

Library Vision Strategic Plan 2024-2027

Introduction

The Library Vision grant program is funded through general fund dollars included in the North Dakota State Library's budget. The State Library develops the grant guidelines and the application process, in conjunction with the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council. The goal of the Library Vision grant program is to empower North Dakota libraries to be catalysts for positive change by providing strategic funding to enhance their capacity to deliver essential services, foster community engagement, and drive innovation.

The Library Coordinating Council approves Library Vision grant applications in accordance with North Dakota Century Code §54-24.4-03.

The goals and objectives of LV2024 are not ranked or prioritized.

Goal 1: Strengthen the Library Network Statewide

Expand access to library resources and services for all residents by fostering collaboration among libraries and supporting the development of new library services.

Goal 2: Strengthen Library Collections and Services

Expand and improve library collections and services to meet the evolving needs of the community the library serves by supporting literacy, programming, community engagement, resource sharing, and digital initiatives.

Goal 3: Enhance Library Workforce Capacity

Strengthen the library workforce by supporting professional growth, leadership development, and skill enhancement among library staff and board members.

Goal 4: Enhance Library Facilities and Technology

Improve library infrastructure and technology to create safe, accessible, and welcoming spaces that support the needs of all patrons and staff.

Appendix A:
History and Development of the Library Vision Strategic Plan

2004

In October of 1995, in consultation with the State Library staff and the officers of NDLA, Eric Sakariassen, Chair of the ND Governor's Advisory Council on Libraries, formed a Library Study Steering Committee to discuss concerns and issues within the state's library community. The goal was to present a clear picture of where North Dakota library services stood at the time and how they might look in the future. From the beginning, committee participants took it upon themselves to go beyond these initial directives and defined a set of priorities in a planning document for statewide library services which is entitled Library Vision 2004. The committee met six times, sponsored four statewide open forums, two in Bismarck, one each in Minot and Carrington, and created as many as five working subcommittees in preparing recommendations.

Library Vision 2004 included objectives and recommendations to meet those objectives for six interdependent priorities necessary in providing what was identified as essential library services in North Dakota in the year 2004 and beyond. The plan was designed to fit an eight-year time frame, spreading implementation across four legislative bienniums. Library Vision 2004 recommendations were made to improve North Dakota Libraries and to enhance citizen access to information services in support of education, life-long learning, and economic vitality. The purpose of Library Vision 2004 was to provide people with improved access to information in a welcoming environment where they could obtain the guidance of trained librarians.

2010

The NDLCCL held a meeting in Carrington, ND, on March 7, 2002. At that meeting the NDLCCL decided to continue the process of examination and revision that actually had been happening since Library Vision 2004 first came into existence, and to create a new document ultimately to be called Library Vision 2010. North Dakota's library community was invited to participate in "Think Tanks" held in Minot and Valley City. Approximately 50 people attended each session and both sessions demonstrated how interested and concerned the library community was about the future of the state's libraries and librarians.

Using creative ideas generated from these sessions and from documents such as Library Vision 2004, Century Code, the Think Tanks, and NDLCCL minutes, the NDLCCL created a draft of Library Vision 2010. This draft was widely distributed to the library community. NDLCCL sought additional feedback via e-mail and with an additional meeting in Dickinson, ND. NDLCCL considered, evaluated, and incorporated this feedback into the final document. The NDLCCL accepted and adopted Library Vision 2010 on November 15, 2002.

2014

At the October 24, 2013, meeting of the NDLC, they discussed previous Think Tank outcomes and if they were beneficial in the Library Vision re-write. The Think Tanks had good attendance when the last Library Vision plan was developed. Locations for future Think Tank sessions were discussed and Dickinson, Bismarck, Fargo, Minot, and Grand Forks were identified as potential sites. It was decided that spring would be a better time to hold Think Tank sites around the state. The library community was invited to give feedback on the draft document by attending a series of Think Tanks hosted at the four locations throughout the state or directly to State Library staff via email or phone. A Think Tank was also held for the NDSL staff. Over 80 members of the library community attended the Think Tanks to make suggestions and share feedback on the document. The draft version was shared with the North Dakota library community via the North Dakota State Library's website and email to various mailing lists utilized throughout the state. The Coordinating Council reviewed a second draft of the document at their meeting held May 14-15 in Bismarck. The document was shared with the library community a second time along with an invitation to provide feedback. The NDLC adopted the final version of Library Vision 2014 on July 30, 2014. The document was effective on January 1, 2015.

2020

The NDLC met on February 5, 2014, to discuss and finalize the time span for the next Library Vision document update. The NDLC held a series of focus groups across the state in the fall of 2019. A subcommittee was formed to update the document. The NDLC reviewed the document in February of 2020. The new document was shared with the library community via the State Library's website, email, and Flickertale articles. The library community offered feedback in March-April of 2020. The NDLC adopted the new version in May of 2020 with an effective date of July 1, 2020. The Council voted to remove the date from the document name.

2024

The NDLC appointed a subcommittee to work with NDSL on revising and updating the document. The subcommittee recommended a new format, listing goals with no objectives. The draft was presented to the NDLC at the August 2024 meeting. The NDLC suggested some slight revisions to the goals. The document was shared with the library community via the NDSL website, email, social media and the Flickertale newsletter in September-October. The Council reviewed the feedback and adopted the final version of the document at their November 2024 meeting with an effective date of January 1, 2025.