

Northern Lights Library Network Newsletter

Nov-Dec 2006

Northern Lights Library Network

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New Trends in Training

Dear NLLN members —

Have you participated in a webinar from MINITEX? Attended a meeting or workshop via an ITV site? Used voice over IP for training? Watched a web-cast of a teleconference from your office computer? Explored on-line learning via a self-paced tutorial? Taken a course online from a university?

The list of training formats and styles goes on and on — and more tools, applications, and uses are cropping up each day. We are truly in a new world of opportunity when it comes to training. How we decide to approach this new world of training is critical to our growth and to how we help others live in a world of technology. Some training needs seem to be eternal and some are brand new —but should our response be the same today as it was 10 years ago? Have we changed how we think about, prepare, deliver, and assess the training we provide to library users, library staff, ourselves?

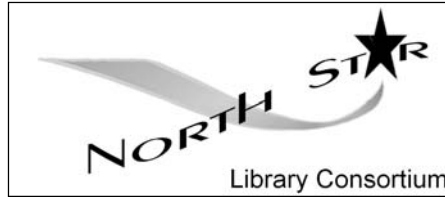
If you missed it, read Brenda Hough's thoughtful cover article in the May 2006, issue of *Computers in Libraries*, entitled, "**Teaching People to be Savvy Travelers in a Technological World**". (Its available from ELM in full text). Brenda describes her shift in thinking as a technology trainer over the past 10 years: "I used to see the end result of trainees mastering specific skills, but now I realize that the end result needs to be trainees having skills and abilities and attitude that are flexible and adaptable. That's technological literacy."

So, - Brenda is *teaching concepts* rather than steps; *creating context* for users, *encouraging independence*, and helping people acquire the skills they need to *explore* and learn on their own. It is a fascinating change of approach.

Brenda says, "It's impossible to predict what technology will look like 10 years into the future. As trainers, the most important thing we can do is encourage independence, confidence, flexibility, and adability, so that our trainees will be prepared for the changes that are certainly ahead."

Read the article and then see this philosophy in action by attending WebJunction's Rural Library Sustainability Project webinar series, **In Focus**. See page 6 for details on this series and how to attend these webinars from WebJunction. I hope to see you there!

~ ~ Ruth

Nov 2006 UPDATE**Congratulations to all!**

Congratulations to the 89 school and special libraries that have joined the North Star Library Consortium to date. What a success this continues to be!

The North Star Library Consortium was established as a partnership between NLLN and Region 1 to provide a sophisticated, web-based library management system (***Destiny***) to the schools and special libraries of our region. Implementation of Follett's ***Destiny*** software was made possible by an E2T2 grant and is centrally hosted and managed in Moorhead at the Region 1 site. Each library in the Consortium has customized and configured their individual sites to meet their needs, while still conforming to the standards for a Minnesota online library system. The ***Destiny*** system has been an important tool for managing library resources and integrating information technology into the curriculum.

The first 6 library sites began using ***Destiny*** in February, 2004. At that time we had 24,000 titles in the database. Within 6 months the number of sites had grown to 54 with over 300,000 titles and more than 650,000 records. When the initial period of the E2T2 grant ended in Dec 2005, we had 63 sites on board and 784,712 copy records, 33,137 patrons and 366,289 circulations. By the end of December, 2006, we anticipate having 89 school and special libraries on the shared catalog and well over 50,000 patrons. Circulation on the ***Destiny*** system has already exceeded the one million mark!

What makes this all so remarkable? It's the fact that no individual member of this North Star Library Consortium could afford to purchase, manage, run, train, update, and use the ***Destiny*** system on their own. By combining our purchasing power via a consortium, by partnering with Region 1 as the host and fiscal agent, by using the coordinating and training services of NLLN, and by working closely with Follett's ***Destiny*** team, we were able to do **together** what none of us could do on our own. Most of our schools are very small. The average student population for the Consortium sites is about 250.

Not only have we put a state-of-the-art library management system in place, but we have also trained nearly 100 people in how to manage their ***Destiny*** site, have done extensive training on best practices and library management, have explored new technologies together, formed a support network among library staff members across the region, and have had a huge impact on integrating library information technology skills into the curriculum.

This is not the end of the story! We will be adding 10 new sites before the end of the year. We will continue to allow new members to join. We will continue offering staff development opportunities to everyone in the region. We will continue to examine how school media centers have a positive effect on student achievement.

Congratulations to all the people throughout the NLLN region who have been involved in this very successful grassroots effort to make our school and special libraries leaders in the 21st Century.

**#1:**

If you haven't registered for WebJunction-Minnesota then do it today! Do it now!

<http://www.webjunction.org>

Click on the *registration* and be certain that you pick Minnesota as the Community Partner.

#2:

Explore the site — in depth!

- it may take many visits to explore it all
- don't miss the Learning Center with free courses!
- don't miss the technology center!
- don't miss webinars on rural libraries!

#3:

WebJunction is a library community.

- You'll find old friends and colleagues
- You'll meet new friends and colleagues
- Get in the habit of contributing, of participating, of sharing your resources with others.

#4:

Don't miss the extras —

- like TechSoup that offers you software at reduced prices
- links to other resources you've heard about ... but maybe forgot about.

#5:

After you've dipped your toe in — or plunged in head first—be sure and talk it up at your next staff meeting, a board meeting, in the break room. This is a rich and vital resource.

#6:

Say thanks to Mn State Library Services, MINITEX, and Metronet for making this available to the Minnesota Library Community.

THANKS!

A Personal Testimony:

I have been registered at WebJunction since the very beginning and have always found it a useful and valuable site. Now that Minnesota has become a community partner there is even more to discover and more connections to make.

In the past few weeks I have:

1. Taken a course on using *MS Access* and asked my Administrative Assistant to do the same. It was a right-now, just-in-time learning at my convenience — it got me where I needed to go. Saved me a bundle.
2. I plan to do a similar course on *Dreamweaver* as we revamp the NLLN website.
3. Explored the resources related to library website design and accessibility.
4. Purchased copies of *Dreamweaver* from TechSoup at greatly discounted prices.
5. Read my way through the Rural Library Sustainability reports, policies, whitepapers, and more. There are lots of rural libraries and we are more alike than different!
6. Participated in the Rural Library Sustainability webinar, In Focus, on Technology Training for Patrons (which was moderated by Brenda Hough, a former colleague). Other MN colleagues were there, as well as people from around the country.
7. Delved into the Tribal Library Services area to support the work we are doing on the White Earth and Leech Lake Indian Reservations. Made contacts with tribal librarians in other parts of the country. Again, found similarities, inspiration, and helpful people.
8. Linked to resources on technology planning and training that were of interest — discovered some amazing resources.
9. Set up several new RSS feeds for myself, revamped the NLLN blogs, spiffed up the Flickr site and tried out some new online tools.

Exploring WebJunction will keep me busy all winter — I hope you have as much fun and get as much out of as I am!

~ ~ Ruth

<http://www.thefriends.org/mnbookawards.html>



Nominations Now Being Accepted for the 19th Annual Minnesota Book Awards

The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 19th Annual Minnesota Book Awards, a program honoring the state's finest authors, illustrators, publishers, and other literary contributors.

The Friends recently took on the lead coordination role for the Book Awards, working through the Capital City consortium, a partnership with the Saint Paul Public Library and the Office of the Mayor of Saint Paul. Building on a strong Book Awards tradition of outreach throughout Minnesota, the Capital City consortium also is collaborating with the state's many literary and library networks, including the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) and the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA).

Anyone willing to pay the entry fee and provide the required number of reading copies is eligible to nominate a book. To be eligible for nomination, a book must fit into one of the eight awards categories, and meet all of the Eligibility and Entry Guidelines. The deadline for submission is Friday, December 15, 2006 at 5 p.m.

Winners will be announced at the 19th Annual Minnesota Book Awards event on Saturday, May 5, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – Saint Paul Riverfront. Please watch in coming months for information on ticket sales and details about the event program.

The Book Awards, which began in 1988 during a weeklong literary festival sponsored by The Friends, were administered for the past seven years by the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

19th Annual Minnesota Book Awards Categories

Autobiography, Memoir & Creative Nonfiction - a work of nonfiction which is primarily autobiographical in theme, or which includes a significant amount of personal material and/or imaginative reworking.

Children's Literature - a work of fiction, nonfiction, poetry or picture book (a book in which text and illustration combine to tell the story; Minnesota authors and illustrators are both eligible in this category) for beginning or middle readers.

Fine Press - unique, handmade, limited edition publications. Eligible creators in this category may include book designers, writers, and illustrators.

General Nonfiction - a full-length book of nonfiction, including, but not limited to, history, biography, science, nature, and cookbooks.

Genre Fiction - a book of fiction written in a popular genre or style, including mystery, detective, fantasy, romance, graphic novel and science fiction.

Novel & Short Story - a novel, novella, or short story collection by a single author or author team.

Poetry - a book-length collection of poetry by an individual writer or by a writer team, or a single poem in one volume.

Young Adult Literature - a work of fiction, nonfiction, graphic novel or poetry for young adults (age 12 and up).

Guidelines and Nomination Forms available at: <http://www.thefriends.org/mnbookawards.html>

Next Phase of the Minnesota Digital Library Development:

We are pleased to announce that the Minnesota Digital Library Coalition is accepting applications for digitization projects for the 2006 phase of the development of "Minnesota Reflections," the MDL's database of digital images and documents contributed by institutions from across the state (visit <http://reflections.mndigital.org>).

The application form and the "Call for Project Proposals," which describes the requirements for image, document and map projects, are available under the "News and events" section of the Minnesota Digital Library Web site (<http://www.mndigital.org>).

The Steering Committee members are hoping that you will help us get word of the project out to your communities. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me directly.

Here's some of the information people will need so they can think of contributing collections:

- Organizations may submit applications for the MDLC to scan collections of photographs, postcards, artwork and other images, as well as documents that personalize the history of Minnesota, and maps that help tell the state's story. All images, documents and maps need to be originals and these need to have been created before or on Dec. 31, 1949. The MDLC follows current copyright restrictions in accepting digitization projects
- Organizations may apply for the MDL to digitize between 50 and 500 images. Organizations with document and map projects should consult with MDLC Outreach Coordinator Marian Rengel to decide how many documents and maps to submit for scanning.
-
- The MDLC also welcomes applications from organizations who want to share collections of images, documents and maps that they have already scanned. Submission criteria for these types of projects are included in the "Call for Project Proposals." Further requirements, such as scanning standards, are presented in the project call and application.
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- Organizations need complete only one application to submit a plan that includes images, documents and/or maps.
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- There is no deadline for applications. The MDLC will accept applications until it has spent all grant dollars dedicated to this project. The selection committee will review applications every two weeks and choose projects that best fit the criteria and the needs of the users of "Minnesota Reflections." The MDLC encourages organizations to submit applications early, even if the scanning is likely to take place in the winter or spring.

The Minnesota Digital Library received funding for this project from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and a lifetime of learning, and State Library Services, the Minnesota state library agency, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

The MINITEX Library Information Network is the administrative home of the MDLC and is also providing support for the MDLC. A list of MDLC Steering Committee members is available at the Minnesota Digital Library home page.

For more information, contact MDLC Outreach Coordinator Marian Rengel by sending e-mail to mrrengel@stcloudstate.edu or calling (320) 308-5625.

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Long Overdue

If you are associated with libraries, particularly public libraries — if you work in one, you use one, you're a trustee or member of the Friends, you're a staunch advocate for libraries—I hope you have seen the 2 recent studies that have examined the way people use libraries and their perceptions of libraries. Both reports are available on-line and are full of remarkable insights.

Long Overdue: A Fresh Look at Public Attitudes About Libraries in the 21st Century.

(http://www.publicagenda.org/research/research_reports_details.cfm?list=99)

The Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources. (<http://www.oclc.org/reports/2005perceptions.htm>)

These reports have been the subject of much discussion at workshops, conferences, online forums, and in informal settings the past few months.

The Public Library Association, partially in response to these reports, is beginning a discussion to identify the core services of public libraries now and into the future. The 13 service responses that have been the foundation of the PLA planning process for the past decade are ready for review and modification — some will stay, some will go, some will be modified.

The revision process began at ALA in New Orleans and will continue via the PLA blog until the final draft will be posted on the PLA Results Web site in January and presented for discussion during the ALA Midwinter meeting in Seattle in January, 2007.

PLA needs your help. What are the core services that public libraries offer? What do communities want, need, and expect from libraries? How will these needs and expectations be met?

Discuss these issues with your local library staff, trustees, and Friends; discuss it with your colleagues. It is an interesting time to help shape the response of libraries to the changing perceptions and needs of our communities.

More information is available at the **PLA Results** web site: <http://www.plaresults.org/> and the **PLA blog**: <http://plablog.org/plaservicerresponses> .

Take a look!

Rural Library Sustainability Workshops

A series of Rural Library Sustainability Workshops, to be held at various locations around the state, is currently being setup by Maryann VanCura of State Library Services. Watch for more information as it becomes available in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, you can learn more about the Rural Library Sustainability Project at WebJunction (<http://mn.webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=498>). It is a national program funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and is a collaboration between WebJunction, State Library Agencies, and Rural and Small Library Staff throughout the US.

A feature not to be missed is ***In Focus***, a new monthly series of one-hour webinars. Open to everyone, these webinars are designed to build on the work going on in the Workshops. Sessions last one hour, and link you to new ideas and resourceful people who have found solutions to the challenges you face everyday.

The next session takes place online on Nov. 28, at 11am CST. The topic is:

Tech Support and the Rural Library: Finding the Technology Assistance You Need.

Everyone needs a technology support network. Join this session to hear about some innovative approaches libraries have taken. Brainstorm ways to recruit and use tech savvy volunteers. Learn how to determine whether or not a paid consultant has the necessary knowledge and skills for your library's needs.

Moderated by **Brenda Hough**, Technology Coordinator, Northeast Kansas Library System.

More information is available at:

<http://mn.webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=13496>

Calendar of Events

November 2006

- Nov 2 MnLINK Gateway Operation Committee meets
- Nov 10 Veterans Day Observed - NLLN Office closed
- Nov 13-19 National Children's Book Week
- Nov 15 Technology Plan Writing Workshop, 9am-Noon, ITV. Registration at Project Socrates.
- Nov 17 *Destiny* Training for new staff, 9:30-4, Region 1, Moorhead
- Nov 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday/NLLN Office closed
- Nov 28 In Focus (webinar): Tech support and the Rural Library, Brenda Hough, Moderator.
More information at WebJunction: <http://mn.webjunction.org/do/Navigation?category=13496>

December 2006

- Dec 2-5 TIES Conference, Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, MN www.ties.k12.mn.us for more info.
- Dec 14-15 *Destiny* Training for new North Star Library Consortium members, Region 1, Moorhead
- Dec 16 NLLN Governing Board meeting, Detroit Lakes, 10am-1pm
- Dec 26 Christmas Holiday - NLLN Office closed

January 2007

- Jan 9-10 Mn Multitype Library Directors Meeting, St Cloud
- Jan 28-29 MEMO Mid-winter Conference, Alexandria, MN <http://www.memoweb.org>

February 2007

- Feb 8 State Library Advisory Council, CC17, Mn Dept of Education Conference Center B, Roseville
9:00am-4:00pm
- Feb 17 NLLN Governing Board Meeting, 10am-1pm, Graystone Hotel, Detroit Lakes

*Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays to all in the NLLN Region!
from the NLLN Governing Board and NLLN Staff*



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Inside find . . .

- * New benchmark for the North Star Library Consortium
- * Exploring WebJunction Minnesota
- * What's new with the Minnesota Book Awards, including guidelines, nomination forms, and ceremony dates.
- * Update on the new projects undertaken by the Minnesota Digital Library
- * Rural Library Sustainability Project in Minnesota
- * . . . and a Calendar of Minnesota Library Events

Best wishes for all the coming Holidays!