

Today's Skills for Tomorrow's Services

October 18, 2024

Program Descriptions and Presenter Information

9:15 AM – 11:00 AM Main Room Keynote: Understanding Bias

Speaker: Jordan Laducer-Dix

Jordan Laducer-Dix serves as the Community Engagement Special Populations Coordinator at the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services through the Community Engagement Unit. His role focuses on leading outreach to underserved special population communities to better understand needs, facilitate information sharing and improve health outcomes while working with local health units and community organizations to address health inequities in North Dakota. Jordan is a Minnesota State University Moorhead graduate and is certified in Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in the Workforce through Cornell University. Jordan is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Jordan serves as the department co-chair of the BeYOU Health Advisory Board through the Community Engagement Unit, the North Dakota Hepatitis C Advisory Council through the Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Diseases Unit, is a voting board member of the National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors and was recently the first North Dakotan and first Indigenous person to be accepted into the 2023-2024 Minority Leadership Program through the National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors. Jordan has worked within the public health sector for 13 years and serves as a liaison between the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and Special Populations to promote access to health services across North Dakota.

11:05 AM – 12:00 AM Main Room Discussion: Intellectual Freedom

Speaker:

Mary Soucie has almost 30 years' experience as a librarian. She has served as the North Dakota State Librarian since January 2014. In addition to the State Library, Mary has also worked in public and school libraries; as the Youth Services Consultant for a Regional Library System; and was also an adjunct professor at a community college teaching Reader's Advisory and Adult Programs. She has served as a trustee for both a public library and an Illinois Regional Library System. She has served in many volunteer capacities, both within the library community and her own community. Mary believes that libraries serve as community centers, connecting all the parts of the community that they serve.

LUNCH BREAK

Breakout Room 1: 1:05 PM – 1:55 PM Present and Future School Libraries

What are school librarians experiencing in school libraries today? What will future school libraries look like? How can librarians prepare for the future?

Join this collaborative session as we explore topics such as library funding, student engagement, reading habits, book bans, collaborating with faculty, and administration support. We will discuss the current circumstances on these topics and how they may change in the future.

Attendees will be encouraged to share experiences and ideas!

Speaker:

Kathy joined the State Library in November of 2021 as a copy cataloger. January of 2023, she began working as the State Library Academic, Special, and Tribal Library Specialist. Kathy previously worked as an educator and school librarian.

Kathy and her husband Wayne ranch south of Beulah. They have four children and four grandchildren~~referred to as “grands”, and six “grandpets”~~they are referred to as “fur therapy”.

Breakout Room 2: 1:05 PM – 1:55 PM A.I. Guidelines for K-12

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing education, offering school librarians a powerful new tool to transform the way they support student learning, manage resources, and streamline daily operations. From automating routine tasks to personalizing student research experiences, AI has the potential to free up valuable time—allowing librarians to focus on fostering critical thinking and nurturing a love of learning.

However, effective implementation of AI requires more than simply introducing new technology; it demands intentional planning and alignment with the core values of school libraries—promoting literacy, equity, digital citizenship, and access to information. In this session, we’ll explore the human-AI-human workflow, ensuring that AI serves as an assistive tool without losing the critical human oversight that makes libraries essential.

Through interactive scenarios, we’ll discover how AI can help automate processes such as cataloging, policy writing, lesson implementation, and resource recommendations, all while maintaining the librarian’s vital role as a guide, curator, and mentor. Join us to learn practical strategies for integrating AI into your library while preserving the heart of your work: human connection and intellectual exploration!

Speaker:

Steve Snow has spent over 21 years in the US Air Force working on deployable communications systems. After retirement, Steve joined NDDPI and spent 8 years as the director of the Management Information System unit. He then spent 4 years in the private sector working as a software manager before returning to DPI. Steve is now the System Integration Specialist at DPI. Steve has a bachelor’s degree in computer science and a master’s in information management.

Kelsie Seiler has been a dedicated advocate for education at the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction for over seven years. With a

strong academic foundation in English Language Literature and School Librarianship, Kelsie brings a unique blend of passion for literacy and technology in education. Currently serving in the Office of School Approval & Opportunity, she leads the innovative AI in Education initiative, helping schools harness the power of artificial intelligence to enhance learning. Kelsie also oversees key areas, including administrator and school librarian credentialing, school board training, and school time waivers—ensuring educational leaders are equipped to foster student success in today’s evolving educational landscape. Kelsie is excited to share her insights with fellow library education professionals dedicated to shaping the future of school libraries and beyond!

**Breakout Room 1: 2:05 PM – 2:55 PM Talking books for library staff
What you need to know to assist your patrons.**

What do you do when you encounter a student or patron who is struggling to read due to a visual, cognitive, or physical impairment? What resource is already available to meet their reading needs today and in the future? The answer to both questions is the Talking Books program available through the North Dakota State Library.

Join NDSL Patron Services Director Steve Hammel for an overview of the program, who qualifies, and how to get students or patrons signed up for services.

Speaker:

Steve Hammel has been Patron Services Director at the North Dakota State Library since June of 2022. The Patron Services department provides circulation, research assistance, and interlibrary loan to individuals, state employees, and libraries of all types across the state. The Talking Books program, which provides services to individuals who are blind or print disabled, is part of the department as well. Prior to coming to the State Library, he was the director of the Valley City Public Library for nine years. Additionally, he has worked as a branch manager and reference librarian in Louisiana, and as a children’s librarian and reference librarian in Kentucky. He is currently the servant of two cats; Beauty, who is the best and most beautiful kitty ever and Bert, who is a bit of a jerk on a regular basis.

Breakout Room 2: 2:05 PM – 2:55 PM Battle of the Books

The 2nd ND Battle of the Books competition is ready to begin! Join Tammy as she talks about the competition, go over the titles for this year's battle, and answers any questions you might have about implementing this into your school library programming! Remember, this year's Battle of the Books is still open only to sixth through eighth grade students.

Speaker:

Tammy Kruger is the Literacy Specialist at North Dakota State Library. She has her MEd, Concentration in Library and Information Technologies from Valley City State University, and her MLIS from San Jose State University. Tammy has worked in various types of libraries, as well as taught early childhood.

Breakout Room 1: 3:05 PM – 3:55 PM Free Resources for Professional Development

Professional development is so important to us and our staff to keep up on rising trends in libraries, to get a handle on the basics, or to develop new programs for our patrons. Often, we find ourselves not able to attend a scheduled webinar, either because it does not fit our busy schedules, or it has a fee that we can't afford to pay. This session will explore a variety of free training opportunities that can be taken at your own pace when time allows you or your staff to squeeze in some time for professional development.

Speaker:

Al Peterson has been with the North Dakota State Library since 2000. He has held various positions in Public Services and Training. Currently, he is the Outreach Specialist for the North Dakota.

Breakout Room 2: 3:05 PM – 3:55 PM Copyright and Libraries: Special Exemptions vs. Fair Use

Most librarians and educators are familiar with Fair Use and know educational institutions have some special exemptions from copyright, but do you remember which is which? Knowing the difference is important when advising patrons and students. A portion of the presentation will allow for a question-and-answer period to discuss current topics such as A.I. or whatever topics attendees would like to discuss.

Speaker:

James W. Murphy is the Grants Coordinator at the North Dakota State Library working with grants and statistics in the Library Development department. He has a background in library consulting, reader advisory, and public services. James holds undergraduate degrees in psychology and religious studies and a master's degree in library and information science. When not reading non-fiction or random Wikipedia articles, James enjoys the great outdoors, music, dancing, cycling, and, kayaking.