

ST-8

Al Peterson

North Dakota State Representative

The North Dakota State Library budget passed both houses with funding for State Library services, as well as an additional \$1.3M for State Aid to Public Libraries, \$237,000 for Library Vision 2010, and \$320,000 for Online Library Resources.

With the new contract through Minitex, funding from the 2008-2009 legislative session, and additional funding from the North Dakota State Library, North Dakota libraries, students, and citizens have access to thirty additional databases. Included in the new package of databases is the Encyclopaedia Britannica's General Reference for K-12, public, and academic libraries; LearningExpress Library; Informe! and a variety of FirstSearch databases.

The 2009 North Dakota Library Association Annual Conference will be held in Dickinson, September 23-26th at the Days Inn Grand Dakota Lodge & Conference Center. This year's theme is Evolution of the Library. NDLA is proud to have author John Berendt as a keynote speaker. Mr. Berendt's book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, was banned at the Beulah Public High School Library by the Beulah School Board earlier this year. The ban was later reversed.

For many years the North Dakota State Library has supported the education of professional librarians in North Dakota on an annual basis. The Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) grant is now being offered on an ongoing basis, with applications being accepted at any time throughout the year. This change allows the State Library to be more accommodating to students who are overloaded with deadlines and workloads. The grant, which requires that recipients be North Dakota citizens and also be enrolled in an American Library Association accredited school, may be used to pay tuition, university fees, and textbooks required to complete the course of study. Grant recipients must work full-time in a North Dakota library for two years following the completion of their degree. Grant awards will range from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$7,000 and are awarded on a competitive basis.