

# Northern Lights Library Network Newsletter

February 2003

## Continuing Education and Professional Development: Some Low-cost Options

Don't overlook these low-cost, readily-available means of staying informed, learning new skills, and sharing resources:

**Teleconferences:** NLLN sponsors downlinks for a variety of teleconferences. Subjects of these teleconferences are timely and offer something for all levels and types of library workers, friends and trustees. We schedule these in locations where demand is — if you would like to have a downlink scheduled in your area, let the NLLN Office know. Check the NLLN.ORG website for a list of scheduled teleconferences and workshops offered in our area.

**Webinars:** available from MINITEX, OCLC, and a number of vendors, these sessions cover a variety of topics, take place in real time, and all the traveling is done electronically via web sites and phone. You sit at your computer, (and with MINITEX you also have a phone connection), spend from 30 minutes up to several hours in real-time, in a hands-on learning experience on a subject of your choice.

**Videos:** are a good way to catch up on teleconferences, workshops, and training sessions you may have missed. They are also valuable when designing a staff development day. Whether you view these on your own or incorporate them into a staff day, there are videos on all kinds of subjects, issues, and products that are designed for staff development. Check library catalogs or call the NLLN Office.

**Scholarships:** extend your ability to attend learning opportunities by taking advantage of scholarships. NLLN has continuing education scholarships available to workers in any member library; the Minnesota Library Association also provides scholarships to attend conferences; other scholarship opportunities are available from government agencies, foundations and organizations.

**Local Workshops:** MLA, MEMO, NLLN, service cooperatives, colleges and universities, professional organizations, local government, are offering classes, workshops, and forums in our area all the time. Take advantage of them. Offer to work in partnership with other agencies to present library information.

**On-line resources:** Tutorials, special topic listserves, vendor websites, e-mail exchanges, organization websites, college and university websites all offer an enormous amount of tutorials, study guides, product information, help lines. Use search engines such as Google to help locate these resources.

**Library Catalogs:** Don't forget your own library! Check library holdings for the broadest range of information in the greatest array of formats. Go to [www.mnlink.org](http://www.mnlink.org) to check library holdings in a Minnesota library.

These are some suggestions for ways to keep informed, to gain new skills, and participate in building strong libraries. Check the NLLN website ([nlln.org](http://nlln.org)) for a calendar of activities, join the NLLN electronic discussion list, and call (800-450-1032) or email ([nloffice@nlln.org](mailto:nloffice@nlln.org)) if you have questions, suggestions, or information to share!

## Northern Lights Library Network

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## Electronic Library for Minnesota —- What a deal!

“Our investigation indicates that, if each Minnesota library and school media center currently registered for ELM was to purchase the online information available in ELM individually, the cumulative cost would be approximately \$38.9 million. Compare that to the \$1.2 million cost of licensing under a statewide MINITEX contract, and you get a cost avoidance of \$37.7 million to Minnesota residents. What a terrific way for the Minnesota Legislature to leverage everyone’s buying power to benefit all state residents!

The MINITEX ELM statewide contract provides equity, economy, and excellence. Through ELM, an equitable core of information sources is available to every student and citizen in Minnesota, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, raising the level of excellence in colleges, schools, and communities across the state. ELM increases statewide collaboration to achieve an impressive economy of scale for Minnesota.

The approximate cost per Minnesota resident in FY03 is \$0.25. (Bill DeJohn)”

—From the MINITEX E-News #22, Jan 2003

You can’t beat this for the best deal around — we’re all winners with ELM. Use it and support it.

**For more information about funding issues related to ELM, and what you can do to support this valuable resource, please go to:** <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/publications/enews/e-news22.pdf>, **or call the NLLN Office (800-450-1032).**

### Activities at the state level . . . where to go when you want to know:

The **Minnesota Library Council** continues to meet and information about the Council, including its minutes, vision statement, and bylaws, is available at: <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/mlc.htm>

In January, a hearing was held concerning the possibility of a **Minnesota Library Board**. This was a teleconference with more than 75 people attending at 7 locations around the state. For more information about this hearing, and reports from each site, go to <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Legislative/MLC/Statewide%20Hearings.htm>

The **IT/LDS office** in the Department of Children, Families, and Learning is currently working on a 5 year plan for Minnesota Libraries, is reviewing the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) 5 year plan for Minnesota, and working on the LSTA grant application procedures. Information related to this is available at <http://children.state.mn.us/library/>. The website for LDS is under revision so changes are occurring all the time.

The **MLA/MEMO Legislative Committee** meets monthly and keeps membership informed of legislative matters via the MLA Legislative list. For more information about this or to subscribe, please go to: <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Legislative.htm>

The **Minnesota Education Telecommunications Council (METC)** continues to meet and agenda, minutes, bylaws and membership information is available at: <http://www.mheso.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=229>

The **MnLINK project** is very busy and achieving new levels of activity and functionality every month. To keep up with MnLINK developments, go to: <http://www.mnlink.org/defaulta.htm>

## Legislative Day—Platform—Talking Points

*"I do believe that numbers will be important this year. And the message is simple, so you don't have to be immersed in the topic to do a good job."* Peg Werner, MLA Legislative Chair

MLA Legislative Day is February 19. Briefings will be held the evening before as well as on the morning of Legislative Day.

The MLA/MEMO Platform and the Talking Points, in addition to all the information provided in the Library Legislative Day packet are available at <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Legislative/Legislative%20Day.htm>.

Whether or not you are able to attend Library Legislative Day, please check out the valuable collection of resources and information on the MLA website (see above) and use them to be an informed supporter of libraries.

As Peg says, "the message is simple", but it is up to us to deliver it.

## MEMO Conferences

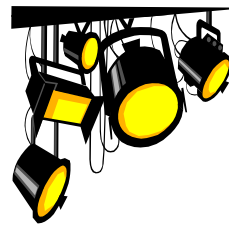
MEMO had a successful Midwinter conference in Alexandria, learning about digital cameras, making digital books, the school media center census, weeding, MYRA, Readers Theater, the NLLN automation project. Weather prevented some of the speakers and vendors from making it, but those who were able to attend had a valuable time — and ask to see the "light pens"!

Now is the time to start thinking about the MEMO Fall Conference to be held in Fargo, ND. "**Celebrate the Challenge**" will take place **October 2-4, 2003**, at the Holiday Inn Convention/Resort Center in Fargo.

Key note speakers will include **Alice Yucht**, a frequent contributor to school media journals, **Theodore Roosevelt**, 26th President of the United States, and **Amanda Credaro**, best known as "**Biblia, the Warrior Librarian**". Amanda comes from Sydney, Australia and will be making her first North American visit.

Mary Garlie and Laurie Conzemius, media specialists in Park Rapids, are the overall Conference chairs. It is both exciting and challenging to have this conference in our area. To volunteer your time, suggestions, or session ideas, contact Mary or Laurie, [mgalie@parkrapids.k12.mn.us](mailto:mgalie@parkrapids.k12.mn.us) or [lconzemius@parkrapids.k12.mn.us](mailto:lconzemius@parkrapids.k12.mn.us)

**Watch for more information but make plans now to attend in October!**



## Spotlight On Books

**April 4-5, 2003**  
**Bemidji, MN**

<http://nlln.org/spotlight.html>

Please share the enclosed flyer —  
Post it in your libraries!  
Share it with staff!  
Share it with your community!

This will be a wonderful conference. Call NLLN (800-450-1032) if you have any questions, need additional flyers, or would like more information.

Remember reading something in the NLLN Newsletter but can't find your copy?  
Electronic versions available at:

<http://nlln.org/newsletter.html>



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## CALENDAR

- Feb 2-3 MEMO Midwinter Conference, Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN Registration available at [www.memoweb.org](http://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>)
- Feb 24 ELM K-12 Training, Roseau School Media Center, Roseau MN, 9am-1pm  
On-line registration form available [nlln.org](http://nlln.org).
- Feb 25 ELM K-12 overview, Detroit Lakes Schools, Detroit Lakes, 9-12.
- Mar 3 "*Oh, the Places You'll Go!*" Read Across America (<http://www.nea.org/reacross/2003.html>)
- Mar 12 ELM-K-12 Training, Wheaton High School, Wheaton, MN 1-4 PM  
On-line registration form available [nlln.org](http://nlln.org)
- Mar 21 Soaring to Excellence Teleconference: Library Support Staff Soar to Great Heights: How library workers give back. MSU-Moorhead Library, Room 208, 11am-1pm  
Registration form available <http://nlln.org>.
- Apr 4-5 **15th Annual Spotlight on Books Conference, "From Tots to Teens"**, Bemidji, MN.  
(<http://nlln.org/spotlight.html>)
- Apr 11 Teleconference: "*Reference Series Part II: Virtual, Electronic and Traditional: what the future holds*". MSU-Moorhead Library, Room 208, 11am-1pm Registration form available <http://nlln.org>
- Apr 6-12 National Library Week
- May 12 Mn Assoc of Law Libraries Workshop: Legal Research @ your library. NWTC, Wadena, MN
- June 19-25 ALA National Conference, Toronto, ON