



Winter 2025 Grants

Library Vision Grant

Tribal College Library
General Grant

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Understanding the North Dakota Legislative Process

Submitted by Dani Kappel

The following is a brief summary on how the legislative process works in the state of North Dakota. The North Dakota Legislative Council has created a [guide to lawmaking](#) in North Dakota that provides a nice overview of the process.

The North Dakota Legislature meets every odd numbered year for a maximum of 180 days. The State is divided into 47 districts and each district elects two house of representative members and one senator. Legislators share ideas for bills with the North Dakota Legislative Council. The Legislative Council writes the legal jargon for the bills and assigns the bill a number based on the chamber the bill is generated in and the order in which the bill is filed. Bills that begin in the House start with 1; bills that begin in the Senate start with 2. Legislators are only given an allotted amount of time to file bills. The last day for the members of the House was January 20, 2025, and the last day for members of the Senate is January 27, 2025.

All filed bills are assigned to a committee for review. The committee debates the information on the bill, possibly adds amendments to the bill, and recommends a pass, do not pass, or an undecided to the Chamber that the bill was generated in. During committee hearings, the committee considers oral and written testimony provided by bill sponsors, other legislators, state agencies, and members of the public. Any North Dakota citizen is allowed to give testimony regarding any bill. All bills are still brought to the floor of the corresponding chamber, and all bills are voted on regardless of the committee recommendation.

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Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

By Tammy Kruger

National Wear Red Day

National Wear Red Day, held on February 7, 2025, acknowledges the importance of cardiovascular health. (This day also really kicks off American Heart Month.)

The number one killer of Americans is cardiovascular disease. This health concern caused 700,000 Americans to expire in 2022. That is approximately 1/5 of all American deaths that year (Cuevas, 2025)! On National Wear Red Day, participants wear red and take part in educational and physical activities about heart health.

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Legislative Updates

Submitted by Dani Kappel

The North Dakota State Library is following a number of bills during this 69th legislative session. Each week, we will give an update regarding the progress of the bills that may directly impact the library community.

Below are the bills that we are currently following that may directly impact the library community with a brief description of what those bills mean. To read the entire bill, see when hearings are supposed to take place for the bill, submit testimony, and view the hearings themselves, check out the [Bills and Resolution Index](#) on the North Dakota legislative branch website. Please note, this only includes the bills that have been filed as of January 21, 2025.

HB 1013: This bill appropriates funds for the 2025-2027 biennium for the State Library and its sister agencies, including the Department of Public Instruction, the School for the Deaf, North Dakota Vision Services/School for the Blind, and the Center for Distance Education.

HB 1142: The bill proposes amendments to the North Dakota Century Code to increase the statutory liability caps for political subdivisions and the state.

HB 1220: The bill establishes a North Dakota accelerated degree program aimed at preparing students for high-demand occupations. State higher education institutions can offer these programs as alternatives to traditional degrees.

HB 1254: This aligns Century Code with current NDSL practices by allowing all North Dakotans to have an NDSL library card.

HB 1353: The bill introduces limitations on property tax levies and a cap on increases by taxing districts without voter approval, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024. Cities and counties cannot override these restrictions through home rule authority.

HB 1420: The bill amends §54-24.4-05 of the North Dakota Century Code to clarify that the Library Coordinating Council only approves state funded grants except for State Aid for Public Libraries. It aligns Century Code with current practices.

HB 1561: The proposed bill seeks to add a new section to Chapter §51-07 of the North Dakota Century Code to establish liability for commercial entities that publish or distribute sexual material harmful to minors online without implementing reasonable age verification methods.

SB 2180: The bill amends §44-04-19 of the North Dakota Century Code to require public entities to include an opportunity for individuals attending a meeting to provide public comment.

SB 2219: This bill clarifies that libraries must complete the annual Public Library Survey to be eligible to receive State Aid for Public Libraries.

SB 2278: The proposed bill mandates a legislative study during the 2025-26 interim to evaluate the feasibility and desirability of requiring state agency libraries, including the state library and those at state-controlled higher education institutions, to retain copies of original versions of written materials. The study will also assess the impact of artificial intelligence on library material retention, updates, and alterations.

SB 2307: The bill proposes updates to North Dakota obscenity laws, focusing on public libraries, school districts, and state agencies to protect minors from explicit sexual material. The bill mandates digital or online resources offered to K-12 students to incorporate safety policies and technology protections.

Transitioning Graphic Novels Readers to Chapter Books

Tuesday, February 18 (3:15 PM - 4:00 PM)

Join Kathy Cline for this webinar where we will explore the vital role graphic novels play in enhancing reading skills and fostering a love for literature. If you've ever encountered the misconception that graphic novels are less valuable than traditional texts, this session is for you! Discover how these engaging stories can serve as a stepping stone for young readers, helping them build confidence and fluency as they transition to chapter books. I will share effective strategies for guiding readers through this process, ensuring they not only embrace new challenges but also enjoy the journey of reading. Don't miss this opportunity to empower the next generation of readers—register today!



[Register](#)



Celebrating National News Literacy Week

Submitted by Kathy Cline

Today, teens are bombarded with an unprecedented amount of information, and they must distinguish facts from fiction. It is imperative that young people learn how to navigate this landscape. Becoming news literate will help them do so.

In 2008, Alan C. Miller, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter, founded the News Literacy Project after visiting his daughter's middle school classroom. The NLP is a nonpartisan organization that offers news literacy instruction for educators and students.

February 3-7, 2025, is the sixth annual National News Literacy Week. Throughout the week, educators are encouraged to teach critical thinking skills that aid young people in locating credible information from trusted sources.

[Continue Reading](#)

Upcoming Trustee Training Sessions

Don't miss our upcoming Trustee Training sessions. Each session will be from 12:15 PM to 1:00 PM.

February 7 = [Policies](#)

One of the duties of the Board is to adopt policies for the library. Learn more about how policies are developed, what makes a good policy, and what policies you need.

February 14 = [Human Resources](#)

As the library board, you are the library director's direct supervisor. Learn about the hiring process, performance evaluation, and more!

February 21 = [Advocacy](#)

An unwritten part of the library board job description is to become a library advocate. Learn more about what successful advocacy looks like.

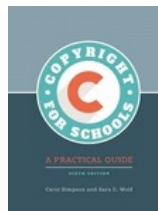
[Upcoming Webinars](#)

New Library Science Books

Submitted by Kathy Cline

The State Library has recently purchased two new resources for school libraries.

Copyright for Schools: A Practical Guide Sixth Edition, written by Carol Simpson and Sara E. Wolf, is an excellent resource for librarians and educators seeking updated information on copyright regulations. With over three hundred pages and twenty chapters, this book covers too many topics to list. Here are a few examples:



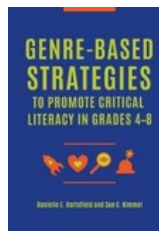
- Copyright law—TEACH Act, rights, penalties, duration of, etc.
- Fair use—definition, examples, guidelines, and more
- Print, audiovisual, music, multimedia materials in schools — covered activities, affected rights, guidelines, etc.
- Distance learning, computer software, and the internet — resources for understanding, special rules, and more
- Exemptions for school libraries and students with disabilities
- Over ten appendices with resources such as a/an — compliance agreement, list of dos and don'ts, warning notice, reporting form, and much more

New topics addressed in this edition include:

- Use of streaming services
- Links to online tools for using copyrighted materials
- How to respond to cease and desist letters
- Music Modernization Act
- Discussion of open resources such as Creative Commons licenses

Check out this resource today! [Copyright for Schools: A Practical Guide Sixth Edition](#)

Genre-Based Strategies to Promote Critical Literacy in Grades 4-8, written by Danielle E Hartsfield and Sue E. Kimmel, provides librarians and teachers with strategies and resources to teach critical literacy in the library and classroom. This skill, taught through children's literature, requires students to question the texts they read. When applying critical literacy, students ask questions such as,



- "What am I reading?"
- "Who wrote this text and why?"
- "How does the text position me and others?"

The first chapter in this book explains critical literacy and its importance. The remaining chapters present information about genres, including nonfiction, historical fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, picture books, and graphic novels. The authors also include a lesson plan for each genre discussed.

You will find this new resource very useful for yourself and a means to collaborate with classroom teachers. Don't wait to check this title out, reserve it today! [Genre-Based Strategies to Promote Critical Literacy in Grades 4-8](#)

[Reserve Them Today](#)

School Library Chat with Kathy Cline

Tuesday, February 25 (3:15 PM - 3:45 PM)

As the idiom goes, "Two heads are better than one." It can be easier to solve problems or generate ideas in a group setting rather than alone. This half-hour session is an opportunity for school librarians to share ideas, resources, and news (both good and not-so-good), as well as to provide professional support. These chats will not be recorded. Join me once a month to discuss any topics related to the school librarian world.

[Register](#)



ND Tax

It's that time again, Tax Season. Before you all start booing me, let me speak to you about the ND Tax website. ND Tax has all the resources you will need for your patrons to file their North Dakota taxes. On the Tax Department website, you can find just about all state tax forms at <https://www.tax.nd.gov/forms>. Also included on the ND Tax site are guidelines needed for filing taxes, withholding taxes, filing property tax, motor fuel tax, and Sales and Use Tax. There's information for individuals, businesses, local government, software developers, tax professionals, and North Dakota homeowners who can file their Primary Resident Property Tax Credit from this site!

If you have one of your patrons who is thinking about starting a business, refer them to the ND Tax website for all their business tax responsibilities. Your patrons can set up a ND TAP (Taxpayer Access Point) that will provide them with a means of paying online, update addresses and corporate officers, look up refunds, and apply to fuel and alcohol licenses. Check out the ND Tax website at <https://www.tax.nd.gov/> and see how this website can help your patrons looking for tax forms or state tax information.



[Cassellton Public Library](#) received \$500 grant from Rob-See-Co. The money will be used to update non-fiction and fiction books related to agriculture crops (specifically corn and soybeans), farm equipment, and family farms for patrons of all ages.

Lake Region Public Library Foundation awarded the [Lake Region Public Library](#) \$14,200 to complete their interior painting project.

[Walhalla Public Library](#) received a donation of over 1000 books from Frank White.

The Flickertale is a weekly publication of the North Dakota State Library, a Division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

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Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian
ISSN: 1068-5383

This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library.

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

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

Times referenced are Central Time.

Some of these resources and programs are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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