

Northern Lights Library Network Newsletter

January 2003

In Support of Libraries

What do libraries do?

Why are libraries important?

Why should we support libraries?

Why should we support all types of libraries?

These are the key questions that we need to answer as the new year begins. The fact that libraries are useful and perceived as a social “good” will insure that we have a place in the history books. It won’t insure our future existence.

Minnesota libraries are complex, interlinked, information- and service- intense institutions that serve Minnesota citizens from pre-school through graduate school, through our adult professional, political, and work lives, and right on through our senior years. Libraries are there for us — wherever we are, whatever our need.

The resources and services of a specific libraries are generally well-defined and understood. We have a pretty good idea who a public library serves, or what we will find in an academic library or school media center. What is less often understood is the complex infrastructure that underlies and transparently connects all libraries, extending the services and resources from individual libraries to users across the entire state.

- ◇ Students at all stages of their education have access to the electronic and print resources of the state regardless of where they live, the level of their needs, or the size/type of the local library. The access to electronic library catalogs, universal borrowing protocols, backup reference and linked delivery systems put library materials in the hands of users in every corner of the state.
- ◇ Preschool children gain reading readiness skills at the local public library or E-12 Media Center through programs enhanced and informed by the public library system, the k-12 media centers, and resources programs of universities and colleges. Staff development and training opportunities are shared across library types to insure quality programs that support family literacy and school readiness.
- ◇ Elected officials, government workers, professionals and business people of all kinds can tap the information-rich resources of the state’s libraries in person, by phone, or electronically — whether the library is physically near or remote from them. The underlying infrastructure will insure delivery of the information to them in the format most useful to them with a minimum of delay.

Libraries **are** important — as much as for what we see as for what we don’t see. Information delivery in Minnesota is a tightly woven, complex, and interdependent matrix of linked libraries. The whole is significantly greater than its parts. When one type of library or library system is removed or crippled, the whole is greatly diminished. The underlying infrastructure of libraries currently exists — it is not something that has yet to be created, but is rather a living, vital network that requires wise management to protect and sustain. Minnesota libraries support education, economic development, lifelong learning, and democracy in our state. Let’s support the investment made over the years to assure these libraries will continue to provide a vital service to the citizens of Minnesota.

~ ~ Ruth Solie

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Briefly Noted . . .

- ◇ Register for **Library Legislative Day** online at <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org> or by submitting the enclosed registration form. A Tuesday evening (2/18) briefing will be held at the University Club followed by an extensive briefing on Wednesday morning (2/19) and a full day of visiting legislators, attending hearings, and being visible for libraries at the capitol. Friends, Trustees, staff, users — all library supporters should plan to attend this important Library Legislative Day.
- ◇ NLLN in partnership with MINITEX Reference staff and the Wadena-Deer Creek School district will be hosting a **K-12 ELM training workshop** on January 13, 12:30-3:30, at the Wadena High School. This workshop will feature training on the ELM resources as well as provide tips on how to introduce these resources to students, parents, teachers, and administrators. An online registration form is available at <http://nlln.org/Reglinks.html>. For more information, call the NLLN Office at 800-450-1032 or email: nloffice@nlln.org.
- ◇ Upcoming teleconferences include the January 24, Soaring to Excellence workshop entitled: **Time Management: Getting Things Done**. It will be hosted by the ever-popular Debra Wilcox Johnson. Registration is available online at <http://nlln.org/Reglinks.html>. This teleconference will be viewed at MSU-Moorhead Library and lunch will be available. Videotapes of all teleconference are available for loan from the NLLN Office. For more information, call the NLLN Office at 800-450-1032 or email: nloffice@nlln.org.
- ◇ The **NLLN webpage** (<http://nlln.org>) continues to be revised, expanded, and updated. Please take a moment to check the calendar of events, register online for workshops and teleconferences, subscribe to the electronic discussion list, or read the Newsletter. Any feedback you have will be appreciated as we continue to build this site.
- ◇ Register now for year 2 of the **Reference Services teleconferences** offered by the College of DuPage. This two-part series entitled, *Virtual, Digital, and In-Library: a New Model for Effective Delivery*, will be held on February 7 and April 11, 2003, at Minnesota State University-Moorhead, Livingston Lord Library, from 11am-1pm. Lunch will be available. These are free but registration is required. Please register online at <http://nlln.org>.

2003 MEMO Midwinter Conference Sunday-Monday, February 2-3, 2003 Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN "Powerful Partnerships"



For more information: <http://www.memoweb.org/htmlfiles/conference.html>

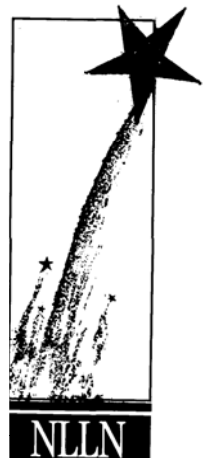
Consider a NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship to attend this conference. Information and application form are available at: nlln.org or by calling the NLLN Office at 800-450-1032.

Subscribe to NLLN Electronic Discussion List

We have changed software used for running our electronic discussion list and urge everyone to check it out. If you aren't a subscriber, please consider joining now. It is not a high volume list, but it is a convenient way to communicate information in a timely, convenient manner.

A link for subscription is available on our web page (<http://nlln.org>) or you can go directly to the web site:

<http://list.nlln.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/nlln>



In anticipation of the new legislative session and Library Legislative Day (Feb 19), use the following tips from the Minnesota Library Association when lobbying in person. And don't forget that letters and telephone calls to your legislators are also effective ways to lobby for libraries.

LOBBYING YOUR LEGISLATOR IN PERSON

Meet in the legislative office or somewhere in the home district.

If possible, introduce yourself and your organization immediately after the legislator's election. This would probably be done in the home district before the Legislature convenes. Explain your group's legislative interests. Interview your legislator on her/his positions. Try to have a person living in the legislator's district be present or, better yet, have that person conduct the interview. Succeeding contacts may be made in the home district again or at the Legislature.

Make appointments if possible. Keep them. Be prompt. Some legislators prefer that you drop in on their Capitol office rather than make appointments. If such is the case and you drop in and cannot make contact with your legislator, deliver your message to the secretary or research assistant assigned to her/him.

Go in groups of two or three. You can give each other support and provide an effective way to train in new lobbyists.

At the interview: a) Identify yourself and your organization; b) explain briefly why you are there; c) be sure to have a hand-out to leave behind (research on the issue and a one or two-page summary of your position and reasons why).

Be BRIEF and to the point as you outline your position. Considerations that led to your group's position add a great deal to your rationale because they let legislators know what people are thinking and how. Don't give personal opinion which might be misunderstood as that of your organization.

LISTEN to your legislator's views – not only so that you can politely combat the arguments, but just as important, so that your group can develop insight into the rationale of your opponents!

BE FRIENDLY, EARNEST, and DOWN-TO-EARTH. Minnesota legislators seem to like a low-key approach. If a legislator disagrees with you, don't become hyperaggressive, defensive, or over-intellectual. The legislator is listening to constituents too, and we respect that. You may have to agree to disagree on a certain bill, but keep your friendliness intact so that you can start fresh on another bill on another day!

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, SAY SO. You can find out answers to questions asked of you and get them to the legislator later. **BE SURE TO FOLLOW UP.**

Leave the way open for further conversations on the issue. Even if you will never agree on the issue under discussion, you may want this person's support on other legislation.

Follow up on your visit with a letter. Thank the legislator for support if support was indicated or for the opportunity to present your views. Also, send any additional information which may have been requested about your issue or your organization. If you had been unable to answer a question during the visit, look up the answer and include it in your letter.

Thank yous. Thank yous are important at all stages of lobbying. We often take our supporters for granted and wooed the "undecided" or "opposition." Supporters need strokes too. Don't wait until an issue is settled before you say thank you.

[from the Minnesota Library Association: <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Legislative/Lobbing%20in%20Person.htm>]

From the Director . . .

Do you ever wonder what someone is talking about when they refer to a “multitype”? In the Minnesota Library world, this is shorthand for “Multicounty, multitype library system”. There are 7 of them, established in Minnesota statute, and they encompass the entire state. Each “multitype” facilitates cooperative programs and resource sharing among its member libraries across a multicounty region — 23 counties for NLLN, making it the largest of the 7 multitype library systems.

The member libraries are of different types: public libraries in regional library systems, K-12 school library media centers, academic libraries from public and private colleges/universities, and special libraries such as hospital libraries, government agency libraries, museums, county law libraries, and churches. NLLN has over 300 member libraries.

The multitype library systems serve libraries, rather than individuals, in ways that enable member libraries to better serve their customers. We are part of the infrastructure that underlies effective library service across the state and across all types of libraries. Some of the ways in which we serve is in support of delivery systems, continuing education activities, scholarships, resource sharing, communication, backup reference, and consulting.

To learn more about NLLN, visit our webpage at <http://nlln.org>, give us a call at 1-800-450-1032, or visit our office in Detroit Lakes. We'd love to tell you more about what we do! ~ ~ Ruth

From the MINITEX website (<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/cpers/elm/>)—*please refer to this website for links to the news release and fact sheet.*

ELM (Electronic Library for Minnesota) Databases Spreading the Word about ELM

The MN Higher Education Services Office (MHESO) and MINITEX are working to raise awareness about ELM. HESO has issued a **news release** (download in PDF or Word) and **fact sheet** (download in PDF or Word) to tell Minnesotans that they can access ELM through websites of Minnesota public and academic libraries, school media centers, and other websites, including the MnLINK Gateway. These documents will go to all Minnesota newspapers.

Minnesota libraries are encouraged to add the identification of **ELM** and/or **Electronic Library for Minnesota** to their web pages for the appropriate electronic resources (Gale/InfoTrac; OCLC; and, the MINITEX eBook Collection).

MINITEX is partnering with the Advertising Federation of Minnesota (Ad Fed) to promote ELM resources to Minnesota residents and to increase awareness and usage of the resources. Ad Fed plans to create a promotional brochure and outreach kit (containing posters, table tents and static clings and other in-library signage options) that will be shared with K-12 and public libraries. Also, Ad Fed will conduct free marketing seminars at selected libraries and create an interactive PowerPoint presentation that MINITEX staff can use to promote ELM at workshops, conferences, and trainings. This campaign will be launched in mid-January 2003. We'll provide more information as it becomes available.

ELM and the NLLN Region: The ELM Databases are available to area residents on the websites and catalogs of NLLN public libraries, university/college libraries, and K-12 school media centers. They are also available on the NLLN website (nlln.org/catalogs2.htm) and through MnLINK (www.mnlink.org) using a valid library card. Call or email the NLLN Office (nloffice@nlln.org/800-450-1032) if you need assistance with accessing these wonderful resources. NLLN will also help set up training opportunities in this region if desired. See Calendar for next training event, Jan 13, 2003, in Wadena.

MINITEX Webinars Underway

<http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/>

MINITEX is pleased to announce the arrival of webinars on a variety of topics! Webinars are free, live meetings/demonstrations/trainings/ or seminars that take place over the web.

The visual component is web-based. You sit at your computer and view a presentation on the web. MINITEX provides the audio connection via your telephone.

MINITEX webinar sessions are typically limited to 10 attendees and generally last between 20 minutes and one hour. These small, focused sessions provide a great way for library staff around the region to ask questions and to receive personalized attention during the training. Webinars are an efficient way to transmit and share information. There is no transportation involved - so webinars save time and money! Webinars are a perfect vehicle for sharing timely and important information and to train library staff on a variety of topics.

For more information on MINITEX webinars, including a complete listing of our current offerings and web-based registration, visit <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/upcoming.asp>.

[Topics include such diverse items as netLibrary Overview, Gale Health & Wellness Resource Center Basics, First Search Administrative modules, and OCLC Digital & Preservation Resources. Webinars fill up fast, but don't be discouraged! MINITEX staff has been generous in adding additional sessions to meet the demand. I highly recommend these — Ruth]

Update on Library Automation Projects

Big changes are going on in the Northern Lights area. The NLLN Pilot Project for a web-based, union catalog for school media centers and special libraries is progressing. The two schools in the pilot project, Kittson Central Schools (Hallock and Kennedy) and Waubun-Ogema Schools, are well on their way with the Follett *Web Collection Plus* product. They have both installed this software, added their collections and users, and made it available via a web browser from any location. To see how this looks, check out the media centers at either <http://www.kittson.k12.mn.us/> or <http://www.waubun.k12.mn.us>. The media specialists in these districts, Charlie Lindberg, Kittson, and Chris McArthur, Waubun, have implemented this new system since school began. This is a major accomplishment since both have maintained all their normal full-time teaching and media center duties, while migrating to, and learning to use, a new system. They have done a great job and are looking forward to the time when the project can move to the next level, using the Follett *Destiny* product.

The 3 regional libraries (Kitchigami, Lake Agassiz, and Northwest) in the Northern Lights Cooperative Automation Project (NCAP) are beginning the process of selecting a new automation system to replace the current DRA *Classic* system, and have taken the first steps toward a new organizational structure as well.

In the Viking Library System plans have been made to migrate from the current Dynix system to the new epitech *Horizon* system in the late spring of this year.

Academic libraries in the region are moving ahead with the complex migration to *ExLibris*, as part of the MnLINK project.

We'll keep you updated on who is moving and where during this great season of migration!

NOTE to Schools: Last year two NLLN schools were awarded 3M detection systems (Moorhead High School and Bagley High School) and have reported satisfaction with the whole process. If you are interested in applying for this grant and would like assistance, please call or email the NLLN Office (800-450-1032/rsolie@nlln.org). It's a great opportunity.

AASL to again select schools to receive 3M detection systems

For the fourth consecutive year, 3M™, in cooperation with the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), will donate \$1.5 million in 3M Detection Systems to approximately 100 middle and high school library media centers in the United States in 2003 through the 3M Salute to Schools program. **Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2003.**

3M will provide up to two 3M Detection Systems for the entrance/exit of their library media centers and a supply of Tattle-Tape Security Strips for marking print material (i.e., books)--a package with an average value of about \$15,000.

3M Salute to Schools is open to middle and high schools in the United States. Individual donations will vary depending upon specific needs of the library, such as the size of a collection and the physical layout of the media center. To be considered for the donation, a school must meet eligibility requirements and be able to demonstrate a need for a detection system.

3M and AASL share a strong commitment to education and value investing in the nation's schools. In 2002, 3M donated \$1.5 million worth of its detection systems to 112 schools selected by AASL.

"Protecting a school's most valuable learning tools is an ongoing challenge for a library media center with limited resources and no proven security," says Don Leslie, 3M Library Systems. "One of the fundamental goals of 3M Salute to Schools is to enhance education by making detection systems more available to schools that might not otherwise have the resources to purchase them."

"Research shows the highest-achieving students attend schools with good library media centers, and protecting library resources contributes to the overall improvement of library media services for young people," says Nancy P. Zimmerman, president of AASL. "AASL is pleased to again partner with 3M to help school libraries preserve these resources for students throughout the country."

Applications are available online at www.ala.org/aasl/3msalute.html or www.3M.com/us/library. **All applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2003.** Recipients will be announced in early April. For more information about the 2003 3M Salute to Schools program, contact the AASL office at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 4383, or aasl@ala.org.

3M's Contributions Program is made up of cash and in-kind gifts made by 3M and the 3M Foundation and bolstered by employee and retiree volunteerism. 3M grants and product donations work together to improve the academic achievement of children. In 2001, the 3M Foundation donated more than \$47 million to educational and charitable institutions. The American Association of School Librarians is a division of the American Library Association. Its mission is to advocate excellence, facilitate change, and develop leaders in the school library media field.

Update on the Minnesota Library Council

During the past few months, twenty representatives from around the state and from different library backgrounds have been meeting as the Minnesota Library Council (MLC). As the new MLC Chair I would like to offer an update on what the Council has been doing and what is coming up in the very near future.

Some of Council's activities during these first few months of meetings are rather mundane. There have been the common tasks that occur when any new group begins meeting, such as establishing meeting dates, electing officers and writing bylaws. As these "house-keeping" tasks were being dispatched swiftly, the heart of Council energies were concentrated on a possible alternative structure for statewide leadership of Minnesota's library community.

Included in this message is the Minnesota Library Council's "Vision for a Minnesota State Library Board". For those with long memories, you will see a great deal of similarity between this vision statement and the role of a library commission outlined by the former Library Planning Task Force. With the dramatic changes that occurred at the Department of Children, Families and Learning that affected LDS during the recent months and the prospect of yet more upheaval in Minnesota state government, your Minnesota Library Council is setting a new course.

More information about the Minnesota Library Council, its vision for a Minnesota State Library Board, as well as the needed requirements for such an entity, can be found on the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) web site. Simply go to: <http://mnlibraryassociation.org/mlc.htm> and bookmark this location for future details.

Within the next few days, I will be sending out information about a statewide hearing that will be held Wednesday, January 15, 2003, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. [This hearing has been scheduled. See announcement below—ed.] This session will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about this proposal and offer words of caution, suggestions, questions, and/or endorsement.

Stay tuned for more information and remember to visit the MLA website for regular information on MLC activities.

Ann B. Hutton
MLC Chair

The vision for the Minnesota Library Council can be found at <http://mnlibraryassociation.org/Legislative/MLC/Vision.htm> and there is a link on that page for the draft document for the duties of a Minnesota State Library Board

Minnesota Library Council Announcement

What: Hearing on the Creation of a Minnesota State Library Board
When: **Wednesday, January 15, 2003 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**
Where: An ITV Conference with locations around Minnesota
 St. Paul – MELSA Office
 Rochester – SELCO Office
 Marshall – Southwest State University
Detroit Lakes – Public Library (1000 Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes)
 Mt. Iron – Arrowhead Library System Office

The Minnesota Library Council will host a statewide hearing to solicit opinions about the proposed Minnesota State Library Board. This live discussion via interactive television will provide members of Minnesota's library community --- library staff, trustees, friends, and institutional or administrative associates --- a unique opportunity to hear about and offer opinions that will mold the future of Minnesota library structure.

Participants will review the recently created Vision for a Minnesota State Library Board, as well as requirements for what this entails and the strategic components necessary for this to occur. The agenda will include background information about similar models within state government, legislative efforts to-date, and a call for volunteers willing to advocate for this legislative initiative. The agenda will allow time for local reactions and discussion, as well as time to report the responses from each location.



Northern Lights Library Network
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Happy New Year!

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CALENDAR

- Jan 9, 2003 Spotlight on Books Planning Committee meeting, 4pm, First Lutheran Church, Bemidji, MN
- Jan 13 ELM Training, Wadena-Deer Creek High School, 12:30-3:30, Wadena., MN Registration: <http://nlln.org>
- Jan 15 Hearing on the Creation of a Minnesota State Library Board. 3:00-6:00 PM, ITV conference, Detroit Lakes Public Library (also, St Paul, Rochester, Marshall, and Mt Iron locations)
- Jan 24 Soaring to Excellence Teleconference: "*Time Management: Getting things done*". MSU-Moorhead Library, Room 208, 11am-1pm Registration form available <http://nlln.org>
- Jan 24-29 ALA Midwinter Conference, Philadelphia, PA (<http://www.ala.org/events/midwinter2003/>)
- Feb 2-3 MEMO Midwinter Conference, Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN Registration available at www.memoweb.org
- Feb 7 Teleconference: "*Reference Series Part I: Virtual, Electronic and Traditional: what the future holds*". MSU-Moorhead Library, Room 208, 11am-1pm Registration form available <http://nlln.org>
- Feb 15 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, 10-12, Graystone Hotel Ballroom, Detroit Lakes, MN
- Feb 18-19 MLA/MEMO Legislative Day, St Paul, MN (<http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Legislative.htm>)
- Mar 3 "*Oh, the Places You'll Go!*" Read Across America (<http://www.nea.org/reacross/2003.html>)
- Apr 4-5 15th Annual Spotlight on Books Conference, "From Tots to Teens", Bemidji, MN. (<http://nlln.org/spotlight.html>)
- Apr 6-12 National Library Week
- June 19-25 ALA National Conference, Toronto, ON