge Seattle Mariners fan) and playing video games when I'm not spending time with friends and family.

I'm looking forward to getting acquainted with all of the amazing libraries and their staff.

Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

Public Domain Day 2025

[Public Domain Day 2025](#) has come and gone. What is [Public Domain Day](#)? It's better known as New Year's Day, but it is a celebration of when copyrights expire on certain works from the past (books, movies, music, etc.) and they enter into the public domain.

What is the public domain? According to the [United States Copyright Office](#), a "work of authorship is in the 'public domain' if it is no longer under copyright protection or if it failed to meet the requirements for copyright protection. Works in the public domain may be used freely without the permission of the former copyright owner."

This year, certain works from 1929 that were copyrighted in the United States and sound recordings from 1924 enter the public domain, which means they can be freely shared, reused, copied, edited, etc.

[Continue Reading](#)



**EPISODE 12: MISTI FRINK
BISMARCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**HOSTED BY ND STATE
LIBRARIAN MARY SOUCIE**

Smokey Bear Reading Challenge Survey

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

The USDA Forest Service is excited to learn about how the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge went at your location. If you can please take just a few moments to complete the following survey, that would be greatly appreciated: <https://forms.office.com/g/QQq84KgKut>.

We kindly ask for responses by January 31st. Your responses will provide vital information regarding the program's reach across the country.

The Forest Service also welcomes any additional stories, pictures, or other information you would like to share about the challenge that you are not able to include in the survey response (just email those to rachel.bayer@usda.gov).



Celebrating International Holocaust Remembrance Day

On November 1, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating January 27, the anniversary of the Auschwitz death camp liberation, as an annual International Day of Commemoration to honor Holocaust victims. January 27, 2025, commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp liberation.

[Continue Reading](#)

Earn a Consumer Health Information Specialization

Submitted by Dani Kappel

Public librarians in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota have a unique opportunity to earn a Consumer Health Information Specialization (CHIS) for free starting this February. This program is being offered by Minitex, the University of South Dakota Wegner Health Sciences Library, and the Network of the National Library of Medicine.

Earning a CHIS allows librarians to become experts at providing health information to their communities. This cohort starts on February 18, 2025, is a 12-month program which includes asynchronous workshops, live virtual sessions, and monthly meet-ups. The program culminates in librarians receiving a Level 1 Consumer Health Information Specialization certification. Librarians will gain the knowledge and confidence needed to provide accurate health information, develop new services, and engage with their communities effectively. Space is limited, so be sure to register as soon as possible to take advantage of this valuable, free training opportunity.

[Registration](#)

Share Your Ideas for our New Bird Project

January 28, 2025, 3:00pm-5:00pm CST

Join STAR Net and Tangled Bank Studio for an informal conversation about our next big partnership! (You might remember Blue Whales, Bees, and other recent collaborations!) We want to hear about the types of programs around birds, and earth science in general, that your library is already doing, the types of collaborations you already have in place, and what supports you might need from us to expand your programming. We're especially excited about ways to make the programming we're developing easily modifiable for local interests. Whether you have a billion ideas, or just want to hear what others have to say, we invite you to join us and contribute to the co-development of this exciting new project. This conversation will be led by our three library staff advisors: Tina Meiners of the Montrose Public Library, Duy Tran of the King Public Library, and Vivienne Byrd (you see why she had to be an advisor?) of the Los Angeles Public Library System.

[Register Here](#)

Engineers Week

Engineers Week 2025 will run from February 16 to 22. This year's theme "**Design Your Future**" is about celebrating engineers and engaging students! As we celebrate the accomplishments of engineers past and present who have designed the future we currently live in, we also look to the next generation and how we can inspire kids to pursue engineering careers that will be focused on designing our future!



[Learn More](#)

WebJunction Highlight: Friends of the Library Tools and Resources

Submitted by AI Peterson

A Friends of the Library group can be a great asset to your library. A Friends group are often the leaders in fundraising, advocacy, and patron support. Friends of the Library groups are nonprofit organizations separate from the library board. Fundraising can take the shape of the traditional used book sales to host a social featuring local authors to even selling hotdogs at a community event. Your Friends group can be your library's voice in the community. Friends of the library members are often connected with other people throughout the community whether in service organizations, churches, or local government. These community networks can promote the library through advocacy and awareness. A Friends group use the funds raised to help shape patron support. For example, the funds can be used to purchase the craft supplies for the children's department or provide additional money for collection development.

WebJunction has put together a detailed list of resources that you can reference to start a Friends group or revitalize an existing one. These resources highlight United for Libraries resources and trainings as well as provide content from state libraries and associations from across the country. For those research types, a bibliography and an additional WebJunction resources are included.

Access these resources through WebJunction by clicking [Friends of the Library: Tools and resources](#). While you are there, check out other online trainings and webinars brought to you by WebJunction.

Public Libraries Survey Changes New Questions – The Thrilling Conclusion

Submitted by Monica Struck

There are a few more areas that are bringing new questions: e-materials circulation, circulation of children's physical material, and automatic renewals.

Instead of tracking a general number for electronic circulation, the Public Libraries Survey will now break it out by material type. You will be expected to report circulation of e-books, e-serials, e-audio, and e-video. IMLS specifies that circulations should only be counted if authentication is required and there is a definite loan period.

Circulation of children's physical material seems awfully similar to an existing question: Total Circulation of Children's Material. IMLS wanted to concentrate specifically on physical materials with this question.

Finally, IMLS will be tracking automatic renewals with a simple yes/no question. Automatic renewals are when your library's ILS renews items without the patron taking any action. If your library currently uses automatic renewals, answer yes. If you do not, answer no.

There are a lot of new questions this year. As with all new questions, IMLS does not expect you to be able to answer them fully in the first year. The first year is a trial run so that you have time to figure out what you need to do to collect the data as specified. For the Y/N questions, there will be an M(issing) option if the information is not available. If you do not have circulation numbers, answer -1. This lets IMLS know that the data exists, but you do not have specific numbers this year. As always, if the answer is 0, please answer 0.

And there you have it: all the exciting changes to the PLS this year. Now go forth and have fun with your data!

Girls Who Code Summer Opportunity

Submitted by Mary Soucie

We invite you to share this opportunity with your library community, especially students. You can use the links to share on social media.

Girls Who Code Summer Programs are back! 9th-12th grade female students are invited to apply.

Participants can choose the adventure that fits their vibe:

- Join the ultimate summer squad in the **Summer Immersion Program** (SIP)! Over two weeks, participants design and build their own computer games, make new friends, and connect with mentors. Plus, get insider college and career tips from industry pros—all in live virtual classrooms!
- Participants learn at their own pace with **Pathways**! They will explore cutting-edge tech like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data science through step-by-step video tutorials and real-world projects. Connect with industry pros and join an exclusive Discord community along the way!

[Apply here](#) by February 26 for priority consideration or by April 11 for the final deadline.



[Bismarck State College Library](#) suffered damage after a water heater failed and caused a flood.

[Matthew Engel at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library](#) was the first to spot an error in a new children's book and reported it to the publisher.

[Minot Public Library](#) has partnered with Roosevelt Park Zoo to check out free passes to the zoo.

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Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent
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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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