

# The School Library Monthly Update



## TELL THE STORY OF YOUR YEAR

It is almost the end of the school year! This is a great time to look back on the year, celebrate what went well, and prepare to tell the story of your library's impact. Your annual report should capture the work, learning, and connections that have taken place in your library. Our focus in this issue is on wrapping up the school year thoughtfully and gathering the information you will need to share your successes with staff, administrators, and your wider school community. We also recognize Teacher Appreciation Week with simple ways to show gratitude to the colleagues who partner with you, support your work, and help make the library a vibrant part of the school.

**See more on page 2.**

## TO-DO

- ✓ Consider applying for the [2026 School Achievement Through Libraries \(SATL\) Award](#)! It's open year-round.
- ✓ Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **School Librarian Leadership Retreat!** It's happening July 26-27 in Pierre. More information [HERE](#).

## REMINDERS



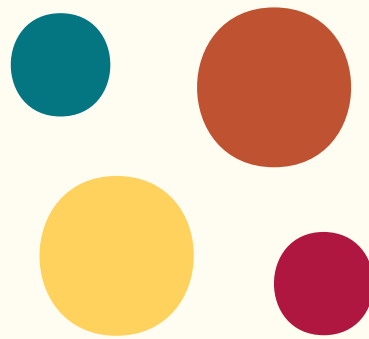
Check out [SDSL's CE Catalog](#) for all continuing education opportunities.



You can also view [SDSL's Training Calendar](#) for CE/PD opportunities from our database vendors, etc.

**EVERY MONTH, WE WILL HIGHLIGHT A SATL AWARD RECIPIENT! SEE P.4!**

# Annual Reports



The end of the year offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the library's growth and highlight the many ways students have engaged with reading, research, and creative learning. An annual report is about data, and it is also the narrative of your program. This is where circulation numbers, collaborative lessons, student feedback, and favorite moments all come together to show the value of your library.

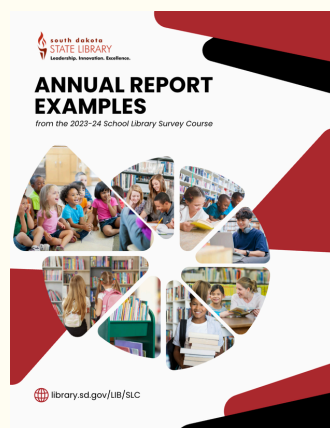
Many librarians find that gathering small pieces over the year makes this step easy. Look for anything that illustrates movement, change, or impact: an increase in genre checkouts, a teacher partnership that blossomed, a reading challenge that gained traction, or student-led ideas that shaped your space. These small shifts tell a big story.

## Core Data to Collect

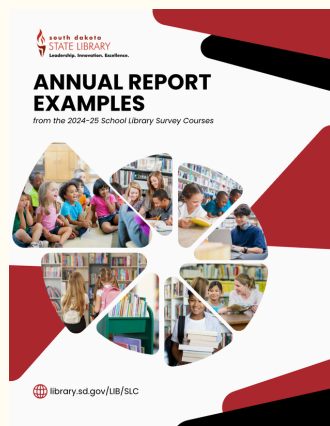
- Total circulation and top genres
- Most-checked-out titles
- Class visits, instructional collaborations, or co-taught lessons
- Program highlights (book fairs, reading challenges, events)
- Student and teacher feedback (quick quotes work perfectly!)
- New additions to the collection or notable collection updates

## Planning with Purpose

An annual report is a summary of your current year, but it also creates a starting point for next year. What trends did you notice? What surprised you? What deserve more focus? You might identify genres to expand, opportunities for staff training, or routines that made your work smoother. This reflection helps you enter the upcoming school year with clarity, confidence, and a strong sense of direction.



Examples from the 2023-24 School Year



Examples from the 2024-25 School Year



# TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK


## QUICK WAYS TO APPRECIATE YOUR TEACHERS

- Leave handwritten thank-you notes in teacher mailboxes
- Share a “Teacher Book Pick of the Week” display to highlight their reading lives
- Offer a short “Browsing Break” invitation for teachers to explore new books
- Create simple bookmarks with encouraging messages and tuck them into staff mailboxes
- Share a list of fresh, ready-to-use titles that support upcoming curriculum topics

## CELEBRATE YOUR PARTNERSHIPS

- Feature “Library + Classroom Wins” on a small bulletin board or on your staff message board
- Share circulation or program highlights that resulted from teacher collaboration
- Spotlight a teacher each day with a short note of appreciation
- Invite a class to write quick thank-you notes for a teacher they love
- Create a small display titled “Books Our Teachers Love” with teacher favorites

## SMALL ACTS THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

- Set up a “Teacher Treat Station” with tea bags, biscotti, or chocolate
  - Host a 10-minute “Coffee & Checkout” pop-in for teachers before school
  - Offer to curate a small stack of books for a teacher’s summer reading
  - Send a short, heartfelt email highlighting how teachers support your library
  - Share a simple digital graphic or printable thanking teachers for championing student readers
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# St. Joseph's Indian School Library



## Librarian: Claire Nehring

Claire Nehring has created a library program that honors culture, nurtures curiosity, and places student identity at the center of every decision. Through careful listening and thoughtful curation, she ensures that students can find stories that reflect who they are, especially through her intentional work to elevate Native voices and perspectives. Her collaborative displays, flexible learning spaces, and community-centered instructional approach invite students to read, create, explore, and share their own ideas. Claire fosters a library environment where every learner feels seen, valued, and empowered to grow through teaching research skills, guiding meaning conversations about copyright and creativity, and helping students discover books they love.



### Meaningful Collections

Claire builds intentional collections in Destiny to help students find meaningful materials with ease. These collections grow directly from listening to student interests and staff needs, making the library more accessible and responsive. They also ensure students can explore topics independently and confidently.

### Creative Displays

Claire's displays bring reading to life through hands-on, schoolwide projects such as 3D horses inspired by Tasunka, star wishes, dream walls, and Dia de Muertos ofrendas. Students frequently contribute ideas, artwork, and book selections, making the displays collaborative. These evolving visuals keep the library lively and invite students to engage with stories in new ways.

### Student-Centered Space

The library's 3 zones (busy, classroom, and quiet) offer students choice in how they learn, play, and relax. From puzzles and maker activities to wobble stools, back jacks, and a tipi, the space supports a wide range of needs and learning styles. This design encourages independence, comfort, and a sense of ownership over the library environment.

### Instruction Rooted In Purpose

Claire's instruction is guided by SD State Library Standards, OSEU, and a structured curriculum map to ensure consistency across grade levels. She weaves in real-world lessons, and projects like the Ukraine exchange deepen cultural understanding and build student confidence in sharing their work thoughtfully and ethically.