



Flickertale

Volume 104 · Issue 1 · February 6, 2025



The Public Libraries Survey is open and ready for data submissions. If you have any questions or need assistance, contact Monica at 701-328-4680 or mcstruck@nd.gov.

[Learn More About the Survey](#)

Pathways Through the Prairie

Episode 13: Julie Herbel, Director of the New Town City Library

North Dakota State Librarian Mary Soucie sits down with Julie Herbel, Director of the New Town City Library, on this episode of the Pathways Through the Prairie podcast.

Learn more about her pathway to the library, her favorite library program, and the unique items the New Town City Library checks out to the community.



Podcast episodes can be found on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/NDSLPodcast>. The podcast features North Dakota librarians and library staff.

If you are interested in being interviewed by Mary, contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov to be added to the schedule.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

Training Assessment Needs Surveys

Submitted by Al Peterson

For most of my professional career as a librarian at the North Dakota State Library, I have been involved in training librarians in one way or another. I have traveled the state from east to west, north and south and parts in between conducting in-person trainings at libraries and schools. I have been hosting webinars for over 15 years, starting in 2009.



We want to provide the best training possible, on topics you want to learn about, at the times and days that best fit your busy schedule. These surveys are designed to help us gauge what training opportunities people are interested in and how to deliver that training to meet your professional development needs.

I appreciate your time and your support.

[Public Libraries](#)

[School Libraries](#)

Legislative Update

Submitted by Dani Kappel

Last week we listed summaries of bills that may have an impact on libraries throughout North Dakota. Here are the updates of those bills as of February 3, 2025.



HB 1013: There have been three hearings regarding this bill. It has not hit the House Chamber floor yet. 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: This bill left the Political Subdivisions committee with a 13-0-0 Do Pass as originally written. It passed on the House chamber floor with 86 yeas and 1 nay. It has now been sent to the Senate for a vote. 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 left the Education committee with a 9-5-0 Do Pass. It passed on the House chamber floor with 73 yeas and 15 nays as of 01/31/2025. 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: The bill has left the Political Subdivisions committee with a 11-1-1 Do Pass as of 01/31/2025. This aligns Century Code with current NDSL practices by allowing all North Dakotans to have an NDSL library card.

HB 1353: There was a Finance and Taxation committee hearing regarding this bill on 01/27/2025. There were no decisions made regarding the bill. 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 has left the Finance and Taxation committee with a 12-0-2 Do Pass. It passed on the House chamber floor with 92 yeas and 2 nays. It has been sent to the Senate. 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: There is a Judiciary committee hearing scheduled for 02/04/2025. 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: There was a State and Local Government committee hearing for this bill on 01/24/2025. No action was taken during the hearing. 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: The bill has left the State and Local Government committee hearing with a 6-0-0 Do Pass. It has passed on the Senate chamber floor with 46 yeas and 0 nays. It has now been sent to the House. 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 bill has left the Education committee hearing with a 4-0-2 Do Pass after receiving an amendment to include the fiscal and collection management impact on libraries within this study. It passed on the Senate chamber floor with 44 yeas and 1 nay. It has been sent to the House. 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 has been assigned to the Judiciary committee. A hearing has not been scheduled yet. Mary Soucie will submit neutral testimony on behalf of the State Library. 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.

Upcoming North Dakota State Library Webinars

Submitted by Al Peterson

February is turning out to be busy like January was as far as our upcoming webinars. Our Public Library Specialist, Monica Struck, is still knocking out webinars for our Trustee Training series. Check out what's coming up this month!

[Trustee Training: Policies](#)

February 7 (12:15 PM -1:00 PM)

[Trustee Training: Human Resources](#)

February 14 (12:15 PM -1:00 PM)

[Trustee Training: Advocacy](#)

February 21 (12:15 PM -1:00 PM)

In addition to Monica wrapping up the Trustee Training series, other staff are presenting the following webinars:

[Transitioning Graphic Novel Readers to Chapter Books](#)

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

[School Library Chat](#)

February 25 (3:15 PM – 3:45 PM)

This one will be a monthly chat session.

[Public Library Director Hangout: Public Libraries Survey Drop In Q&A](#)

February 26 (1:00 PM -2:00 PM)

[Resources That You Can Use to Support English as a Second Language for Students and Patrons](#)

February 27 (3:00 PM - 3:45 PM)

For more details about our webinars or to check out all the great webinar opportunities available this month, go to <https://www.library.nd.gov/traininglibraries>.

Events Calendar



[Alfred Dickey Public Library](#) had over 100 entries of artwork from children and adults for display in their 2025 Tiny Art Show.

[Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library](#) is offering [LEGO kits](#) for kids to make their own Dala Horse on February 9. They will be hosting a [pet therapy hangout](#) on February 12. They have announced a [dedicated section](#) to spotlight books by North Dakota authors. They are starting a ["Discover a New Hobby"](#) event, with the first featured hobby being Bridge Card Games.

[Cavalier Public Library](#) hosted their annual Evening of Poetry with over 15 attendees, some of whom shared verses that held personal meaning to them.

[Dickinson Area Public Library](#) ran the My Golden Valentine program, which had Dickinson residents make Valentine's Day cards that were delivered and distributed to residents of local nursing homes.

[Dickinson Public Schools](#) were awarded \$86,100 in grant awards from the Dickinson Public Schools Foundation, including \$36,000 for Specialized Library Collections for ELL Students.

[Fargo Public Library](#) is hosting a [series of women-directed films](#) during the month of February. They are also seeking submissions for its ninth annual [Northern Narratives](#) winter writing project for adults and teens.

Almost 500 students from across North Dakota have visited the [Heart of America Library](#) in Rugby to see the "Americans and the Holocaust" exhibit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The exhibit will be at the Heart of America Library until Saturday, February 22.

Upcoming WebJunction Webinars

[Turn Strategy into Action with Theory of Change](#)

February 26 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Learn how to use Theory of Change to align your library's vision, drive strategy, and support flexible, collaborative implementation.

[Embracing Neurodiversity: Cultivating an Inclusive Workplace for Neurodivergent Staff](#)

March 4 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

Learn about neurodiversity and discover strategies for fostering an inclusive workplace that embraces the strengths of neurodivergent staff.



"A Complete Guide to Training Library Staff: From Onboarding to Offboarding" by Emily Leachman and A. Garrison Libby

"Because library services and resources can change rapidly, ongoing training is an important aspect of library operations. Training can be a particular challenge at large, multi-branch library systems, because it can be difficult to ensure all staff are able to receive the relevant information.



"Written for library managers and training leaders, *A Complete Guide to Training Library Staff* presents a comprehensive lifecycle for staff development with a focus on tools and techniques to build a sustainable training program, set staff up for success in their positions, and develop a positive and supportive community across the library..."

"This practical guidebook helps managers and trainers develop a comprehensive plan that allows new staff to quickly become acquainted with the operations of the library, provides ongoing training to make staff aware of new procedures and services, and creates a collaborative and supportive training environment to empower staff to learn and lead." - Amazon

[Check It Out](#)

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 Histories](#)

- 75th Anniversary, Norman Lutheran Church, Tioga, North Dakota: 1908-1983

[North Dakota Memories](#)

- Baptist Church, Stanley, N.D.
- Enander family horse-drawn school bus, 1946
- Hotel in Warwick, N.D., circa 1910-1929
- Pages from Milton Enander's diary, 1953
- Richardson-King family on steps of a house, June 1914
- Wedding portrait of Ruben and Hilma Enander, 1921



[Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Thomas H. Foley and Carl R. Kositzky examine the Red Flame
- Townley's beehive [political cartoon, 1920]



[Digital Horizons](#)

The Flickertale is a weekly 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
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.



Stay Connected with North Dakota State Library:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe All](#) | [Help](#)