

Connections



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New Year, New Goals

by Mary Soucie, State Librarian

Welcome to 2021. I think we were all ready to say goodbye to 2020 and hello to 2021. Many of us are looking forward to later in the year when we can return to some semblance of normalcy by spending time with loved ones and enjoying activities once again. I know I am looking forward to that! This is a great time to reflect on what changes you want to incorporate this year. One takeaway from 2020 for many is a sharpening of what's really important. For me, one of those things is reading. I admit to struggling in the early part of 2020 with reading, and many of my librarian friends did as well. I am happy to say that I've already finished an e-book and an audiobook this year. Yay to once again being able to focus on reading.

Many of my friends that are readers set an annual reading goal. I've never done that, although I'm always impressed when people do. I've also never tracked how many books I've read in one year. One friend of mine set a goal last year to read through the alphabet. I think this is a fun goal. I am going to set a goal to read through the alphabet and to track the books that I read this year as well as what format they're in. So far this year, I've finished an audiobook and an e-book and started a physical book. It will be interesting to see how many books I read this year. I invite you to set a reading goal for this year and to track your progress. You may be surprised by what you can accomplish.

I love talking books, so if you'd like to share what you're reading, you can email me at msoucie@nd.gov or tweet at me at [NDSLmarysoucie](https://twitter.com/NDSLmarysoucie).

Ebooks and Audiobooks Available With Your State Library Card

The North Dakota State Library recently transitioned its digital collection from RBDigital to OverDrive as a member of the North Dakota Digital Library Consortium. North Dakota residents with State Library cards can now browse, borrow, and read a greater selection of ebooks and audiobooks through the Libby reading app for free.



"The State Library is looking forward to partnering with the Library2Go consortium and OverDrive," says State Librarian Mary Soucie. "We believe this is the best solution to provide a wide variety of e-books in multiple formats as well as e-magazines to North Dakota citizens. Having one collection instead of two will make access easier for patrons."

The Libby app is compatible with all major computers and devices, iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phones and tablets, and Chromebook™. All titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period, so there are no late fees or fines. Items can be downloaded for offline use.

To get started enjoying ebooks and audiobooks, visit <https://ndlibrary2go.overdrive.com> or download the Libby app today. You will need to know your library card number and your pin, which is usually your last name in all lowercase letters.

Ancestry Library Edition Available at Home



Are you interested in discovering your family history but unsure where to start? If you have a library card from a local library or the North Dakota State Library, you now have access to Ancestry Library Edition at home through March 31, 2021.

Ancestry Library Edition gives you instant access to a wide range of unique resources for genealogical and historical research. With billions of historical documents and millions of photos, this resource offers the most comprehensive genealogical information available online. Search through immigration, census, family histories, court records, directories, military records, photos, and more to discover new things about your ancestors.

Access Ancestry Library Edition under the Databases tab at www.library.nd.gov today! If you need a library card, visit your local library or fill out the online application available on the State Library's website to receive a library card through the mail.

For more information, please contact the State Library at 701-328-4622 / 1-800-472-2104 or statelib@nd.gov.

Blind Date With a Book

Blind Date With a Book begins on February 1. This year, we'll be doing it a little differently.

If you would like to participate in this fun event, send an e-mail to ndsipa@nd.gov stating:

- Fiction or nonfiction
- Large print or regular print
- How you would like to receive the book (mail, interdepartmental mail, or curbside pickup).

Once you have completed the book, please fill out the "Rate Your Date" card and return it to the library before March 1 to be eligible for a prize.

Top Ten Languages Available on Mango Languages

Levantine Arabic
Italian
Finnish
ESL for Vietnamese speakers
Hawaiian
Polish
Spanish, Castilian
Swahili
Vietnamese
Chinese, Cantonese

Are you interested in learning a new language? Sign up for [Mango Languages](#) today with your library card from your local public library or the State Library.

January Course of the Month [Emotional Intelligence](#)

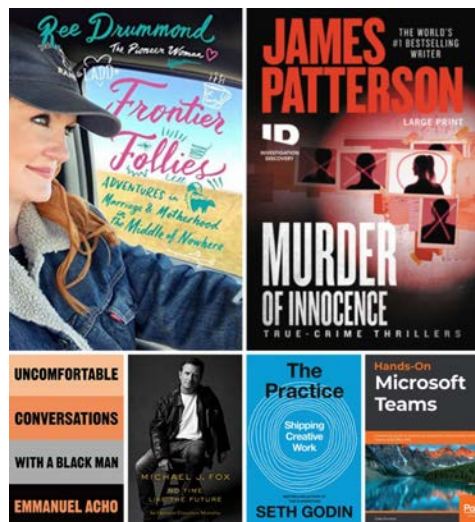
What is Emotional Intelligence? Most people are familiar with IQ or Intellectual Quotient, but EQ, or Emotional Quotient, is rising in importance in leadership and managerial studies. Emotional Intelligence is generally considered to be an objective measurement of an individual's ability to function within social or group settings by doing such things as reading the emotions of other people, responding to the needs of those people as appropriate, and being able to effectively communicate their own needs. Many people become interested in Emotional Intelligence because they want to be savvier with others, but a major aspect of EQ is about knowing your own feelings, understanding your own motivations, and recognizing your own challenges.



If this topic sounds interesting to you, Universal Class offers a course on studying Emotional Intelligence. This course is broken down into 11 lessons with 13 exams and assignments. The course averages about five hours to complete.

New Items Available at the North Dakota State Library

New Nonfiction Books



New Fiction Books



New E-Books



New E-Audiobooks



New North Dakota Books



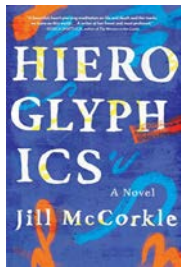
Public Domain 2021

Every January 1, certain works are no longer protected by copyright and fall into the public domain, where they become free for all to use and build upon. This year, works copyrighted in 1925 include books such as *The Great Gatsby* by Fitzgerald, *In Our Time* by Hemingway, silent films featuring Buster Keaton, and music ranging from the jazz standard *Sweet Georgia Brown* to songs by Fats Waller.

[Learn more](#) about the public domain and the importance of accessing our cultural heritage.

New Book Club Kit

Hieroglyphics by Jill McCorkle



This month, we are highlighting one of the State Library's newest book club kits: *Hieroglyphics* by Jill McCorkle.

McCorkle's latest hit showcases her talent as a novelist as she delicately pieces together multiple family histories and layers of secrets and emotional turmoil. *Hieroglyphics* follows the story of Lil and Frank, a couple that has been together and grown their marriage and family while harboring a wish to better know the parents that they lost when they were younger. Now retired, Lil is writing a history for her own children and Frank is repeatedly visiting his former home and visiting the family that lives there now. McCorkle explores family relationship and what it means to be a father, mother, or child while simultaneously having her characters and the reader question what shapes history and their memories.

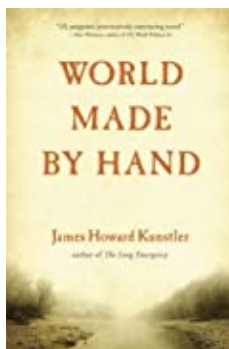
"I am homesick, and I am timesick...I miss all that no longer is." —Jill McCorkle.

This kit comes with ten books, one discussion guide, and one sign-in sheet.

Kits can be checked out for eight weeks and reserved up to one year in advance. Book club kits can check out to libraries or individual patrons; no more than three kits can be checked out at one time. To see when this book club is next available, check out [KitKeeper](#).

Book Review

"World Made by Hand" by James Howard Kunstler Reviewed by AI Peterson



A pandemic, record unemployment, a tanking oil market, spiraling federal debt, climate change, parts of the country destroying crops while other parts had mile-long lines for food banks, and inept leadership from government leaders is the type of collapse explored in Kunstler's seminal work, *The Long Emergency*. *World Made By Hand* and the following three books that make up the series fictionalizes the talking points of *The Long Emergency* and depict what life might look like in a post-collapse America.

No, this book isn't about bands of roaming cannibals as in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* or purple Mohawk bikers in buttlless leather pants terrorizing the highways as in *The Road Warrior*. The apocalyptic future presented in *World Made By Hand* is about the localization of the local economy based mainly on agriculture. The backyard garden is no longer a political statement against the 1,000-mile tomato; it's the difference between eating and starving.

The town of Union Grove compresses back into the 18th century and finds itself in slow decay. The main characters must find a way out of the past and accept their new future. Whether it's the landowner, Stephen Bullock, who used his family's wealth to buy up surrounding farms and land to create his own fiefdom; Brother Jobe, who leads his flock of religious zealots to Union Grove in search of a promised land; Robert Earle, who traded in his business casual and tech executive job for work clothes and carpenter's hand tools; the Rev. Loren Holder, who continues his role as a spiritual guide for Union Grove and also takes on the role of town constable; or Wayne Karp, whose merry band of former bikers and misfits found trade in salvage rather than drugs, each character in the novel shares one major characteristic in surviving in a post-collapse America.

You need to find new skills and a purpose, or else you wither away. Yes, it gets tedious with descriptions of what each person did before things collapsed, and the supernatural elements of Brother Jobe and Matriarch, Mary Beth, are distracting. The book does offer an insight into what may come if all the perfect storm takes down our modern technology-based society, and we're left living in a world made by hand.

World Made By Hand is available from the [State Library](#).

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