

Welcome to the 2007 NDLA Conference and thank you for joining us!

We have planned three days of laughter, learning and link ups for you, sincerely hoping that you leave this conference refreshed, relaxed and able to return to your library with a revitalized attitude. We hope, too, that the conference will provide you with an addition or two to your network of professionals—those people whose support and understand library issues and who can make your life easier.

A special thanks to Phyllis Bratton, Daphne Drewello, Kathy Thomas, Jeanne Narum, Cathy Langemo and many others for going the extra mile while planning this conference, thinking of every possible way to make your visit to Jamestown both memorable and fun.

Living in nearby Valley City, I am a regular visitor to Jamestown and thought I was pretty familiar with what it had to offer, but when I met with Phyllis and Daphne to plan the conference, I discovered a side of Jamestown that I had never seen before. The city has been working hard to develop its downtown and establish a unique identity. Why, I couldn't believe my eyes as I stepped inside the brand-new "uptown" Buffalo City Grille. Wow! And then Phyllis took me on a short tour—visiting a brand-new bookstore and the best little gift shop this side of the Canadian border—all right downtown in Jamestown, North Dakota!

This year we have invited a wide variety of speakers which I am certain you will enjoy—we are especially pleased to have Janet Stevens, Sneed Collard, Terry Fleck, Mary Bushing, Bill Barnes, Gene Ambaum, and well—the list goes on and on! Based on input from previous conferences, we scheduled some of the breakout sessions twice to provide you with an opportunity to get to as many of the sessions as possible.

If you see me scurrying around the Civic Center, worrying about microphones, conference hosts and ice water—stop me and introduce yourself. I want to meet every single one of you! Please remember to fill out those evaluation forms; your positive feedback about the conference is extremely important to us as we plan for next year.

Here's hoping you enjoy the conference! I'll be watching for your smiling face :-)

Donna James,
Conference Chair and President-Elect