Regional Public Library Systems
Chris Olson
September 7, 2012

Arrowhead Library System (Jim Weikum)
The times they are a-changin’
On July 1, ALS took over responsibility of carrying-out the activities previously handled by the North Country Library Cooperative (NCLC). The agreement reached between the ALS and NCLC Governing Board called for NCLC to cease operations on June 30, with NCLC’s two employees having their employment terminated and all NCLC assets being transferred over to ALS. On July 16, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education filled in the final piece of the “puzzle” when she formally designated ALS as the now having multitype responsibilities in addition to our responsibilities as a regional public library system. NCLC’s annual audit commences this week and in the near future, all of NCLC’s financial activities will be absorbed into the ALS accounting system. As of July 1, ALS also has a new governing board structure that accommodates the statutory requirements for both a regional public library system and a multitype library agency. The new 13-member board has 9 people appointed by our participating counties (one per county, with St. Louis County getting three), and one from each of the four “types” of libraries. The “new board” had its first meeting on July 12, and indications are that they will be quite engaged and focused.

ALS Strategic Planning
More than three years ago, instead of initiating a strategic planning process for ALS, we instead engaged the services of a planning consultant, Whitney Crettol, to conducts planning processes (including the writing of plans) for our member public libraries. That long process has come to a close. Although those 27 local plans will provide very important foundation for ALS’’s strategic planning process, we delayed the start of that process for a few months to accommodate the transition for ALS taking on multitype responsibilities. ALS’’s planning process is now underway and we are in the midst of conducting focus group sessions around our region for public library directors as well as representatives of our new members from the other three “types” of libraries. The sessions have been sparsely attended, but we’ve received some valuable input from attendees on how ALS’’s service offerings might look in the near
future. We’ve also formed a strategic planning “team” including all ALS Board members and several representatives from member libraries. The planning team will hold three all-day retreats in September and October. The process should be completed by the end of this year. Among many of the questions facing the team will be defining the different levels of ALS “membership” that stem from our recent restructuring, and what services will be available to members based on their membership level.

**Telecom Changes**
As reported in the spring, ALS accepted the proposal from the Northeast Service Cooperative (NESC) to provide telecommunications/Internet connections for 26 ALS member public libraries as well as the ALS “headquarters” building. 19 of the public libraries, and ALS, will be connected via 100MB fiber optic technology (speeds will be 1GB between participants within the network). Six of the remaining sites (all in Itasca County) will have T-1’s provided via NESC, and one site (Baudette) will continue with a DSL connection as ALS continue to look for a provider that can offer a more robust connection. Duluth continues to get Internet access via the City of Duluth. The two remaining member public libraries are open less than twenty (20) hours per week and arrange for their own cable modem Internet connections. As of the preparation of this report, no ALS sites are functioning on the new fiber connections, nor has the NESC provided any dates when such functionality will commence.

**And Then There Were 28...**
Since the addition of Grand Rapids in about 1987, ALS has had 29 member public libraries. We are engaged in an ongoing conversation with the McKinley Public Library to dissolve as a “public library” as defined by Minnesota Statute and then transition them to becoming one of ALS’s “book stations” by the end of 2012. McKinley has had a public library since 1932, and has long been the smallest community in Minnesota with a public library recognized as such by the State. The 2010 U.S. Census put McKinley’s population at 128, a remarkable +62% increase over the 2000 Census, probably correcting some major under-counting. Still, the Library has been open for only 6 hours per week for over two decades, and the current model is not sustainable.

**East Central Regional Library (Barbara Misselt)**
We conducted a major survey to evaluate our services. 289 persons responded. The 5 most valued services by library users were: physical materials, ILL, online catalog, library website, and staff assistance. The 3 most valued materials were: print books (respectively fiction, non-fiction, reference), eBooks, and DVDs. The 3 most desired areas for service expansion are computer skills training, later hours, and self-checkout.

We’re doing lots of reorganization in the Administrative Services area, led by the new manager. Budget reporting, administrative processes, filing, and anything that isn’t nailed down is being evaluated and streamlined. It’s been a good process. The best day was when the shredding company came for a special pickup and took away years’ worth of paper that served no archival purpose.

We added eAudio to our digital library offerings, with great appreciation from our customers.

Four County Historical Societies (Chisago, Isanti, Pine, and Kanabec) sponsored a presentation by Rep. Dean Urdahl who spoke about the 1862 Dakota Conflict. This is the 150th anniversary. His excellent story-telling lasted an hour and half, and kept everyone spellbound.

On May 16th, staff members from ECRL participated in a roundtable to discuss our experience with implementation of Evergreen, along with staff from the PALS office at the PALS office in Edina. The roundtable was part of a larger project on Open Source library systems being conducted by the federal
Institute of Museums and Library Service (IMLS). IMLS staff appreciated our contribution, and the experience was also enlightening to us, as we discussed our experiences thus far.

**Kitchigami Regional Library (Marian Ridge)**

**Mobile Library**
After its most recent string of expensive repairs, the KRLS board has decided to phase out the mobile library service by the end of 2014. We will be investigating alternative services in 2012-2013. We will conduct two pilot projects in 2013, if we get the needed LSTA grant next year – one low tech and one high(er) tech.

**Outreach**
The KRLS board still maintains a commitment to serving rural residents. It has designated the donation from the Sue Tricker trust as a committed reserve known as the Susan Tricker Outreach Fund. This reserve, now over $120,000 will fund the new outreach model that the board chooses.

**2013 Proposed budget**
The 2013 budgets include a 1% and steps increase for employees. Other than that, the requested increases vary by branch library and county. The KRLS budget policy (NOT a formula) is that the levies from each county and the cities with libraries within that county must pay for the direct costs of service in that county (although the “direct” costs are heavily subsidized by KRLS from RLBSS). We have requested increases from all cities and counties for 2013. City levies have not increased in 5 years, and 4 of our 5 counties decreased their levy last year (between 4 and 10%).

**Lake Agassiz Regional Library (Kathy Fredette)**

**Fertile Branch Hours Expanded**
Effective April 16th, Fertile Branch hours increased from 24 to 32 open hours per week. Fertile (population 862, with a service population of 1,741) has, up until now, been the only LARL branch open 3 days per week. All other LARL branches are open 4, 5, 6, or 7 days per week. The LARL Board designated funds for Branch Capacity Building with the intent of seeing whether additional open hours expand library use. Circulation of library materials, program attendance, use of library computers, and walk-in traffic will all be monitored to see if the community takes advantage of the change. The Fertile Library is located in the City building which also includes city offices, a community center, and a clinic.

**All Staff Day 2012**
Featured speaker for the day was Kao Kalia Yang, Minnesota author of *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*. We also had a speaker from The Village with information about LARL’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP); Dr. Benjamin Smith, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Professor of Spanish/Chair, Dept. of Languages & Cultures, offered a presentation on “The Camino de Santiago and Manuscripts Along the Way”; and Ann Dolence had everyone up and moving in her health and fitness-related talk titled “Let’s have some fun!

**Unique Management Services (UMS) - Material Recovery/Collection Agency**
Here’s a brief 5-month (Jan-May 2012) summary of our Material Recovery results. We have recovered at least 5 times more than UMS charges for their services.

- $8,274.00 = value of returned items.
- $1,483.02 = cost of getting those items returned

22% of the billed items have been returned
279 of the 1,295 items we started with have been recovered

The bulk of the returned items happens in the first 2 months after UMS gets our list. After 2 months the recovery drops dramatically.

12 customers from the January batch have been credit reported.

**Encore**
This new catalog system, which went live May 4th for LARL and NWRL, allows for more user-friendly searching, giving customers the option to limit immediately by format, branch/LINK Site, language and publication date. Customers can also rate books, movies, CDs, and other items we have in our collection, and add a subject tag to the item to help other people find similar titles.

**Anne Fredine Retirement Reception**
Approximately 200 people attended a Retirement Reception on Saturday evening, July 7th at the Moorhead Library for Anne Fredine. Anne retired on July 9th after 26 years of dedicated service as Moorhead Library Director, Moorhead Hub Supervisor, and for the past fourteen months, Assistant Regional Library Director. A unanimous vote of the Moorhead Library Board resulted in naming the public access computer area in the Moorhead Library the ‘Anne B. Fredine Technology Center’

**Metropolitan Library Service Agency (Chris Olson)**

**Discovery Tool and ILS Enhancements Update**
As previously mentioned, the library systems have determined that a region-wide discovery tool product no longer meets their needs and are currently exploring alternatives to the discovery tool purchased by MELSA several years ago. At least one system will keep Aquabrowser while the others may purchase the discovery tools developed by their ILS vendors. To allow for more transition time, the library systems have requested that MELSA extend the current Aquabrowser contract from November 30, 2012 to February 28, 2013. MELSA staff is also working with the Tech and E-Resources Teams to identify other products that would enhance the functionality of their catalogs/discovery tools and provide cost savings for the systems as a collaborative purchase.

**Advisory Board Concentrates on Educational Speakers**
During this year, the MELSA Advisory Board has shaped its MELSA meeting schedule around a series of speakers to help inform and explore new areas of concentration. So far in 2012, the group has had discussions with representatives from 3M concerning the 3M Cloud Library (e-books); Don Ball, co-founder of CoCo – a collaborative and co-working space, and Ron Carlee from the ICMA. This past month, Lezlie Vermillion, assistant county administrator in Scott County, gave a presentation on the county re-structuring of services. (The county is certainly looking at a more customer-based model… and even made me feel a bit better of the county “take-over” of the library board’s responsibilities.)

**Homework Help Vendor Selected**
We issued an RFP for a homework help/online tutoring service in late-May and the Trustees have agreed to accept the proposal from Brainfuse for up to another three years of service. The program has been successful – and we have been pleased with Brainfuse’s product – but felt a process was needed to review the marketplace since we knew there was completion. Brainfuse will soon begin to offer homework help via mobile technology – which sounds like an interesting access point for students.

**Trustees Adopt Formal Fund Balance Policy**
In past years, the MELSA Board has reviewed the year end MELSA fund balance and approved any designation of funds during the audit process. This formal policy provides guidelines to assist the Board in the year-to-year decision-making role concerning the fund balance. The guidelines include any
assignments for planned future year expenditures, cash flow, and an unexpected decrease in RLBSS funding. The new policy avoids stating a certain percentage or months of operating expenses to use as a reserve. This gives the Board the most flexibility on a year-to-year basis to determine the use of reserve dollars.

Northstar Digital Literacy Standards
This project is a free service for individuals to gain and measure basic technology skills. The standards are now online – and I encourage you to take a look at them… and even take the assessment yourselves. (It is okay if you don’t get 100 %!) See more by going to the Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium Website (www.spclc.org). MELSA has agreed to provide the basic fee for each of the member library systems to participate as a sponsoring organization.

Basic Background
“During early 2010, the St. Paul Community Literacy Consortium was asked by the St. Paul Public Library to convene a community task force to develop basic computer Digital Literacy Standards. Over the next several months, professionals from community based non-profits, libraries, school district and non-profit ABE programs, state agencies, and other organizations met regularly to "Develop a commonly accepted set of digital literacy standards that will facilitate empowerment of adults needing technology skills for daily living, employment preparation, and/or transition to higher education."

Northwest Regional Library (Barbara Jauquet Kalinowski)

Director Search
The advertisement was released in early July and produced three applications to date. A Search Committee is in charge of the process, using the State Library’s “Selecting a Library Director” manual.

2013 Budget
Last year the NWRL Board requested the Library Friends to present the NWRL budget to County Commissioners and City Councils. This year, NWRL Board members are presenting it. The major advantage of this procedure is Board members must thoroughly understand the budget, especially the mix of state and local funding! I developed supporting material such as “Talking Points” for them. With that said, the 2013 budget contains:

1. 2% COLA increases and Step Increases
2. Major increases for materials, based on public demand and identified needs for replacements
3. Share of delivery expense which previously was charged to the regional budget only.

Warren Public Library
A local advisory committee has written the necessary grants to add an addition to the Warren Public Library. With this effort, all NWRL libraries are either new or have been renovated in the past 20 years. It will be good to retire knowing they’re in good shape.

Summer Reading Program
One of the NWRL Board members is an elementary teacher who has conducted a summer reading program for years in the small community of Goodridge. This year more than 90 kids signed up, an all time record. She’s dedicated to students maintaining their reading skills during summer months and can witness the difference it makes when they’re tested in the fall.

NWRL honors three women who left a legacy in NWRL
A personal goal before my retirement is to honor three women who have supported NWRL public library services for 30 – 50 years. On July 15 we dedicated a painting of Margaret Marvin which hangs on the fireplace in the newly named Margaret Marvin Reading Room of the Warroad Public Library. Before
fall, we’ll dedicate a garden sculpture in the west garden of the Thief River Falls Public Library to Gretchen Beito. Gretchen has been involved with NWRL since it’s inception in the 1960’s. We’re also honoring Annette Hermansen in Roseau for her dedicated work with the Library Friends since 1985. All pieces are original art and commissioned to local artists so they fit into the Legacy guidelines.

Pioneerland Library System (Mark Ranum)

Pioneerland has successfully transitioned to a new administrative structure, with an Executive Director on contract and a full-time Director of Library Operations. The transitional phase was almost 11 months and there will be annual reviews to insure the structure continues to work effectively for PLS.

PLS is requesting a 3% increase in funding from all cities and counties for 2013 after 3 years of flat funding requests. Of the 31 branch libraries, 8-11 have been identified as needing additional support to continue current services or to build reserves to the required 3-month level PLS requires.

The new Fairfax Library opened on 7/18, about 13 days later than we had hoped due to vendor problems installing the data circuit in the new facility. The vendor mistakenly cancelled the order, and because of the MNPUC regulations, there was a significant delay in ordering the new circuit and getting approvals through the required string of vendors (Windstream, ATT, Century Link). We are operating the library ILS through a data connection on an Apple iPhone while the circuit is being worked on and do not have any internet access for patrons at this time.

Plum Creek Library System (Mark Ranum)

Koha implementation continues to be a challenge, but overall is successful for supporting quality library services for the member libraries and providing a quality catalog experience for our patrons. We continue to see upgrades implemented which are useful for a consortium environment. Koha is stable and extremely easy to use and understand.

PCLS implemented OverDrive with an initial collection of around 600 items, mostly adult fiction. We have seen checkouts averaging around 30-40 per day.

PCLS is requesting funding for school library automation for the first time in 8 years to add another school, Murray County Central in Slayton, to the PCLS catalog. If this is successful, we plan to add the Jackson County Consolidated Schools to the catalog in FY2014, which will be 4 buildings/libraries.

Southeastern Libraries Cooperating (Ann Hutton)

Personnel Update
SELCO will honor Years of Service of three staff members this year. Sara Berquam, Business Assistant, and Tyler Irvin, Technology Support Librarian, each with five years of SELCO employment Aimee Lake, Finance Manager, celebrating 10 years.

Technology Update
The Wabasha-Kellogg Elementary School Media Center will join the High School as a SELCO Online library during the summer with an anticipated Go-Live date to coincide with the start of the school term.

Plans continue for the multiyear project to secure full OCLC membership for all Online Libraries and take advantage of a free, one-time only, reclamation project to synchronize each library’s holdings with
OCLC. Stewartville Public library data was sent to OCLC in early June and we have begun working with the Albert Lea Public Library data.

By fall, SELCO will have completed plans to migrate our email, calendar, and contacts services from a locally-hosted Microsoft Exchange server to Google Apps. Thus far, we have purchased the software licenses and security certificates and are in the process of developing a prototype virtual server.

Implementation of BookMyne, SirsiDynix’s mobile catalog app for iOS and Android has been delayed. A “known issue” affecting patron authentication for My Account and placing requests was discovered in testing. SirsiDynix tells us that a new version fixing this issue will be released between July 2012 and September 2012.

**Viking Library System (Peg Werner)**

**2013 Budget**
The Viking Library System Governing Board approved a 2.5% increase to county budget requests for 2013. The Board cited four years of flat funding requests and cost of living increases, as well as rising costs for supplies, gasoline and health insurance in their decision.

**Legacy**
Viking Library System, like all other regional library systems, continues to roll out Legacy programs. Gail Nordstrom, Legacy Coordinator, has created a printable calendar on the VLS website for people who are looking for events in communities beyond their own local area.

Fergus Falls is one of the locations for the “Coming of Age: The 1968 Generation” project. There will be a three-day oral history project between local teens and those who came of age in the late ‘60s; the “1968” traveling exhibit from Minnesota History Center at the Otter Tail County Historical Society and a concert featuring Prudence Johnson and Dan Chouinard entitled “Tiptoe through the 60’s: Stories and Songs from a Revolutionary Decade.”

**Book Clubs**
Thorson Memorial Library, Elbow Lake, has been a long-time sponsor of book clubs at the library. Recently, they’ve published a full-color brochure offering book club kits consisting of least ten books of the same title; biographical information about the author; and a list of questions to stimulate discussion. The kits are available to libraries across the state through interlibrary loan.

**Laptop Lab**
Viking Library System has announced the availability of its mobile laptop computer lab. VLS member libraries can reserve up to eleven computers for ten days in order to provide training to library staff or the general public. Laptops are transported through the VLS delivery system. Special arrangements can be made to use the lab for an extended period of time.
Central Minnesota Libraries Exchange (CMLE)
Patricia Post, Director

CMLE staff is adopting new strategic focus areas, while maintaining other existing services through a one–year transition period. Areas we have been actively working on this summer include:

- Transition plan for moving from physical ILL service to more electronic resource sharing
- Communications plan for inclusion of existing and new tools to reach staff in member libraries
- Planning for school visits, including expected outcomes from the visits
- Planning for pilot shadowing program which will provide an opportunity for librarians to request to “shadow” a different type of librarian for a day
- Continued work with college librarians and high school media specialists around Bridging Information Literacy Across Libraries. We are creating a college student survey and will use the responses to create a video to use broadly. This group will engage in a panel presentation at both MLA and MEMO Conferences too this fall to capture the outcomes from their work together this year.
- Inventory of the many tools, agreements, systems, and partners needed to fully move into newly identified CMLE focus areas
- Exploration of the many capabilities of Libguides and beginning creation of guides on timely library topics
- Creation of a CMLE Facebook page and an associated HootSuite account to easily update all of our social media channels most efficiently
- Continued focus and exploration of a K-12 e-book consortium in Central Minnesota

Conference Activities
- CMLE staff are involved in the Local Arrangements and Hospitality Committees for this year’s MEMO Conference which will be in St. Cloud the second weekend in October
- Both CMLE staff are preparing multiple presentations for the MEMO and MLA Conferences. Topics include Bridging Information Literacy Across Libraries, Pinterest, E-books, and iPad apps.

Other administrative areas this quarter
- Annual audit and year-end report to State Library Services
- Interviewing and hiring of university student workers
- Planning with other SCSU personnel around this year’s Senior to Sophomore program
- Communications and planning with other SCSU personnel around History Day activities

Metronet
Ann Walker Smalley, Director

- The Metronet Information Literacy Initiative began the 2012-12 school year in Minneapolis Public Schools in August. MILI is offered on iPads in MPS this year to 40 elementary & secondary teachers. MILI will start in Bloomington in September.
- Metronet staff is presenting at MEMO & MLA Conferences this fall.
- Metronet is coordinating the Connections Café (formerly the Internet Café) at MLA. CMLE is doing the same at MEMO. The Café offers attendees a chance to meet, discuss, and relax at the conferences.
- The director attended the Legislative Forum in July.
• The director attended the Drafting the Blueprint advocacy workshop in Perham.
• Camp Read-a-Lot had another successful year with more than 80 elementary teachers and library media specialists participating. Secondary teachers & LMS could participate in virtual camp via the Camp Ning. New this year was a public performance by the Camp author Katherine Paterson.

North Country Library Cooperative
Jim Weikum, Director

On July 1, the Arrowhead Library System (ALS) of Mountain Iron assumed responsibilities for “multitype, multicounty” library services previously provided through the North Country Library Cooperative (NCLC), with NCLC ceasing to exist. This re-structuring was finalized on July 16 when Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education, designated ALS as the agency responsible for multitype library services in the seven counties of northeastern Minnesota.

ALS has altered its governing board structure to accommodate the statutory requirements for both regional public library systems and for multicounty, multitype library systems. Presently, ALS is engaged in a major strategic planning initiative to determine service priorities in all areas of its responsibilities. Emphasis will be made at identifying opportunities for collaboration between the different types of libraries using multiple funding sources.

Northern Lights Library Network
Kathy B. Enger, Executive Director

Administration And Governance

New NLLN Board Members
NLLN welcomes three new board members: From the Northwest Regional Library system (NWRL): Charlie Lindberg of Kennedy. From the Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) board: Betsy Vinz, City of Moorhead, representative to the LARL Board; Wayne Ingersoll, Clay County Commissioner. All three began serving this new fiscal year. A warm welcome to each!

Pay Equity Report
NLLN passed the tests associated with the Minnesota Pay Equity Report on July 3, 2012, and is in compliance with successfully meeting the requirements of the Local Government Pay Equity Ace M.S. 471.991 – 471.999 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 3920 as a result of an official review by Minnesota Management & Budget and NLLN’s 2012 Pay Equity Report.

New Office Location
At the June 2012, NLLN Governing Board meeting, the NLLN Governing Board voted to move the office from Detroit Lakes to Moorhead.

The new office location is:

Northern Lights Library Network (NLLN)
Townsite Centre, Suite 254
810 - 4th Avenue South
Moorhead, Minnesota  56560
Telephone: 218-477-1750
Fax: 218-477-1751
Toll Free Number: 1-800-450-1032
The move will occur on September 24, 2012. Monthly rent at the new location is $577/month, compared to the current rate of $759/month.

Sharing Of Resources among All Participating Libraries

- **NLLN Scholarships and Professional Engagement**

  The scholarship recipients for FY2012 totaled 56, with a total dollar expenditure of $16,905.38.

The Minnesota Literacy Initiative (NLLN)

- **White Earth Read Mobile**

  Chris McArthur, Media Specialist at Mahnomen Schools, took an inventory, cataloged books, and trained two staff on circulation and cataloging procedures for the White Earth Bookmobile the week of July 10, 2012.

- **12th Annual Communities Collaborative Brain Development Conference**

  August 7 – 9, 2012
  Shooting Star Casino Hotel & Event Center, Mahnomen: [www.whiteearthchildcare.com](http://www.whiteearthchildcare.com)

**Building Strong Children**

NLLN collaborated with the White Earth Early Childhood Program in sponsoring Douglas Wood, endnote speaker. Douglas Wood is the author of 30 books, including *Old Turtle, Granddad’s Prayers* and *What Grown-Ups Can’t Do*. Kathy introduced Douglas Wood: “Douglas Wood may be most well-known for his book entitled, *Old Turtle* -- a story about a wise old turtle who addresses the Concept of God, the Planet Earth, and the “interconnectedness” of all creatures. Old Turtle shows us the eternal need for peace and acceptance among all peoples of the world. In a later book, *Miss Little’s Gift*, Douglas Wood depicts the struggle of a young boy learning to read and the tenaciousness he and his teacher experience overcoming the difficulties of reading with ADHD. Together, they finally break through, and the young boy learns to love to read. *Miss Little’s Gift* is an autobiography of Douglas Wood. In a letter to his teacher, years after learning to read, Douglas Wood wrote, “*Look Miss Little, I not only learned to read books -- I even wrote one!*” … well not only one book, but thirty of them!”

Kari Anderson of Alexandria, Minnesota, donated both a star quilt and a baby quilt for the silent auction in support of the Autism Foundation. NLLN also donated *Cradle Me* books for distribution at the conference, along with accompanying words in Ojibwe.

- **Storyland Partnership with White Earth and the Children’s Museum of Minnesota**

  The White Earth Early Childhood Program will sponsor interactive exhibits of three books associated with the Children’s Museum of Minnesota at the new RTC Tribal Council building February 2013: *The Tale of Peter Rabbit, The Snowy Day*, and *Where’s Spot*. In addition, White Earth Child Care will host three cultural exhibits: 1. Wigwam/Ojibwe storytelling. 2. Animal cultural stories and sensory activities; 3. My story, who I am, who is my family, where do I live. NLLN is recommending books for the cultural exhibits. Increased community library services is a priority for the White Earth Early Childhood Program.

- **Spotlight on Books**

  Northern Lights Library Network is the fiduciary agent for *Spotlight*. *Spotlight on Books 2013, A Quarter Century of Good Books* will be held at Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on April 12 & 13, 2013.
• **Read Aloud Book Award**

Kathy met with Korella and Carol Sibley MSUM on August 6 and 7 at separate times to discuss the book awards and reviewed 34 books. Reviewing continues.

**College & Research Libraries**

Kathy reviewed her first article for *C & RL* and submitted the review June 30.

**Development Of A Delivery System For Services And Programs**

**Follett Training**

NLLN sponsored Destiny 10.1 Follett training to members in the NLLN region on May 30.

**A Communications System Among All Cooperating Libraries**

**Multitype Library Meeting and Sponsorships**

The multitype librarians met at the NLLN office in Detroit Lakes on July 19 and decided to jointly sponsor a *Connections Café* at the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) conference October 3-5, 2012, *Minnesota Libraries: A Capitol Idea*, and the MEMO conference, *Leading Change*, October 11-13, 2012, in St. Cloud. The *Connections Café* will be in the exhibit area of both the MLA and MEMO conferences for conference attendees to begin or continue a conversation, discuss a new idea, learn something new, or take a break. E-readers will be available for viewing and officers-elect will be on-hand to answer questions. NLLN’s 10 traveling laptops will be available for conference attendees who would like access to email and the Internet.

**MEMO Conference October 11-13, 2012, River’s Edge Conference Center, St. Cloud**


Kathy is Evaluation Chair. Online evaluations will be sponsored by NLLN.

**Library Advocacy**

**Public Relations**

- Article in the Detroit Lakes Tribune on July 24, 2012, about Paul Bursik’s service to NLLN and retirement as board president and six-year service.
- Presentation at the first Annual Lake Superior Libraries Symposium, June 1, 2012. *Strategic Planning for Successful Library Programs*.
- Article in *Preventive Medicine*, “Parent Participation in Weight-related Interventions for Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis”. (Third author.)

**Minnesota Council on Nonprofits Minnesota Participation Project Get Out and Vote Minnesota, 2012**

On June 20, 2012, the Minnesota Council on Nonprofits, the Minnesota Participation Project and NLLN sponsored an instructional webinar about voter registration and location with academic librarians from MSUM, U of M Morris, Bemidji State, and one professor from Concordia College Moorhead. Instructional literature concerning voter registration and location will be distributed through the four academic libraries to students August-October 2012. A total student enrollment at the four colleges is 17,000. Voter turnout for each county where each college resides will be compared between 2008 and 2012. Anticipated output is increased voter turnout. The intent of the activity is to empower libraries to engage citizens.
Southcentral Minnesota Inter-Library Exchange
Dayle Zalenka, Director
No report submitted.

Southeast Library System (SELS)
Michael Scott, Assistant Director SELS/SELCO
Delivery Services

An RFP was let for SELCO/SELS Delivery Service in July 2012 to 6 potential vendors. Four responses were received and will be reviewed by SELCO staff in late August and early September and will provide a recommendation to the SELCO/SELS Board of Directors. The current contract with Gold Cross Courier Services ends in November 2012 so any changes in vendors for Delivery Services will take effect at that time.

A delivery count for the SELCO/SELS Delivery Service is done three times per year: the last Monday in March and August and the Monday before Thanksgiving in November. The August count was 2954 items passing through Delivery, which is a 5.5% from August 2012. This number is also significant as it is the largest August delivery count since SELCO/SELS began conducting Delivery Counts in 2001.

Multitype Library Collaboration
SELCO Assistant Director Michael Scott is currently working with Riverland Community College (RCC) and the Albert Lea, Austin, & Owatonna Public Libraries to find ways for the libraries to collaborate. RCC has a campus presence in all three communities and has its only library on the Austin Campus. With budget cuts over the years, RCC has been challenged to provide library services to its students and the public libraries have providing more and more service to RCC students. The directors from the three public libraries as well as the Chief Outreach Officer and librarian from RCC met in August 2012 to begin discussing ideas for collaboration.

One immediate collaboration opportunity being investigated is the addition of a search option in SELCO’s AquaBrowser discovery layer for the RCC online catalog. Along with implementing this option, RCC library staff is working to update their information guides for students, which they will share with the libraries.

Continuing Education & Training
The SELCO CE Team is moving forward with its readers advisory workshop series, which came about as a result of focus groups conducted with member libraries in the Fall 2011. The goal is to provide some sort of Readers Advisory workshop or educational opportunity approximately every 6 months. The series will kick off on November 8, 2012 with a History Readers Advisory Workshop, which will focus on fiction and non-fiction from outside speakers as well as a segment on the U.S. Civil War by SELCO Automation Librarian Donovan Lambright who has a keen interest in the Civil War. Besides information on readers advisory, there will also be member library and SELCO staff in historical costume doing walkabouts during the breaks. The second workshop in the series is scheduled for March 2012 and will focus on award-winning readers advisory, such as Minnesota Book Award winners and other award programs that are still being determined.

Southwest Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange (SAMMIE)
Reagen Thalacker, Executive Director
Scholarships
For the FY11-12 year SAMMIE awarded 51 scholarships to its members totaling more than $13,000. Scholarships can be awarded for up to $350/event.

Teen Summer Read Grants
SAMMIE had 25 applicants for their annual Teen Summer Read grants. Grants are awarded in the amount of $100 and are to go towards teen programming.

Other News
SAMMIE had its Strategic Planning Retreat on July 25. Lots of great discussion was brought forth as those in attendance discussed what it is that they saw for the future for SAMMIE.

The SAMMIE Executive Director was a featured alumnus in the most recent edition of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Information Studies Alumni magazine.

SAMMIE is co-sponsored the 2012 Camp Read-A-Lot for our geographic area with the Pioneerland and Plum Creek Library Systems on Thursday, August 9, 2012 at the Marshall, MN YMCA. We had 78 individuals participate. Speakers included children’s author David LaRochelle and professional librarian Maggie Snow. State Librarian Nancy Walton was also in attendance on the day and brought with her Read-It the MN reading and literacy mascot.

To promote YA literature and in conjunction with the SAMMIE Teen Co-Op Committee a new section will be added to the SAMMIE News newsletter starting in the Nov/Dec issue. A book review form was created for committee members to use with their local teens to gather YA lit reviews directly from those most in the know. Not your usual book report, the form asks three simple questions: Why did you pick up the book? Why did you finish it? And, who would you recommend it to?

Metro Area Public Libraries
Paticia Conley
September 7, 2012

HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY

Hennepin County Library (HCL) was approached by staff at the Library as Incubator Project website earlier this summer. The website highlights the relationships between artists and libraries, and the ways that libraries act as incubators of the arts. The website started as an independent study project by three UW-Madison library school students, and they have continued it post-graduation. Over the past couple months, different HCL services and resources have been featured, including the Piano Room, Sheet Music Collection and Picture Files at Minneapolis Central Library; a Loft Literary Center writing program for seniors; and "Work of Art," a series of workshops for working artists. For more information see www.libraryasincubatorproject.org

Several showings of two Legacy-funded programs about Hennepin County Library collections and programming will air throughout September 2012 on all six Minnesota public television stations (MPTA). "Treasures Collected, Treasures Shared" is about Hennepin County Library -Minneapolis Central Special Collections. "Life Changing Art," which was co-produced by Hennepin County Library, is a
documentary-style video of women artists, age 60 to 80, who explore through art what they cannot say in words about the experience of aging. In addition, last fall's informative lecture series "How can I afford retirement?" will be rebroadcast. The four-part series was co-produced by HCL and is designed to help us all better understand the basics of setting retirement goals, approaching investing and developing a personal plan, assessing the risk of outliving your assets, understanding diversification and withdrawal of investments, and avoiding retirement investment mistakes and fraud.

Hennepin County Library has partnered with Minnesota Children's Museum to design and install a new Children's Area at Hennepin County Library-North Regional. The early learning environment at North Regional Library was made possible by the Friends of the Hennepin County Library through grants from the Pat and Tom Grossman Family Fund and the Pohlad Family Foundation. An all-day open house showcasing the new Children's Area is scheduled during the Open Streets Minneapolis/Harvest Festival on Lowry Avenue on Saturday, September 29.

Hennepin County Library also received a $20,000 grant from Youthprise to support library services to teens.

Hennepin County Library - Penn Lake in Bloomington was closed for renovation this summer, and Hennepin County Library - Walker in the Uptown area of Minneapolis will close on September 22, 2012, for new library construction on the existing site. The new library building will be above ground.

Hennepin County Library began a formal partnership with Learning Dreams of the University of Minnesota. On September 29, 2012, from 1-4 p.m., HCL will co-sponsor the 2nd Annual Learning Carnival at Van Cleave Park in Southeast Minneapolis. The Carnival brings together informal, non-traditional learning opportunities for people of all ages. For more information see www.learningdreams.org

**RAMSEY COUNTY LIBRARY**

Ramsey County Library experimented with innovative teen programming this summer, including:

- A summer reading kickoff that brought pro wrestling to the library.
- A week of teen tech classes offered in collaboration with the Educational Equity Alliance
- A partnership with Roseville Area High School to house and circulate their summer reading collection
- An author event that brought Francisco Stork to Boys Totem Town
- A new online teen book review website – 3,600 reviews and counting

**Washington County Library**

Washington County Library has launched its Library Local Content project using funding from MELSA from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Program. The library is seeking local authors who have written books that are in e-format to add to its collections. The project is a partnership with the Midwest Independent Publishers Association (MIPA). The library hopes to develop a collection of e-books written by Minnesota authors or about Minnesota that are not available through larger national publishing houses. The Library will purchase the rights to the books as part of the program. In preparation for the launch of the program, the Library worked with MIPA to hold a series of classes for authors training them in how to put their manuscripts in e-format.

Anyone with a library card registered at WCL will be able to download these titles. A Reader’s Choice poll will be conducted once the collection is of sufficient size to determine which titles the Library will retain in its collection. See the Library’s webpage for more information.
Austin Public Library
The Austin Public Library, with partners at the Paramount Theatre and the Hormel Historic Home, held the first annual Fourth Avenue Arts Triathlon in August. Over 100 people showed up to participate in events focusing on performing arts, poetry, and visual arts. Click http://www.postbulletin.com/news/stories/display.php?id=1505990 to read the entire article written by Kay Fate, Austin Post-Bulletin.

Cloquet Public Library
The Cloquet Public Library will be celebrating 25 years in its current facility. The library will celebrate with an open house in October.
More rock art is planned as the city recently moved a large boulder to the library lawn.
One of the library’s goals in its strategic plan is to provide homework assistance. To help achieve that goal, the library recently signed an agreement with Brainfuse, an online program that will provide individual tutoring sessions with students.

Hibbing Public Library
The Hibbing Public Library has been in construction mode for the past few months.
- Lighting project = $184,557 total of which $100,000 paid by an EECBG/ARRA grant (federal stimulus money, MN Energy office). A Guaranteed Performance contract with McKinstry.
- Windows project = $255,000 (rounded up to account for contingencies), all city money
- Roof (2/3 still needing replacement) - $160,409, all city money (including pedestals for solar panels)
- Solar Panels = $250,000 IRRRB grant, some pre-engineering was paid with city money. Leveraged funds with Silicon Energy (Mt. Iron plant) and sister companies of Newport Partners for a Performance Contract that includes solar panels on the roof of the Fire Hall as well as the Library.
- Additional HVAC upgrades of the year: $23,061 for variable frequency drives (4), steam traps & steam valves.

The spreadsheet from city hall says the City of Hibbing has paid out $427,952.79 in Library Building Improvements YTD 2012 (January - August 29, 2012).

Grand Rapids Public Library
The MN Children’s Museum finished installing a Smart Play Spot in the Grand Rapids Library last week. We are having an open house on August 22nd, but you are welcome to stop by for a tour at any time. Play with puppets or curl up and read inside the Peter Pan tree
Smart Play Spot was installed with funding from the Blandin Foundation, the Northland Foundation, the Grand Rapids Library Foundation and the Friends of the Grand Rapids Area Library.

Northfield Public Library
A nice line-up of programs will be offered this fall, including: author Shawn Otto, winner of a 2012 Minnesota Book Award this year for Fool Me Twice; fighting the assault on science in America, award-winning author Brian Freeman, Chad Lewis who will take the audience on a ghostly journey to some of
the most haunted places in Minnesota from wandering ghosts in the North Woods to a haunted B&B in Wabasha, and Mary Sharrat who will present a program on Hildegard von Bingen and talk about her novel Illuminations; a novel of Hildegard von Bingen.

**Rochester Public Library**
We are in the process of rewriting our strategic plan using the book “Strategic Planning for Results” as a guide. We convened a community group to do some visioning and set priorities. We expect the plan to be complete by the end of the year.

Because of changes we made in the Children’s division, our self-check circulation has jumped about 20% in two months. Now approximately 80% of our circulation happens without staff interactions. We are continuing to explore ways to make our “Express Checks” more appealing for the public.

Changes in the Children’s Division continue. The new desk has been installed. Carpet has been replaced and there is a very cool pattern with a river running through it. A bridge will be installed soon. The new art room opens in September.

The City of Rochester adopted new Customer Service Standards that were written by front line staff from all departments. We are looking at how to train and incorporate those standards in our organizational culture.

---

**Minnesota State College – Twin Cities & Southern Region**

**Julie Setnosky, Minneapolis Community & Technical College**

**September 7, 2012**

Colleges represented: Anoka Ramsey CC, Anoka TC, Century College, Dakota County TC, Hennepin TC, Inver Hills CC, Minneapolis Community & Technical College, Minnesota West College (Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson, Pipestone, Worthington), Normandale CC, North Hennepin CC, Riverland CC (Austin, Owatonna), Rochester CC, South Central College (Faribault, North Mankato), Southeast TC (Red Wing, Winona)

**Hennepin Technical College**
So far, we are scheduled to move to our new spaces during the winter break.

Jennie Simning is the new temporary librarian starting September 10. Laurie Brown

**Inver Hills Community College**
Inver Hills Community College continues to deal with budget cuts, between FY12 and FY13 our non-personnel budget has been cut by 25%. Our involvement in teaching for-credit Information Literacy courses within Learning Communities has increased each year, 1 class FY11, 2 classes FY12 and 3 scheduled in FY13. We continue to get rave reviews from our Learning Community Faculty partners as well as our students.

Julie Benolken
**Minneapolis Community & Technical College**
Bill Vann, formerly at Hennepin Technical College, is our new faculty librarian. He will be teaching Information Studies courses and Library Technician program courses and he will be working in library operations primarily in the technical services area.

MCTC Library has launched a new Zine Catalog. This catalog uses Google Fusion Tables for a backend cloud database, and the Fusion Tables API, jQuery and DataTables.JS for the patron interface.

**Minnesota West College**
Distance Librarian Pam Sukalski has a new position at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. The vacant Minnesota West position is in the process of being filled.
Marcia Johnson

**Normandale Community College**
The librarians at Normandale Community College completed an instruction assessment survey in the Spring 2012 semester. We are analyzing our results from the survey and have one noteworthy data point so far: a 29% increase in student comfort with resources after attending a library instruction session (pre-test = 49% of students feeling somewhat comfortable or very comfortable, post-test = 78%).

Over the summer the Library converted the library notification system from print to electronic notices. All patrons will now receive 3 types of notices by email for their checked-out materials: Library Materials Coming Due (to return); Overdue Library Materials Notice; and a Summary for Lost Material.
Jen Ashkenazi

**South Central College**
Ala and Johnna have been involved in planning meetings for the new library going in at the Faribault campus. This will be built with bonding money approved by the legislature in the spring. We’re very excited!

We also finished inventory in both libraries and the North Mankato campus library staff participated in Acquisitions training and have implemented new procedures for the module.
Johnna Horton

---

**State University Libraries’ Report**
**September 7, 2012**

**Bemidji State University – Tammy Bobrowsky, Department Chair**
We have started a Textbooks for Course Reserve pilot project, working with faculty to provide a limited number of textbooks to students. We will be evaluating this mid-semester to see if we should continue.

Materials budget: Our materials budget is celebrating its wooden anniversary! We have been allocated
the same amount for 5 years running now, and this has prompted a large print journal cancellation project (last year) and budget formula overhaul (this year).

Staff updates: We welcome Mary Leuthard, our new Circulation and Course Reserves Library Technician. Dianne Narum, cataloger, is on sabbatical for the academic year.

**Metropolitan State University – Bruce Willms, Acting Dean**
We are in the process of implementing Summon as a discovery tool. We're not sure yet when it will be in production.

The university is planning to establish a David Barton memorial garden on the library grounds. There will be an opportunity for those in the library community to contribute to this memorial, but details have not been finalized at this time. I'll pass along that information when it becomes available.

**Minnesota State University Moorhead – Brittney Goodman, Dean, Instructional Resources**
Travis Dolence, Distance/Web Librarian, was elected as Library Department Chair in late Spring 2012. He is currently on sabbatical for Fall 2012, thus, Pam Were, Public Services Librarian, is serving as Interim Chair.
Two adjunct librarians were hired for fall 2012 – Solveig Lund and Leslie Klingenstein. They are working on special projects, providing some library instruction, and serving at the reference desk.

The Livingston Lord Library and Technology Center renovation is underway, currently closing out the demolition of Phase 1. Project completion date is still scheduled for August 2013.

Budget is currently being loaded, but it is expected to be flat. The Library is piloting Overdrive for 2012-13, using funds from the Student Technology Fee.

**Minnesota State University, Mankato – Joan Roca, Dean**
The renovation in the lower level of Memorial Library is complete and the new Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is ready to offer many new opportunities for faculty and staff development. The Library welcomes this Center as it will undoubtedly bring faculty to the Library. Adjoining the same area, the Library also renovated the service counter and added a meeting room and an improved study area.

Work continues on redesigning a couple of areas on the first floor of Memorial Library to create new spaces designated for quiet study. We expect to have this renovation done over the winter break.

Library staff and many others around our campus are very excited about the upcoming connection of our building to the Centennial Student Union across the mall. The preliminary design for the underground connection has been approved and features a side opening in the middle to a new amphitheater space available for campus programming. Construction is expected to take place next summer and be finished by the beginning of fall semester 2013.

This summer the Library received approval to add the two new librarian positions that we requested last spring. The formal searches will start later this fall after the position descriptions are finalized.

**Southwest Minnesota State University – Kathleen Ashe, University Librarian**
Southwest Minnesota State University’s McFarland Library welcomes 2 new staff members. Pam Sukalski accepted the tenure track Instruction/Web Services position and Josh Thoreson is our new Circulation Library Technician. Both started at the end of August and are meeting the challenge of a busy start to the semester.
The Library was awarded two small university grants at the end of spring semester to implement a mobile site for the library and our mobile enhanced services. We contracted with PALS to develop the site. The university brought up their mobile access to SMSU’s site and the link to the Library was ready to go. We are still working on it but are very pleased with the initial product.

This year the Library faculty will begin discussions on a five year plan for the library which will include developing a process to include library staff, faculty, and students.

Central and Northern State College
Cynthia Jorstad
September 7, 2012

Pine Technical College Learning Resource and Technology Center
Submitted by Ron McGriff

Fall enrollment is stable or just slightly down at the start of fall semester after 4 years of steady increases. Several college programs have no seats available at this time. Nursing programs have expanded in part due to our large Alliance Grant Program funded by some of those stimulus funds. There are numerous new faculty people. The college is now making use of a temporary trailer-classroom to handle some of the classes with large student numbers per session. Planning is well underway for a 2014 request for a substantial addition to the main building.

Pine Technical College will again begin the process for a mission change. We continue to be handicapped by our current status in that undeclared majors are not eligible for financial aid. In addition, we are offering an expanding number of general education courses. The last change request, after 2+ years of work by our committee, was denied.

Library staff, during the summer months, continued a second evaluation and weeding of the non-print collections in the library. Withdrawn items will be eventually offered to other libraries. As much as library funding allows, we have been “growing” DVD resources for the nursing program.

The FY 2013 library budget, for the first time, has some funding allocated for purchase of eBooks or electronic reference resources, and also another dollars allocation for trying some type of “media on demand” service. I may be contacting some of my librarian colleagues for recommendations on products, vendors, and general approach.

Northland Community & Technical College – East Grand Forks/Thief River Falls
Submitted by Cynthia Jorstad, College Librarian

NCTC continues with the staffing model commenced in Fall ’11, 1.0 FTE librarian split between two college campuses. For the 12-13 academic year, library hours have been reduced on the TRF campus (8:00 am-4:00 pm M-F). The college makes empty class rooms available after 4:00 pm to accommodate students who simply need a quiet place to study.

After seeing a dramatic decrease in instruction sessions last year, the Cynthia is putting more emphasis on promoting this service to our faculty. Scheduled instruction sessions for fall have already seen an increase, compared to last fall.
Weeding and collection development continue to be the main focus in East Grand Forks, in addition to a revamped student employee training cycle that will align with training in place at the TRF campus.

Our budget remains stagnant (no increase from FY05 – FY11) and a 12% decrease from that level in FY12, and no increase for FY13. It continues to be a battle to support the resources we have and we’re very appreciative of consortia pricing discounts we receive through MINITEX, as well as the fully funded resources we receive at no cost.

---

**Private Colleges**

**Kathy Parker, College of Saint Benedict, Saint John’s University**

**September 7, 2012**

**College of Saint Benedict|Saint John’s University** (Kathy Parker)

This summer we awarded mini-grants to faculty for proposals to work with a librarian, archivist, or media specialist in creating new assignments, teaching strategies, or course design modifications. We had successful projects ranging from analysis of primary source materials in a class on foreign policy to helping education students author textbooks using iBook software. One faculty reported “Without a little extra incentive, I might not have taken full advantage of what [the staff] could do for me and my classes, so the stipend you offered really did make a difference.”

SJU has a new President, Michael Hemesath, who comes to us from Carleton. He brings a strong commitment to advancing the academic life of the University. I am grateful to my colleagues at Carleton for preparing him to understand the role of the library in a residential liberal arts college. He gets it.

CSB is preparing for its Centennial in 2013-14. We have hired additional student assistants in Archives to help with the increased requests for historical material, and expect to have digital as well as physical displays underway this year.

**College of St. Scholastica Library** (Kevin McGrew)

As a college we’re gearing up for our Centennial celebration which will be the week of Sep. 10. In the Library we will kick off our inaugural Friends Group gathering. We've spent the last couple of weeks mailing out letters of invitation. Also of note is our mid-Oct. continuing accreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission.

**Cooperating Libraries in Consortium: CLIC** (Ruth Dukelow)

This fiscal year, CLIC is focusing on professional development workshops related to assessment. The series will culminate next June with a CLIC-wide conference on the value of academic libraries presented by Megan Oakleaf of Syracuse University and ACRL.

**Gustavus Adolphus College Library** (Barbara Fister)
This fall we are busy with the usual fall things, including a new first term seminar co-taught by two librarians. We have closed our music library and have integrated the holdings into the main library - hoping that music faculty (who wanted to repurpose the music library space) will find the new arrangement a good one. This summer, student employees got our new zine collection ready for cataloging and circulation. In October we are hosting a three-day conference that we're calling "Beyond /The Girl/: Women Crime Writers from Scandinavia." We are bringing four writers to campus (Helene Tursten and Kristina Ohlsson of Sweden; Lene Kaaberbol and Agnete Friis from Denmark) to meet with classes, hang out with students, and talk about their writing between October 7-10. In the late afternoon of Oct. 10th our friends group will host a wine and cheese gathering at the American Swedish Institute and then at 7pm there will be a free public forum at the ASI at which the authors will discuss their work, crime fiction as a popular genre of literature, and what we can learn about Scandinavia from mysteries. This program is being funded by a Scandinavian Studies library endowment with the assistance of the Scandinavian Studies department, the ASI, and the Embassy of Sweden.

**Macalester College Library** (Terri Fishel)

- Currently testing a shelf-ready project for all incoming new books. We'll have more data available for the Dec. report.
- Preparing for a major weeding project to begin in January. Working with [Sustainable Collection Services](#).
- Small Project Renovations - Over the summer did some work in our Children's Collection and created a more inviting space with artwork and furniture changes. (wish I had photos.) We also are experimenting with flexible seating in one of our high use rooms and we've added a MediaScape to our main level to gauge student interest in group work.
- We are preparing for our 25th Anniversary celebration of this building next summer. Working with our Alumni Office we will be sponsoring a special event with two local authors and inviting as many of our former student library employees to come back for a special reception.

**St. Olaf College Library** (Robert Lembke)

**Summon Discovery Tool**
In January, the Carleton and St. Olaf Libraries plan to launch Summon, a web-scale discovery tool. Summon will be integrated with our Bridge (St. Olaf and Carleton) holdings, so it will be easy to limit the search to our collections and then broaden to the wider universe of information.

**Summer Institutes**
In June and August, staff from IT and the libraries held two sessions of the 2012 Summer Institute, “Transforming Teaching & Learning with Digital Collections & Technologies.” Some highlights were a presentation on the flipped classroom, exploration of our digital collections (e-books, image databases and streaming audio and video platforms) hands-on workshops (iPads, Moodle, Google, WordPress), and discussion of mobile learning and online courses, and more.
Fall Learning Communities
During the fall, the St. Olaf Libraries and IT will sponsor two learning communities for faculty, the first for iPads and mobile learning and the second for creating and using eTexts. There will be campus meetings, as well as one joint meeting with faculty from Carleton, who will be participating in similar learning communities on their campus. Faculty who participate in the learning communities will have use of an iPad for the fall semester.

State Government / Special Libraries Report
Brooke Roegge, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Library
September 7, 2012

CALCO Activities
CALCO is planning to present at the upcoming Minnesota Library Association (MLA) annual conference. The session “CALCO covers the state: tips and resources from government libraries” will highlight reference and research sources that can only be found in the state’s 13 unique agency libraries. Six state librarians will lead the session, including representatives from MNDOT, Revenue, DEED, LRL, and MHS.

2013 will also mark CALCO’s 40th anniversary as a consortium and members have begun planning ways to celebrate this milestone. Stay tuned for more info!

Additionally, on June 20, CALCO members got together for a summer luncheon and tour of the Minnesota Historical Society library and facilities. We saw some neat artifacts, like bicycling maps from the late 1800s. We also got to see some of MHS’s storage spaces, such as the film storage room and the closed stacks (pictured below). It was fascinating and we greatly appreciate the time MHS took to give us a tour!

Attorney General Library, Anita Anderson, Law Librarian
Karla Gedell served on the Search Committee for the new Minitex Director, representing State Government and Special libraries.

Anita Anderson was selected by Minnesota Lawyer to receive the Unsung Legal Heroes award. This award honors law firm employees who have consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, often behind the scenes. An awards luncheon for honorees and guests is set for Sept. 12.

A.G. Library staff continues to work with staff preparing for electronic filing of district court documents. E-filing in civil cases became mandatory on Sept. 1 for Ramsey and Hennepin County District Courts. Additional district courts will be added throughout the year.

Dept. of Employment & Economic Development Library (DEED) – Dru Frykberg, Senior Librarian
DEED librarians responded to more than 1,300 requests for library services during the 2012 fiscal year, on par with fiscal year 2011 despite the nearly month-long government shutdown in July 2011.
Usage soared among government clients because of the library’s recent partnership with Small Business Development Center staff.

Librarians provide industry reports, market research and other information services to SBDC colleagues throughout the state who counsel clients wanting to start businesses.

In other news, DEED librarian Dru Frykberg will co-present two sessions at the MLA 2012 Annual Conference in St. Paul: “Looking Global: Business is Changing and So Should Job Seekers” and “CALCO Covers the State: Tips and Resources from Government Libraries.”

**Legislative Reference Library – Robbie LaFleur, Director**

Summer activities focused on building our staff and behind-the-scenes preparation for digital activities. On August 20 we welcomed Tracey VanHaarten as our newest librarian. She comes with valuable experience at the U.S. Courts Library - Eighth Circuit and as a skilled graphic artist and web designer.

Much work was accomplished to move our acquisition system to an updated platform. The future benefits of these changes include improvements to our mandated document tracking and more information available publicly on the Web. Also, our programmer is a co-leader of the Legislature's Web Site redesign process. Look for a fresh look and enhanced navigation to our Library site and to the Legislature's site in November.

We are deep into election season. Can you guess one of the most popular reference question topics? Constitutional amendments. Two recent LRL compilations are timely. We’ve scanned historical election results from Legislative Manuals and created an online list.

http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/mngov/electionresults.aspx

Our list of constitutional amendments has links to the original ballot language, and can be sorted by those that passed and those that did not. http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/mngov/constitutionalamendments.aspx

**Mn/DOT Library – Sheila Hatchell, Director**

Sheila Hatchell attended ALA in July where she presented on the library’s “moving knowledge” project for which the library was selected as an ALA 2012 John Cotton Dana Award winner. She attended the awards ceremony on behalf of the library, an elegant and festive celebration that made the award winners feel truly honored. In addition to the prestige of winning the award, the library received a $10,000 grant to further library public relations initiatives.

The library welcomed Marilee Tuite as part-time project librarian. Marilee comes to us through our Minnesota Transportation Libraries Partnership with the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies. Marilee has an extensive background in publishing and is completing her MLIS at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

MnDOT Librarians attended the Center for Transportation Studies Annual Research Conference and enjoyed hearing author Earl Swift discuss his book, The Big Roads: The Untold Story of the Engineers, Visionaries, and Trailblazers Who Created the American Superhighways. The presentation was timely since Swift’s book had been featured at the library’s Commissioners Reading Corner book discussion during the month of May. Swift is a good storyteller; and for those interested in the visioning and history behind the Interstate Highway System, we highly recommend it.

MnDOT received a site visit from the National Academy of Science’s Transportation Research Board. The library staff presented on how we assist MnDOT’s research engineers through a variety of library services including literature searches.
Karen Neinstadt and Sheila Hatchell attended the Special Libraries Association (SLA) Annual Conference in July. With Karen as Vendor Relations Chair for the Transportation Division, and Sheila as Chair of the Division, this was more of a working conference. Interesting sessions included the Wikileaks Controversy, Collections in Transition: E-books and Collection Development, How and Why Things Fail – Forensic Engineers and Information Specialists, and a conference favorite, “60 sites in 60 minutes”. MnDOT librarians are active members of the SLA Transportation Division. In addition to Karen’s and Sheila’s leadership roles, Jim Byerly serves as the Division’s webmaster and discussion list manager, and Qin Tang serves on the Vendor Relations Committee.

Library intern, Christie Schultz and Reference and Outreach Librarian Karen Neinstadt attended the 21st Annual ILL Conference sponsored by Minitex. It was held on May 10, 2012 and featured Lee Rainie, Director, Pew Internet & American Library Project, and Kenneth Crews, Director, Copyright Advisory Office, Columbia University. In addition to the keynote speakers, Kathy Drozd discussed NISO’s recommended practices document and staff wrapped up the year-long 40th anniversary celebration of Minitex.

**Perpich Center for Arts Education (Pcae) Library – Jeanne Iverson, Director**

Jeanne Iverson, Senior Librarian has retired from her position as of August 2012 at the Perpich Center for Arts Education in Golden Valley. Jeanne first joined the state of Minnesota employee ranks at the Minnesota Department of Revenue Library in 1987. Most of her library career was spent at the Perpich Center for Arts Education (1989-2012). She is looking forward to joining her husband (who is already retired) for some new travel adventures, volunteering in the community, and enjoying more time with their children and grandchildren.

For information announcing Jeanne’s replacement, contact Anne Dennison at anne.dennison@pcae.k12.mn.us or 763-591-4742.

---

**University of Minnesota – Twin Cities**

**Wendy Lougee**

**September 7, 2012**

---

**RECENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

**Natural Resources Library Grand Opening**

Staff from across several units of the Libraries worked together to complete the merger of two branch libraries (Entomology/Fisheries/Wildlife and Forestry) at the University of Minnesota to create the new Natural Resources Library. The project offered opportunity to assess the disposition of collections based on availability of digital surrogates, use, and storage requirements. A grand opening of the new Natural Resources Library will be held on September 26th on the Saint Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.

**Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups**

In July, the University of Minnesota welcomed 24 librarians from across the country to the Twin Cities for a week long summer institute. Since 1998, the Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians from
Traditionally Underrepresented Groups has been directed by Associate University Librarian for Organizational Development, Linda DeBeau-Melting, with consultants Kathryn Deiss and DeEtta Jones serving as faculty of the program. With over 200 Institute graduates, the biennial program brings together high potential academic librarians from across the country to form a professional cohort and long-lasting network. The intensive one-week program focuses on leadership and organizational behavior as well as critical skills such as writing for publication and grant writing.

University of Minnesota Welcome Week and the Libraries
The University of Minnesota instituted a Welcome Week for incoming freshmen five years ago. Each day is dedicated to a specific aspect of student life. On University Day, students have the opportunity to explore all of the resources available to students on the Twin Cities campus. The Libraries contributed with activities across all areas of campus that were designed to allow students to get up close and personal with the collections and services offered by the University Libraries. Students were placed in small groups and lead by library volunteers across different stations. They had the chance to hear about the unusual and priceless items in the University Libraries and how they could use these items for academic success. At another station they explored the University Libraries' collections to think critically, find their voice, and respect the values of those who have come before. There were many other learning opportunities that volunteers throughout the Libraries made available to students, all of which were mapped to student learning and student development outcomes used throughout the undergraduate curriculum.

Alma Implementation
Twin Cities and coordinate campus staff continue to make progress towards preparations for Alma implementation, which will enter the official implementation status (with the vendor, Ex Libris) in late fall 2012- early 2013. Over the last several months an implementation team has been reviewing data policy, identifying and remediating data errors and inconsistencies, Report to Minitex Policy Advisory Council, June 2012 reviewing work flow to determine what needs to continue and what can be left behind, identifying external systems and services with which Alma must interoperate, and developing training for staff.

Next Generation Discovery System Procurement
The Discoverability 3 Task Force worked with University Purchasing and the Office of Information technology to issue a Request for Qualifying Information (RFQI) for a software-as-a-service-based unified discovery system to supersede our current version of Primo. Responses were received and evaluated by the task force, and procurement discussions are now underway. The system will be used by University faculty, researchers, and students to support discovery of information resources (books, articles, images, data, etc.) through a single search interface. The system is expected to search not only materials owned and licensed by the University, but also the vast expanse of commercial and open-access content represented by citations, abstracts, and full-text from a wide range of primary and secondary publishers.

Digital Preservation Task Force
The University Libraries’ Digital Preservation Framework Task Force submitted its recommendations for a digital preservation framework to be adopted by the Libraries. The framework was approved by the Libraries Leadership Council in late August, will be used communicate the commitment levels, capabilities, and capacities of the Libraries’ evolving digital preservation program. The framework will also provide the basis for subsequent development (and review) of specific digital preservation policies and procedures. The adopted framework will be published soon.

RECENT STAFF APPOINTMENTS
Lisa von Drasak (from Bank Street College), Curator of Children’s Research Literature Collections
Betsy Friesen, Director, Data Management and Access
Fariha Greime, Director, Acquisitions and E-Resource Management
Megan Kocher, Science Librarian in Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Sciences

EVENTS
(for registration details see: https://www.lib.umn.edu/friends/calendar)

Upcoming Events
Celebrate Dr. Kerlan’s 100th Birthday September 18, 2012 5:30 reception, 6:15 program, Elmer L. Andersen Library

Disruptive Tech: What’s New, What’s Coming, and How It Will Change Everything David Pogue, NY Times technology columnist October 17, 2012 7:00 p.m., Willey Hall

Join Freya Manfred and friends to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Frederick Manfred October 28, 2012 Report to Minitex Policy Advisory Council, June 2012 2:00 program Elmer L. Andersen Library

Current Exhibits at the Libraries
Happy 100th Birthday, Dr. Kerlan! July 16 - September 26, 2012 Andersen Library Gallery
Dr. Irvin Kerlan, who would have turned 100 on September 18, started donating his amazing collection to the University in 1949. This exhibit honors Dr. Kerlan's collecting acumen with highlights from the collection.

For the Common Good September 10 – November 30, 2012 Andersen Library Atrium Gallery
The Land Grant Agricultural College Act—signed by President Lincoln in 1862—set aside public lands, the sale of which were used to fund public colleges to "promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes."