

Public Libraries Survey - Edit Checks

Submitted by Monica Struck

You have just spent a billion hours inputting your data into the Public Libraries Survey. Your data is a thing of beauty. You have added notes wherever you were prompted to do so. Everything is perfect. You pause to admire your work and click Verify...which is when all hell breaks loose. Suddenly there is red everywhere, and you won't get to submit until you have addressed everything. Edit checks aren't just here to ruin your "finished with the PLS" dreams. They play an important role.

The edit checks that pop up as you are filling out the PLS are a reminder in the moment to double check your numbers. It is easy to invert numbers, put numbers in the wrong box, just put in the same number as last year to save time...we've all been there. The edit check gives you an opportunity to give details about what is going on at your library that is affecting your numbers. Did you just complete a renovation which drove up your door count? Did your children's librarian go on maternity leave so you had half the number of programs? This is your opportunity to provide context.

Public Libraries Survey

[Click here to learn more!](#)



The edit checks that pop up at the verification stage are usually identifying unreconcilable errors that need to be addressed. It isn't always obvious what is triggering the edit check. When you run into these, first look at the areas specified by the edit check. Make sure that numbers are matching across sections (If you reported 30 synchronous in person programs, make sure that the synchronous programs by location has a total of 30 programs). Then make sure that you have addressed all of the pop up edit checks. If you have worked through everything, and you are still being prevented from locking, bring in a buddy. A fresh set of eyes can make all the difference.

Are you and your edit checks coming to blows? Contact Monica Struck (mcstruck@nd.gov or 701-328-4680).

[Public Libraries Survey](#)

Women's History Month

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

March marks Women's History Month!

Women's History Month acknowledges and celebrates the contributions, especially while facing controversy, of women throughout history. There have been various celebrations during the 19th and 20th centuries; however, Congress designated March as an honorary holiday in 1987 (Duignan, n.d.). During March, various organizations and institutions highlight the work, passions, and issues surrounding women. The United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada also celebrate their own Women's History months. For more information, visit the Women's History Month LibGuide.



Reference

Duignan, B. (n.d.). National women's history month. *In Britannica*.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/National-Womens-History-Month>.

[Learn More](#)

Are you willing to take a chance?

Mystery Date with a Book

Enjoy Exploring and Learning from National Geographic Kids

Submitted by Kathy Cline



When I worked as a school librarian, I enjoyed taking the newest issue of the *National Geographic Kids* magazine out of my mailbox to quickly browse through the pages before putting it on the shelf for young hands to explore. I appreciated the new shiny, eye-catching pages filled with photos and information on various

nonfiction topics. While I no longer work at a school library or hold print copies of the magazine, I still can freely access *National Geographic* content through the State Library, and you can as well!

What does *National Geographic Kids* have to offer young readers? Turns out, this resource has a lot to offer! Its attractive and user-friendly homepage presents viewers with the option to explore 230 videos, 1,066 pictures, 726 books, and 150 Kids magazines containing over 3,000 articles. That's a lot of information! (These numbers were taken from the database at the time this article was written.) Children may locate specific information on a topic by using the search bar or an advanced search option. Users not looking for anything specific may satisfy their curiosity by exploring six different topic areas or browsing through the vast number of *National Geographic Kids* magazines beginning with February 2009. Due to a ninety-day embargo, new *National Geographic Kids* issues are added to the database three months after the publication date. Young readers may read content on their own or use the text-to-speech option and listen to magazines and books being read while following along to highlighted text. Non-English readers may use the translate feature to change the language interface to one of over twenty language options.

Educators may find *National Geographic Kids* an easy to use, inspiring, and engaging addition to their classroom learning environment. Links can easily be copied and shared, or content integrated into a learning management system such as Google Classroom. This resource offers a simplified interface making it a good choice when introducing the research process to young learners. Students can learn the importance of citing sources by using an onsite citation tool to build a citation from scratch or, copy a generated one.



National Geographic Kids is an information filled, free resource that has the power to inspire and encourage curiosity in young information seekers. If you haven't introduced this resource to your students, children, grandchildren, daycare, or any other youngsters I encourage you to do so today!

[National Geographic Kids](#)

United for Libraries – Learning Live Recordings

Submitted by Monica Struck

Did you know that the State Library has provided Statewide Access to United for Libraries since November 2021? United for Libraries is a resource for public library boards, friends of the library groups, library foundations, and anyone who has a passion for libraries. Our Statewide Access provides access to training modules (Trustee Academy and Short Takes for Trustees), more than 40 on demand webinars, and free access to some live webinars including United for Libraries Learning Live.

The Learning Live webinars occur monthly (except for August) on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM. Each month's session covers a hot topic of interest to Trustees, Friends and/or Foundations, followed by Q&A and/or discussions. Our Statewide Access subscription gives us access to the recordings of the Learning Live webinars for 30 days.

The February Learning Live on February 12th was "Ask the Experts." It covered common issues that crop up for boards, friends, and foundations. The panel of presenters consisted of people who are actively serving/previously served on a board/friends group/foundation. If you are interested in viewing the recording, it will be available through March 15, 2024.

How do you view the recording? You must be enrolled in the North Dakota Statewide Access "course" in ALA eLearning. Once you are in the course, using the top navigation bar, choose eLearning>Learning Live>2024 Learning Live>February 2024 to view the recording. If you are not enrolled in the course (or aren't sure if you are enrolled) or run into any issues with accessing the recording, contact Monica Struck (mcstruck@nd.gov or 701-328-4680) to get assistance.

[United For Libraries](#)

Libraries in the News

[Buy some books at Bismarck library's used book sale \(KX News\)](#)

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is hosting its Spring Used Book Sale. According to a news release, you can discover hidden gems and fill your shelves with a diverse collection.

[Fargo Library to Host "Designing to Stop Disaster" Event on February 27 \(Fargo City News Room\)](#)

Area teens and adults are invited to a hands-on presentation to showcase the importance of design in lessening the impact of disasters. The interactive presentation, the first in a community lecture series set for this spring, is titled "**Designing to Stop Disaster**" and will be presented by North Dakota State University landscape architecture and emergency management faculty on **Tuesday, Feb. 27**, at **6:30 p.m.** at the downtown **Main Library**.

[Fargo Library to host Edible Landscaping event \(Valley News Live\)](#)

Area gardeners are invited to learn how to grow their own food at the Dr. James Carlson Library. The "Edible Landscaping for the Northern Plains" event on Monday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m. is where experts will teach you how to grow more food using "cold-hardy perennial crops" that double as beautiful landscape plants.

[North Dakota poet laureate Denise K. Lajimodiere reads book 'Josie Dances' at Lake Region Library \(Devils Lake Journal\)](#)

Denise K. Lajimodiere read her children's book "Josie Dances," on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the Lake Region Library. The poet laureate of North Dakota, Lajimodiere took questions from the audience as well as talked about how she became poet laureate. After the reading and Q&A, she signed copies of her books. Photos by Andrew Benjamin.

Elections 101: Absentee Voting

Submitted by Misty Curn, Communications Director,
ND Office of the Secretary of State

North Dakota offers absentee voting to allow citizens to cast their ballots without going to a polling location. Here is some helpful information you can provide if library patrons are interested in this convenient voting option.



Voters are never mailed a ballot without first requesting one. To vote absentee, a voter must fill out and return an application for a ballot to their local county auditor. The county auditor must receive and verify the completed application before a ballot is mailed to the voter.

Some counties are designated by their Board of County Commissioners as vote by mail counties. If a county is not a vote by mail county, it is an absentee county. The only difference between vote by mail counties and absentee counties is how the voter receives their application for a ballot.

- In vote by mail counties, the county auditor mails an absentee ballot application to all eligible voters.
- In absentee counties, voters must request the application for an absentee ballot from their county auditor.

Voter ID laws still apply when voting absentee or vote by mail. The application to request a ballot requires the eligible voter to include their date of birth, state-issued ID number, and signature on the application for verification against the voter record. When the ballot is returned to the county auditor, its validity is verified before it is tabulated. The signature and ID information are validated against the application, and the voter record is updated to indicate that the voter has returned a ballot.

Voters can request an application for the 2024 primary and general elections now by going to the Voting by Absentee or Mail Ballot page on vote.nd.gov and filling out the form online or printing and mailing it to their local county auditor. Ballots will be mailed prior to the election and must be postmarked or hand-delivered to the auditor by 5:00 p.m. on the day before election day.

Election officials and the North Dakota Secretary of State are your trusted source for election information. If you have questions about absentee voting, vote by mail, or other elections-related topics, visit vote.nd.gov, e-mail seselect@nd.gov, or call 701-328-4146.

[Learn More About ND Ballots and Voting](#)

Empowering Local Communities: North Dakota's Office of Good Government Takes Center Stage

Submitted by Emily Dalzell,
Director of Communications, ND State Auditor's Office

The State Auditor's Office has recently introduced The Office of Good Government, a dedicated initiative aimed at providing support to local governments. This move comes on the heels of the passage of Senate Bill 2004 during the 68th Legislative Assembly, signifying a commitment to strengthen the foundation of good governance across the state.

The Office of Good Government will work with local governments. This includes small cities, park districts, water resource districts, public libraries, and more. The office will offer:

- **Training Initiatives:** Local governments often face challenges in completing their annual financial reports. The Office of Good Government steps in with hands-on training sessions to equip officials with the skills they need, to help with a smoother process.
- **Technical Assistance:** Financial jargon can be confusing. This new office acts as a go-to resource for answering technical questions related to financial preparation and providing clear guidance and support.
- **Updates on Accounting Standards:** Staying on top of changes in accounting standards and laws can be overwhelming. The Office of Good Government takes the lead in keeping local governments informed, helping them navigate through any changes that might affect their operations.

The outreach services provided by The Office of Good Government are entirely free of charge. Whether you prefer a phone call, an in-person meeting, or a virtual session, the office is ready to connect with you. Simply email ndsao@nd.gov or give them a call at 701-328-2241.

As this office takes its place as a pillar of support, it continues to provide support to local governments across our state. By making resources and expertise accessible, The Office of Good Government is empowering local communities to build a stronger, more resilient future.

ND State Auditor's Office

College Save 529 Summer Reading Program Webinar

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

Join us on March 12th at 11:00 AM to learn all about the partnership between NDSL and the Bank of North Dakota's Summer Reading Champions program. The Bank of North Dakota offers a \$10 contribution to a College Save 529 plan when students complete their summer reading program. Additionally, ten kids across the state will also get a \$529 contribution!

Learn what you need to do to offer this fantastic opportunity to the members of your library community and how to utilize this partnership to promote your summer reading program.

Register



Teaching Women's History

One of the observances that occurs during the month of March is Women's History Month. This month highlights women's often overlooked contributions to the sciences, arts, politics, and human rights.

For more information about Women's History Month, visit the [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion à Women's History Month LibGuide](#). While the LibGuide digs into the history and politics of Women's History Month this *Teaching Tidbit* addresses teaching resources and ideas.

Continue Reading

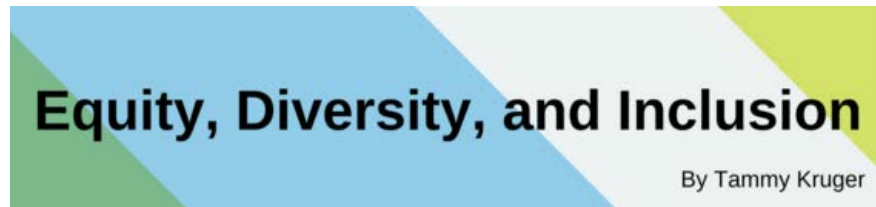
The Story of Copyright: A Librarian's Guide Through Time

Submitted by Lexi Whitehorn

In the bustling world of libraries, where knowledge and creativity thrive, understanding the history of copyright is like turning the pages of a captivating book. It's a tale of protection, innovation, and the ever-expanding world of intellectual property rights that have shaped the way we share and preserve information.

The US Copyright office just released a new video titled: "[The History of Copyright](#)" as part of their Learning Engine series which focuses on an introduction to copyright concepts for those who are new or who want to learn more. In honor of this new release, let's take a journey through time to discover the history of copyright.

[Continue Reading](#)



Irish American Heritage Month

Most Americans associate March 17th—St. Patrick's Day—as a time to celebrate Irish heritage, even if they do not possess any Irish blood themselves! However, since 1991, Congress has designated the entire month as a celebration of the contributions of Irish Americans. (Irish, 2023). Welcome to Irish American Heritage Month!

Irish Immigration History

Irishmen, women, and children have been documented on American soil since Virginia's Jamestown colony in 1607 (Champagne, et. al., 2023). Irish Americans, having experienced tyranny by Britain overlords themselves, fought as Patriots in the Revolutionary War (How, n.d.). Irish American [Charles Carroll](#) signed the Declaration of Independence (Irish, n.d.). The first documented St. Patrick's Day parade occurred in Boston in 1737. New York would follow this tradition about 30 years later (How, n.d.).

[Continue Reading](#)



Check Out North Dakota Tourism Enhanced Website

North Dakota Tourism has recently announced the launch of a new interactive map and enhanced website features at www.ndtourism.com. These new features will make planning a trip to North Dakota easier than ever. North Dakota Tourism designed their newly redesigned website to be a first and last stop for planning the perfect North Dakota getaway. The interactive map allows viewers to explore the state by region, theme, or specific interests. Simply click on an icon or city or town name and a pop-up will provide more information.

Whether someone is seeking outdoor excitement, historical sites, cultural experiences, a winery and brewery tour, or a fun family-friendly adventure, the website for North Dakota Tourism makes it easy to find what they are looking for. If you have been contacted by out-of-state visitors coming to North Dakota, have tourists popping into your library, or have patrons from your library looking for something to do as an in-state getaway, direct them to the new and improved North Dakota Tourism website and Interactive Map to find their next North Dakota destination spot.

[North Dakota Tourism](#)

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www.library.nd.gov

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please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.
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