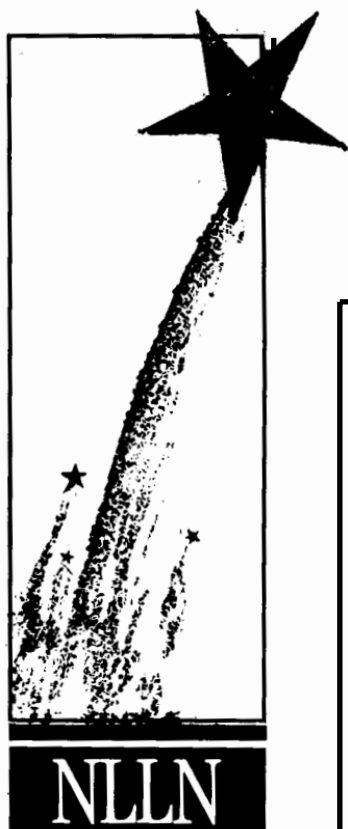


Northern Lights Library Network Newsletter

January 2004



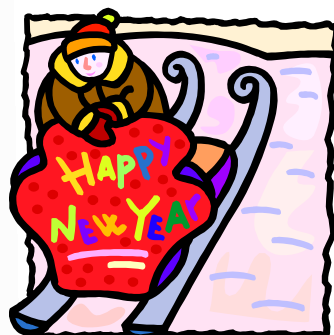
**Northern
Lights
Library
Network**

103 Graystone Plaza
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Tel: 218-847-2825
800-450-1032
Fax: 218-847-4161
E-mail: nlooffice@nlln.org
Web: www.nlln.org

Ruth Solie, Director
rsolie@nlln.org

Debra Keena,
Admin Assistant
dkeena@nlln.org



Best Wishes for 2004!

What to watch in the coming year . . .

- ◆ North Star Project: An Automation Project for the schools and special libraries of the Northern Lights Library Network region will be launched in early 2004.
- ◆ New automation systems are coming to many of the public libraries and academic libraries in the region.
- ◆ 2004 Legislative Session begins Feb 2: in this bonding session we will push hard for public library construction funds and permanent funding for schools/public library telecommunications.
- ◆ School Library Media Center Census, II, will take place in February.
- ◆ School Library Media Center Training Needs survey will take place in February and, like the Census, will be done completely online.
- ◆ Early Education initiatives related to libraries, kids ,and kindergarten readiness are being promoted state-wide.
- ◆ Watch for new leadership in the Higher Education Services Office and the Office of Library Development and Services.
- ◆ The Minnesota Digital Learning Plan is being developed.
- ◆ Online Learning Opportunities for K-12 schools are growing.
- ◆ Digital Library Coalition of Minnesota is preparing for a "Signature Project" — watch for news of this in the coming months.
- ◆ ELM contracts will be re-negotiated this year—an exciting development to watch.

All in all, it will be a busy year full of opportunities and challenges as we work together to make libraries a vital and responsive part of every community.

The North Star Project — Stage I

In the summer of 2002, the Kittson County Schools, the Waubun-Ogema Schools, and Red Lake Tribal Archives and Library, moved from the Northern Lights Cooperative Automation Project and began the process of selecting a new library automation system that would meet their needs, was standards-based and web-based, would allow for resource sharing and growth as a consortium, was affordable and was MnLINK compatible. See a full history of Stage I activities at <http://nlln.org/northstar>. Now it is time to move to Stage II.

The Northstar Project Stage II—Where we're at now:

What is this project? *North Star* will provide an affordable, fully integrated library system (ILS), centrally administered, for libraries of any size or type in the NLLN region. Member libraries of the **North Star** consortium will access the ILS via the Internet, using any web browser, and from any type of platform (PC or Mac). The software will reside on central site servers thus removing the need for local servers, as well as the need for technical support and maintenance of hardware and software in every building and at every site. Software maintenance and upgrades will be done at the central site. Each member of the consortium will pay affordable annual maintenance costs as well as membership costs. Funding resources are being sought for the initial startup costs of implementing.

What library automation software will be used? Follett's new, fully web-based, *Destiny* software has been selected as the software for this library automation project (see Stage I history for selection process). This is a completely new product and is fundamentally different from their *Catalog Plus* that is currently being used by a number of schools in our area. Virtual demonstrations will be conducted in January, 2004, for a hands-on use of the system — see facing page for more details.

Who will host this software? Discussions are being held with Region I, Moorhead, to determine the cost and feasibility of Region I acting as an applications service provider (ASP) for this software. Region I currently provides this type of service for schools in northwest Minnesota. Café Terminal, health benefits flex plans, MARSS, SASI are other types of software that Region I hosts on behalf of schools and other entities.

What will it cost? The purpose of forming a consortium is to provide a cost-effective, affordable system to all who participate. We are currently submitting information to both Follett and Region I for pricing from them. Based on preliminary discussions and the experience of other customers, we believe that we will be successful in making this affordable for all size/types of libraries and school districts. As a consortium we will be able to effectively share costs and to maximize efficiencies. NLLN is currently investigating additional funding opportunities that can be used to help cover the initial startup costs.

Who should join? Any library or media center in the NLLN region, regardless of size, type of library, or automation experience is invited to join. This would include:

- * Libraries/ media centers that do not now have an automated system.
- * Libraries that are considering upgrades to their current system.
- * Libraries that would like to have a web-based system for ease of access from classrooms, libraries, and remote locations, regardless of platform (Mac or PC) via any web browser.
- * Libraries and districts that are looking for a centrally administrated system that eliminates the need for local servers and technical support.
- * Libraries that are looking for cost savings relative to on-going costs for their automation systems.
- * Libraries/media centers that would like to have a MnLINK compatible system.

When will this happen? Soon! This is a project in progress and gathering steam. The broad outlines are known at this time, and developments will be happening quickly in the coming weeks and months. For those districts or special libraries that are ready, we believe it will be possible to begin implementation in the early part of 2004. For some, implementation or conversion will be scheduled for the end of the school year or summer. For others, implementation may be a multi-stage process.

How can I find out more? For more information call or email Ruth Solie at the NLLN office (1-800-450-1032/rsolie@nlln.org). Or read more on the NLLN webpage about the project to date: <http://nlln.org/northstar>.

NOTICE TO ALL SCHOOL AND SPECIAL LIBRARIES!!

As part of the North Star Project, NLLN will be hosting several special events in January to inform potential participants about the process, the product, and the partners:

◆ **Jan 12, 21, or 27—3:30 PM Virtual Demonstration of the Destiny software from Follett.**

From your own location, with a telephone and a computer with access to the Internet, you can get a full blown tour of this software. See the special features of this system, explore the behind-the-scenes aspects, ask questions, make suggestions.

This is a great opportunity to see how your library might benefit from being included in the North Star Project. It will allow you to speak from hands-on experience about the power of **Destiny** and what it might do for you. Registration is limited but additional sessions will be added to meet the demand. Send an email to rsolie@nlln.org or call 800-450-1032 to register for a session.

◆ **Jan 20—3:30 PM Webinar on library automation**, by Carla Dewey Urban (MINITEX).

In this specially designed webinar for NLLN members, Carla will help us get the “big picture” of library automation for small libraries. What are the steps involved, what are the benefits, when and why should a school library media center or a special library consider upgrading software, what is involved in ‘retrospective conversion’, are special bar codes needed. This Webinar from MINITEX will address the process, considerations, and issues of moving to an automated system, doing retrospective conversion, meeting standards, selecting systems, and upgrading/migrating to new systems. Don’t miss it! Jan 20, 3:30 PM — in your own library

This webinar will be limited to 10 participants. It is scheduled for an hour, but will run longer if people have questions. Send an email to rsolie@nlln.org or call 800-450-1032 to register for this session. If needed, additional sessions will be added.

Legislative Matters

- ◆ The MLA/MEMO Legislative Platform is included with this Newsletter — keep a copy handy, feel free to reproduce and make it available to those who advocate on behalf of libraries, talk to your legislators about these issues.
- ◆ Keep up to date by participating in the MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee or by means of the legislative listserv.
- ◆ Library Legislative Day—February 12. Make plans to attend!
- ◆ For more information about the platform, the talking points, the legislative committee, or Listserv, go to: <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/>
- ◆ For more information about the Minnesota Legislature, your elected representatives, legislative activities, and status of the session, please go to:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/>

Update on the NLLN Strategic Plan, 2005-2007 :

The NLLN Strategic Plan is coming together! The Governing Board extends its appreciation to all who have participated in the planning process to date and look forward to continued involvement from a broad cross-section of the membership.

The NLLN Governing Board began the strategic planning process in August with an intense working session to establish the mission, vision, values and goals for NLLN.

This was followed by 6 focus groups around the region attended by representatives from all types of libraries within the NLLN region. These groups, which included library staff, Friends of the library, and trustees, focused primarily on the four goals and the strategies/activities that would most effectively realize those goals. Discussion was lively and wide-ranging! All comments, insights, suggestions, strategies from these focus groups were recorded by Mary Otto, our consultant and facilitator for the planning process.

A draft version of the strategic plan, which includes objectives, strategies, activities, and measures of success, will be reviewed and revised on January 22 , 4pm, at the Detroit Lakes Public Library. This meeting is open to all who would like to further participate in the planning process. Participants in the focus groups are especially encouraged to attend.

The Strategic Plan will be reviewed at the February Governing Board Meeting (2/21), after which further comments will be solicited from the NLLN region. The draft will be posted on the NLLN webpage during this time. The NLLN Strategic Plan for 2005-2007 will be formally adopted by June, and implementation will begin July 1, 2004, the beginning of Fiscal Year 2005.

It is a very ambitious plan but one that will, when implemented, allow all libraries in the NLLN region to work together for the common purpose of serving the citizens of northwest Minnesota.

GALE PASSWORD CHANGE REMINDER

Dear Minnesota Libraries and School Media Centers,

This is notification that we have changed the password for the Gale (InfoTrac) databases in ELM, **effective January 1, 2004.**

It has come to our attention that many media centers and libraries are posting the password to the Gale databases on the web. This is not permitted. Posting the password allows anybody in the world who visits your web site to get into the Gale databases. Vendors cannot allow this.

The old password was: 123gotgg

The new password will be: **elm4you** (all lower case)

Please update handouts, bookmarks, etc., and notify your students, teachers, staff and other interested parties in this change.

DO NOT POST THE PASSWORD ON YOUR WEB SITE!

Notes:

- This does not affect libraries that provide IP-authenticated access to the Gale databases
- This does not affect those libraries that have customized passwords
- This does not affect access to the ProQuest Newsstand Complete or OCLC Collection databases

We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause your library or media center.

Thank you,
Karen

Karen Docherty, Electronic Resources Librarian
MINITEX Library Information Network

ATTENTION MN LIBRARIES & MEDIA CENTERS!

Has your media center or library set up access to the **ProQuest Newsstand Complete**?
This excellent resource is a part of the ELM collection.

The ProQuest Newsstand Complete Description

ProQuest Newsstand Complete is an accessible and thorough Web-based database with citations and abstracts from over 350 newspapers, over 250 of which provide full-text, enabling users to search the latest news from around the world. Coverage, updated daily, of local, state, regional, national, and international newspapers is available, including full-text access to 27 major newspapers: the **Star Tribune**, **The Wall Street Journal**, **The Washington Post**, **The New York Times**, the **Chicago Tribune**, the **Los Angeles Times**, **Barron's**, and **USA Today**, to name just a few. Access a wide range of articles, not only top new stories, but arts, sports, and entertainment stories as well.

How to Set up Access

To access the newspapers, point your users to <http://www.il.proquest.com/pgdauto>. This link will take you to a screen where you can perform a search across all of the newspapers in the ProQuest Newsstand Complete collection.

You may also wish to link directly to particular newspapers within the collection. To do so, follow these steps for any newspaper you would like a direct link to:

1. Go to <http://www.il.proquest.com/pgdauto>
2. Click on the "Publication Search" tab
3. Either browse for a title or perform a keyword search (ex. "Star Tribune")
4. You are taken to a date-range screen for that title
5. The URL in the Address box is a stable URL that you can cut and paste onto your web site

IDs and Passwords

If you plan to allow your users to remotely access the Newsstand Complete by ID and password, or if you use ID and password for access within your library (rather than IP authentication), please contact Gerry VanDoren at 800-521-0600 x2456 or Robin Dean at 800-521-0600 x2125 by 9/12/03 to get your institution's unique ID and password.

Access Problems?

Please complete the IP change form at <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/cpers/ip-form.asp>. If this does not solve your access problem, please contact ProQuest Technical Support at 1.800.889.3358.

Not Registered for ELM?

If your media center or library is not registered to use the ELM databases, please complete the online registration form at <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/cpers/elm/registrationform.asp>. Gale, ProQuest and OCLC will contact you within a few days via email with welcome messages.

Thank you,
Karen

Karen Docherty, Electronic Resources Librarian
MINITEX Library Information Network

Another reminder about ELM . . .

It will be a great help to all users if you include the ELM logo on your webpages.



When users move from one library to another, to home, to classroom, to office, they may have trouble identifying ELM resources when they look different on every website.

Putting the ELM logo wherever there are ELM resources makes it easier for library users to access them — from any location.

Get the logo at: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/cpers/elm/logo.asp>

A report from the Minnesota Library Council

The Minnesota Library Council was created as an ad hoc group to represent various library constituencies and address a number of issues of concern. The group met faithfully and with nearly 100% attendance September 2002 through June 2003, before taking a short summer hiatus for July and August 2003. The Council reconvened on September 8. At that meeting, Council members reflected on the tasks accomplished over the past 12 months and they include:

- * Initiated and continue to develop a relationship with Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
- * Advocated for and came close to establishing as part of the 2003 legislative session, an independent state library board
- * Increased communication among library constituencies and created a focal point for communication
- * Participated in the preparation of the LSTA plan
- * Shared expertise during the disillusionment of the LDS professional collection

The Minnesota Library Council was never intended to become a permanent fixture within the library landscape, however at the September meeting we agreed that the goals identified through the Next Steps Retreat and Study were not yet fully realized. The Council was initially established with a one-year life span and we agreed to continue the Council for one additional year (October 2003 - September 2004), as we strive to accomplish a variety of tasks for strengthening library services. Of paramount interest this coming year will be active participation in the planning process for the new Minnesota Plan for Libraries.

The Minnesota Library Association (MLA) and the Minnesota Educational Media Organization (MEMO) have generously served as the two over-arching sponsors of Council activities during the past year. Both organizations have re-affirmed their commitment and Council members hope this already successful partnership will continue for the coming twelve months. The organizations responsible for making the initial appointments to the Council have been contacted and have either appointed or elected their representative and alternate or will be doing so within the next few weeks. Council membership continues to be comprised of a wide spectrum of talents and interests.

At the upcoming meeting on October 6, the Council will undertake a discussion of Vision and Mission Statements, as well as Goals and Objectives so that we might focus our activities during the coming year (October 2003 - September 2004). Once our deliberations are complete these documents will be posted the MLA website. MLA continues to host Council information at its web site: <http://mnllibraryassociation.org/mlc.htm>

Thank you for your continued interest and support in the issues impacting Minnesota's libraries. Please feel free to forward this update to any colleagues who may be interested in this topic and excuse the cross posting of duplicate mail messages sent in the interest of sharing information.

Ann Hutton, Chair
Minnesota Library Council

Since the report above, provided in October, the Minnesota Library Council has set 5 major goals for 2004:

- Goal 1:** Assist in the timely development of the Minnesota State Plan for Library Service.
- Goal 2:** Assist Minnesota Department of Education with the implementation of the Minnesota State Plan for Library Service.
- Goal 3:** Monitor library legislative initiatives during the 2004 legislative session.
- Goal 4:** Assist with the development of strong leadership at the Minnesota Department of Education Library Development and Services.
- Goal 5:** Champion the strengthening of our state library agency.

For more detail about these goals and for further information about the ongoing work of the MLC, please go to:

<http://www.mnllibraryassociation.org/mlc.htm>

Calendar of Events

January

- Jan 6-7 Council of Cooperating Libraries, St Paul
 Jan 6 Technology Plans for schools and libraries workshop, ITV (NW Service Coop coordinating agency)
 Jan 9 Spotlight on Books Planning Meeting, Grand Rapids Public Library, 3:30 pm
 Jan 12 Virtual demonstration of Follett's Destiny system, 3:30 pm
 Jan 17 Mn Book Award Selectors Meeting, Mn Humanities Commission, St Paul, 9:30
 Jan 19 Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday
 Jan 20 MINITEX Webinar on library automation with Carla Dewey Urban, 3:30pm
 Jan 21 Virtual demonstration of Follett's Destiny system, 3:30 pm (registration required)
 Jan 22 NLLN Strategic Plan Committee, 4pm, Detroit Lakes Public Library
 Jan 23 Teleconference: *A Technology Toolkit: Survival Skills for Everyone*. 11am-1pm, MSUM and U of M-Morris. Registration at <http://nlln.org/Reglinks.html>
 Jan 27 Virtual demonstration of Follett's Destiny system, 3:30 pm (registration required)

February

- Feb 2 Mn Library Council, Roseville, Noon-3:00
 Feb 6 Teleconference: *Realities of Digital Reference*. 11am-1pm, MSUM. Registration at <http://nlln.org/Reglinks.html>
 Feb 11-12 Library Legislative Day, St Paul. www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Legislative.htm
 Feb 21 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, Detroit Lakes, 10am-Noon
 Feb 25-28 Public Library Association Conference, Seattle, WA

March

- Mar 2 **Read Across America** <http://www.nea.org/readacross> Dr Suess' 100th B-Day!
 Mar 10-12 Computers in Libraries 2004, Washington, DC
 Mar 12 Teleconference: *Web Filtering: Policies, Software, Staff Training and CIPA* 11am-1pm, MSUM. Registration at <http://nlln.org/Reglinks.html>
 Mar 26 Teleconference: *Professional Toolkit: Skills for Advancement*. 11am-1pm, MSUM and U of M-Morris. Registration at <http://nlln.org/Reglinks.html>

April

- April 16 Teleconference: *Joe Janes and Colleagues: Preparing for the Future of Digital Reference* 11am-1pm, MSUM. Registration: <http://nlln.org/Reglinks.html>
 April 16-17 Spotlight on Books, Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN <http://nlln.org/spotlight>
 April 18-24 *National Library Week @ your library*
 April 24 NLLN Annual Meeting, Holmes Community Center, Detroit Lakes

Check the NLLN Blog on libraries and early literacy for updates in that area!
 (<http://nlln.org/kidblog.html>)

Don't forget to check the MINITEX website
 (<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/>)
for live and archived Webinars on important and timely topics!



NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY NETWORK
 103 GRAYSTONE PLAZA
 DETROIT LAKES, MN 56501

*A Happy
 New
 Year!*

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Detroit Lakes, MN
 Permit No. 68

NCAP Winds Down



NCAP Automation coordinators: Sharon Douglas, (LARL), Alison Edgerton, (KRL) and Heidi Hoks, (NWRL).

The Northern Lights Cooperative Automation Project (NCAP), a consortium which successfully provided the DRA automation system for Kitchgami Regional Library, Lake Agassiz Regional Library, and Northwest Regional Library since 1990, came to an end Dec 31, 2003.

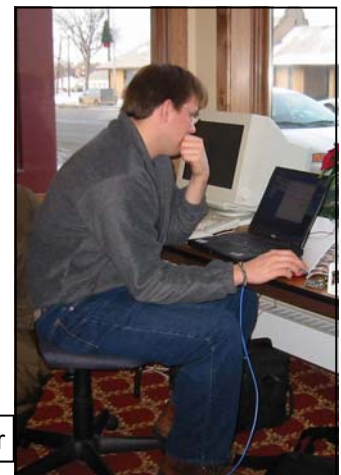
Though the DRA system will remain in place for the next few months, under the administration of Lake Agassiz Regional Library, the three regional public library systems will be migrating to new integrated library systems during 2004.

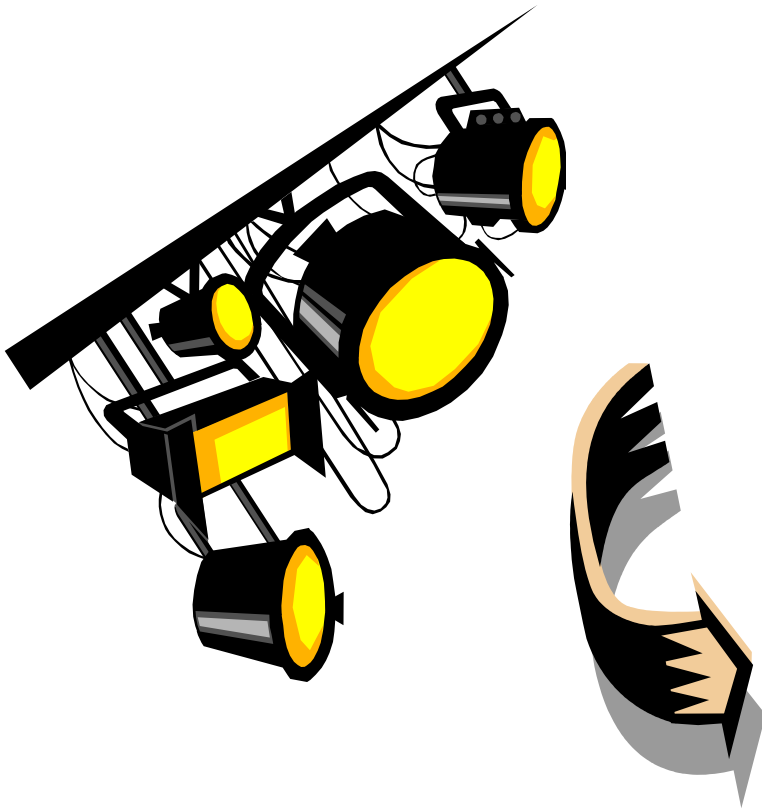
Organizationaly, LARL and NWRL will continue to operate a joint system and KRL will be hosting it's own system. Watch for news as this progresses.

NCAP was an innovative and forward looking project that touched many lives. NLLN is proud to have been a part of it. We wish you the best of success as you move to new systems and new levels of service for your users!

(Don't those automation coordinators look fearless!)

Josh Stompro, NCAP System Coordinator





16th Annual

Spotlight On Books

A Conference for Adults Focused on Youth Literature

Friday and Saturday

April 16-17

2004

Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge
Grand Rapids, MN

New Location!!

Featuring Authors

Kate DiCamillo

Linda Glaser

Rick Chrustowski

Friday afternoon Pre-Conference with

Dr. Scott McConnell

U of M - Center for Early Education and Development

**** REGISTRATION AVAILABLE IN EARLY 2004****

Watch for information as it becomes available at: <http://nlln.org/spotlight.html>

Forms will be mailed to those who attended previous conferences.
Contact Northern Lights Library Network: nloffice@nlln.org or 800-450-1032
for additional information.

Organized and supported by a volunteer organization of Minnesota librarians, educators, and institutions.