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South Dakota State Report – July 2008  
Elvita Landau, State Representative

The Read Across South Dakota program, a joint collaboration between South Dakota Public Broadcasting and the South Dakota State Library, visited 10 libraries in 5 days, taking Curious George and Buddy to more than 900 children across the state. Stories were told by Jasmine Rockwell (SDSL) and Wes Pravecek (SDPB), and children got to select a free Curious George book along with bookmarks and activity packets. This is the seventh year that the State Library and Public Broadcasting have joined forces to help small libraries have a big kick-off for their summer reading programs.

The South Dakota State Library has added World Book Encyclopedia Online Complete to its collection of databases available to libraries and schools in South Dakota.

South Dakota Festival of Books will be held September 27-28 in Sioux Falls. Among the featured authors will be C J Box, Kenneth Davis, Pete Dexter, and Louise Erdrich.

Libraries and book clubs across the state will be reading Louise Erdrich's 2003 novel *The Master Butchers Singing Club* as the South Dakota One Book selection for 2008. Erdrich has written numerous novels, many of which are bestsellers. Her book *Love Medicine* won the National Book Critics Circle Award. She has also been a finalist for the National Book Award with *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*. Erdrich grew up in North Dakota and is enrolled in the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe. She currently lives in Minnesota and owns Birchbark Books, a small independent bookstore.

The SDLA Annual Conference will be held at Cedar Shores Resort in Chamberlain September 24-26, 2008. The conference theme is "Your Passport to Success; Building Partnerships for Learning". Among noted speakers are Joseph Janes, Jim Rettig, Kenneth Davis, and Will Hobbs.