

The School Library Monthly Update



PREPARE FOR *your* MONTH!

April is School Library Month! Read on to gain insight, ideas, and inspiration for making April a memorable and impactful month in your school. From innovative programming to community engagement initiatives, get ready to ignite imaginations, celebrate literacy, and showcase the invaluable role of school libraries! **Learn more on page 3.**

TO-DO

- ✓ Complete the School Library Survey (see more on page 2).
- ✓ Apply for the [21st Century School Library Award!](#)
- ✓ Register for ExCITE! 2024 - July 1 - August 2!

REMINDERS

- ✓ Check out the resources on the [School Library Services page](#) of the SDSL website!
- ✓ The [School Library Survey](#) is open!
- ✓ You can take the [School Library Survey Course](#) & complete the SLS for credit!

UPCOMING PD/CE OFFERINGS

[School Library Collect + Connect](#)

Wednesday, March 6, 3:30pm CT
Topic: Open Chat

[Electronic Resources for Teachers](#)

In June - More Info TBA

[2024 Book Study](#)

March 4-29 via Canvas

[EXCITE! 2024](#)

July 2024 via Canvas

Changes to the School Library Survey

The South Dakota State Library is charged with collecting annual data from the state's school libraries. In this time of educational, technological, and economic change, it is important that we collect current and usable information. To this end, a short school library survey has been developed.

- Each district should submit **one survey per school library** in their district.
- The district librarian or each school librarian should be charged with collecting and entering data in a Google Form (one form submitted per school library).
- This is a change from past years when one survey per district was submitted using the Counting Opinions portal.
- If your district has multiple school libraries and one person filled out the survey in the past, please coordinate to decide who will submit the surveys this year. If one person will still fill out all of the surveys for the libraries in the district, it will be the same amount of work as in the past. The difference will be that instead of compiling all of the information into one form, the information from each school will go in its own form.
- Because the survey is due before the end of the school year, it is okay to project an estimate for survey questions, like circulation, that require a year-end total.
- **The 2023-24 School Library Survey is available online from March 4, 2024, through May 3, 2024, at <https://forms.gle/KCyTvPH8jBX6ZunV7>.**

COMPLETE THE 2023-24 SCHOOL LIBRARY SURVEY FOR CREDIT (NEW this year!)

The school librarian can choose to complete the School Library Survey for no credit OR for 6 CECHs. If completing the SLS for no credit, the school librarian will only be required to submit the survey. If completing the SLS for credit, the school librarian will be asked to complete 6 hours of coursework which includes watching short video presentations, completing reflections about their school library, creating an Annual Report using the data collected for the SLS, and submitting the survey.

***Scottie highly recommends taking the course! It is all about the 3 Pillars of Effective School Libraries (The Program, The Place, and The Professional) and speaks to the great importance of collecting data and sharing our stories in order to advocate for our school libraries.**

[You can find the course syllabus and all other information about the School Library Survey and the SLS Course HERE.](#)

AASL APRIL IS SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH

www.ala.org/aasl/slm



Here are just a few ideas to kick-start your celebrations!

Book Character Dress-Up Day: Invite students and staff to dress up as their favorite book characters for a day of literary fun.

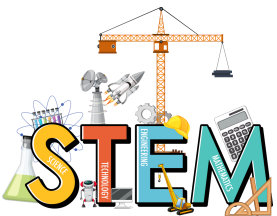


Library Book Swap: Host a book swap where students can exchange books they've already read for new ones, promoting a culture of sharing and community.

Library Trivia Contests: Organize trivia contests based on popular books, authors, and literary themes to engage students in friendly competition.



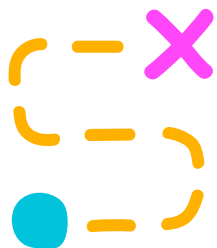
Library MakerSpace Showcase: Highlight student creations from the library's MakerSpace, showcasing their innovation and creativity.



Library Appreciation Day: Dedicate a day to honor and appreciate the hard work and dedication of librarians and library staff, with special activities and treats.



Author Visits and Virtual Author Talks: Organize virtual or in-person visits from authors to inspire students and spark their creativity.



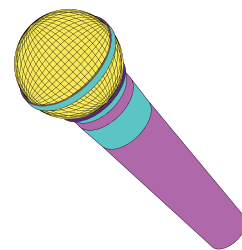
Library Scavenger Hunts: Plan interactive scavenger hunts within the library to encourage exploration and discovery of resources.

Digital Book Clubs: Facilitate digital book clubs where students can connect virtually to discuss and analyze selected readings.



Storytime Sessions: Host special storytime sessions featuring guest readers or themed stories to celebrate the library, the school, and the community.

Poetry Slam or Open Mic Night: Invite students to share their original poems or creative writing pieces in a supportive and encouraging environment.



Community Book Drive: Partner with local organizations or businesses to collect books for donation to schools or libraries in need.

Find more ideas at:

<https://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/slm>