Minitex Policy Advisory Council Meeting
Minitex Program Update Report

December 7, 2012

MINITEX RESOURCE SHARING

Minitex/MnLINK Conference
The Minitex/MnLINK Conference, which was held Nov. 15, received positive evaluations from the more than 180 attendees. The Conference began with a keynote by Clifford Lynch, Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), discussing the impact for libraries of e-books and other e-content, and an update about OCLC’s WorldShare Interlibrary Loan system by Katie Birch, OCLC’s Portfolio Director for Delivery Services. The session concluded with a welcome and question-and-answer session for Valerie Horton, who will assume her responsibilities as Director of Minitex on Dec. 5.

Lynch discussed the changing e-book marketplace and licensing and preservation challenges that are key issues for libraries dealing with e-content. He spoke of the proliferation of authors and self-publishing and how they impact acquisitions as well as privacy concerns raised by some textbook publishers who provide usage information about students’ viewing of e-books that can be shared with professors. He also discussed questions related to preservation of these materials in the public and academic library settings. Lynch covered these topics and many more as he shared his knowledge of the digital challenges with the audience.

Birch provided an overview of OCLC’s WorldShare Interlibrary Loan system that is set to replace WorldCat Resource Sharing over the coming year. The migration to the new ILL interface will be completed by December 2013 for users in North America. She noted that the most requested book on OCLC ILL over the past year was *The Hunger Games* with over 5,000 requests.

There were four afternoon breakout sessions on topics including:

- copyright and licensing, presented by Ruth Dukelow, Executive Director, Cooperating Libraries In Consortium (CLIC);
- Ex Libris’ Alma, presented by Betsy Friesen, Director, Data Management & Access, University of Minnesota Libraries
- Discovery services, presented by Cody Hanson, Web Architect and UX Analyst, University of Minnesota Libraries
- RDA, presented by Mark Ehlert, RDA Trainer and Contract Cataloging Manager, Minitex.
Horton asked attendees to respond to questions that would help her in her new role with Minitex.

All of the sessions were well received by attendees. The feedback was very positive. Handouts from the presentations will be available on the Conferences and Workshops page on the Minitex website (http://www.minitex.umn.edu/Events/Conferences/).

**MnLINK Gateway Software Update**

OCLC provided us with two version upgrades to the MnLINK Gateway software during the last few months. The initial upgrade included such new features as Unicode compliance and enhancements to the request process. The most recent upgrade resolved many of the issues with stabilization that we encountered after the previous upgrade. We are working to resolve a few outstanding issues.

The most recent upgrade to the MnLINK Gateway software included functionality that we have been testing for the past year and a half. This functionality will place a hold for a patron in the local catalog through the NCIP process when the requested material is locally owned. Staff from Great River Regional Library (SirsiDynix Horizon) & Traverse des Sioux Library System (SirsiDynix Symphony) have been beta testing the functionality in the live environment and are providing feedback.

When this trial period concludes, we’ll provide more information about how we’ll proceed with configuring additional locations to use it. To take advantage of this feature, each location will need to be using NCIP provided by your ILS vendor.

**MnLINK Gateway Server Site Payments Process**

The MnLINK Gateway Server Sites receive a payment each year for their support of the Z39.50 infrastructure and increases in interlibrary loan staff needed to support their participation in MnLINK. The formula used to determine the level of compensation for each site is based on a blend of a base amount given to all sites, unique title counts, and the interlibrary loan lending that takes place at each location. The amount available for distribution has varied depending on budgetary factors, such as the legislative allocation and increases in the cost of OCLC support for the hardware and software environment in which the MnLINK Gateway operates. This year, there was $138,772 available to libraries.

The initial process of gathering the unique title counts and ILL request counts has been completed, and the spreadsheet with these figures has been approved by all server sites. Responses to the official vote to approve or not approve the distribution have been concluded with all server sites responding in the affirmative. The distribution worksheet has been sent to the Office of Higher Education, and they will send payments to

**Minitex/MnLINK Interlibrary Committee**

The Minitex/MnLINK Interlibrary Loan committee met on Nov. 7, at the Minitex office. The meeting commenced with an introduction of our new member, Sheri Huppert, Minnesota State Law Library, who represents the State Government Libraries. Sheri replaces Paul VanCura of the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library. The members reviewed responses to a survey that was distributed to libraries in October. Nearly 300 submitted feedback to the survey. The responses provided us with information about interlibrary loan services in Minitex participating libraries and use of e-collections for interlibrary loan.
Watch for updates from the committee for information related to the survey results!

2012 Minitex Public Library Node Meeting

The 2012 Minitex Public Library Node Meeting was held Aug. 10 at Hennepin County Library, Brookdale, in Brooklyn Center. There were over 60 participants representing all regional library systems in Minnesota. As in most years, the attendees consisted of frontline staff and managers within interlibrary loans units. The meeting began with a welcome by Becky Ringwelski, Interim Co-Director of Minitex. She presented MnLINK Gateway updates, which included:

- increased filled rates on volume traffic within the Gateway for FY2012,
- Version 6.1 upgrade,
- Amazon price/date check,
- her meetings with OCLC staff at ALA annual meetings,
- the MnLINK User Group meeting scheduled for Nov. 15, and
- feedback from users.

Nancy Walton and Bruce Pomerantz, State Library Services, presented “Circulation/ILL/Reciprocal borrowing & returning: Statistical Analysis.” Walton highlighted the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library as a unique service available to users.

Nick Banitt followed this presentation with a session on VDX request searching tips highlighting potential changes regarding searching with the new VDX version. The final program before lunch was a lively discussion break-out session moderated by Banitt that allowed participants to discuss questions relative to challenges, efficiency, trends, VDX functionalities, and user expectations.

Banitt began the afternoon presentations, discussing Version 6.1 of the VDX software. Agnes Lee delivered a presentation about Overdues and Billing, and Dave Paulson discussed future changes regarding MEDD and E-Delivery. Mary Ramacher (GRRL) and Mike Grossman (Duluth Public Library) presented analysis of reports from their locations. Wrapping up the day were reports by Kathy Drozd about NISO’s new recommended practice, “Recommended Practice on Physical Delivery of Library Resources,” and Carol Nelson about WorldShare migration for WorldCat Resource Sharing.
Feedback on the meeting was very positive. Please save Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013, for our next Minitex Public Library Node meeting. If you have suggestions or ideas for the meeting, send them to Obinnaya Oji (o-oji@umn.edu) in the Minitex office.

**Minitex Use of OCLC’s Article Exchange**

Minitex is now offering Article Exchange, a service available through OCLC, as an electronic delivery option for all participating libraries. The Article Exchange document-sharing site provides a single, secure location where lending libraries can place requested documents, and library users can retrieve articles or book chapters obtained for them via interlibrary loan. This site adds convenience, security, and enhanced copyright compliance to article sharing through interlibrary loan. Article Exchange is accessible from within the WorldCat Resource Sharing service.

Libraries can choose Article Exchange as their preferred method of delivery from Minitex. (If MEDD delivery is indicated on a request, MEDD will be the first choice.) You do not need to indicate that you want an item delivered via “Article Exchange” on each request because we have created a list of libraries that prefer Article Exchange delivery.

**How it works**

- You will receive an e-mail message for each filled request. Each message includes a unique tiny URL and password that you will use to retrieve the document.
- Once a file has been retrieved, it remains available for five views --the maximum number of views for each URL/password combination. Files that are not retrieved will remain available for 30 days.
- Minitex will not include a copy of the request with the article. As a rule, OCLC recommends that patron information (or any personally identifiable information) not be included unless necessary for the functioning of the system.

If you would like to use Article Exchange for delivery to Minitex, send an e-mail to referrals@minitex.umn.edu and include the Minitex referral request number in the e-mail subject line.

For more information about Article Exchange visit: http://www.oclc.org/resourcesharing/features/articleexchange/default.htm. If your library has questions about Article Exchange, contact Dave Paulson (d-paul@umn.edu, 612-624-7568, 800-462-5348) or Kyle Triska (tris0020@umn.edu, 612-625-0886, 800-462-5348).

**Statistics for Minnesota Public Libraries, July 2012-Sept. 2012**

**INCOMING:** Requests sent to the Minitex Office by Minnesota Public Libraries: FY2012 (July 2011 – September 2011) compared to FY2013 (July 2012 – September 2012).

- Incoming request traffic from Minnesota Public libraries to Minitex dropped by (-9.5%) from 43,544 requests in FY 2012 to 39,416 in FY 2013. The total number of filled requests remained relatively stable at 20,385 as fill rates improved from 47.9% to 51.7%. Loan requests which account for 98% of all traffic was down by (-10.0%).
- MELSA libraries accounted for 55% of all Public library traffic to Minitex in FY 2012. This dropped to 53% in FY 2013. Their total volume dropped from 24,016 to 20,816 requests.

- Total requests referred to Minnesota Public libraries from Minitex have remained relatively stable during this period for the last 3 years (FY 2011=13,494; FY 2012=13,500; FY 2013=13,139). Filled rates improved from 86% last year to 88.9% this year.
- Total requests from Minitex to MELSA libraries increased from 5,557 in FY 2012 to 6,940 in FY 2013 representing a growth of 25%. The top 3 MELSA recipients of Minitex requests were Dakota County (1,630), Ramsey County (1,485), and St. Paul Public library (1,356).
- For this period Minitex staff searched for 2,141 requests at Hennepin County Central Library and filled 1,968 or 92%. This compares to 2,058 requests searched in FY 2012. An increase of 4%.


- Borrowing request traffic on the Gateway was down by (-7.4%) from 135,950 last year to 125,940 this year. Despite this decline the number of filled requests increased from 93,283 in FY 2012 to 93,315 in FY 2013. Fill rate was up from 68.9% to 74.1%. Minitex borrowing traffic was down by (-11.2%); and the Public libraries as a group were down by (-7.7%).
- Lender traffic on the Gateway increased by 4.5% from 133,713 requests in FY 2012 to 139,783 requests in FY 2013. It was up by 15.2% for MELSA libraries and by 11.6% for all Public libraries as a group. Traffic was also up by 6.5% for Private Colleges and down by (-9.4%) for Minitex. Public libraries as a group accounted for 68% of all lender traffic on the Gateway.
Minitex DELIVERY SERVICE

The following graph shows the number of MnLINK/VDX materials coming through the Minitex office from for the July-October quarter during the last five years.

There was a slight decrease compared to the 2011 MnLINK/VDX numbers during the same time period.

![Minitex/VDX Direct Borrowing Comparison](chart)

ELM Usage

ELM usage continues to grow each fiscal year. The following table shows the usage by searches and full-text retrievals for the first three years of the current contract cycle.
Minitex Program Updates
Dec. 7, 2012
Page 7

ELM Instruction
Minitex Reference Outreach and Instruction staff increased the awareness and usage of the resources in the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) by coordinating and providing instruction on and promoting the statewide databases and electronic books licensed by Minitex for use by patrons of Minnesota libraries and school media centers. The impact these statewide resources had on reference referral and interlibrary loan patterns is marked. Thus instruction on these resources is a critical role of ROI staff. It is not enough to provide access to these electronic reference tools; instruction on their use and applicability is equally important.

In FY13 to date, 68 instructional sessions were offered and attended by 885 (951 registered) library and school media staff, teachers, students, and home educators.
Beth Staats has been working with area public libraries to present on-site workshops to patrons on ELM. Please contact her to schedule and present sessions in your libraries, fried004@umn.edu or 800-462-5348.

We added three instructional and promotional videos on ELM to our YouTube channel http://www.youtube.com/user/minitexref this fall. Check out the latest:

- Accessing the STEM Workspace in Britannica, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YGVmeo3GJ4&list=UU9BYb07roi3ErwY4f6kU5lg&index=1&feature=plcp
- STEM Resources in ELM, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DG54vmzLro&list=UU9BYb07roi3ErwY4f6kU5lg&index=2&feature=plcp
- Science Reference Center, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-7Az75Esb4&list=UU9BYb07roi3ErwY4f6kU5lg&index=3&feature=plcp

**ELM Support**
Staff also responded to approximately 86 ELM support questions so far in FY13.

**ELM Portal**
Twenty-four libraries have now personalized the ELM Portal. The goal is to empower Minnesota libraries to use the ELM databases in the ways that best suit them and their researchers. In some cases, that takes the form of libraries simply linking to the ELM website at elm4you.org. In other cases, libraries are able to direct link to several of their most relevant databases directly from their websites. ELM Personalized offers third option that combines the automatic authentication of the ELM portal with the choice options of direct linking.

**ELM@YourConferences**
Minitex Reference Outreach & Instruction (ROI) presented and/or exhibited at conferences this fall:

- **BestPrep Technology Integration Workshop**, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, August 2, 2012
- **Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Fall Congress, MACTE**, Minneapolis, November 9, 2012 (Presented: Preparing New Teachers to Develop & Apply a Trustworthy Digital Toolbox)
- **E4 Conference**, St. Paul, November 12, 2012
- **Leadership in Reading Network**, Roseville, November 13, 2012 (Presented: Engaging Students with the Electronic Library for Minnesota)
- **STEM Summit**, Rochester, November 14, 2012(Demoed: STEM resources in ELM)

Watch for us at the **TIES conference** in December 10-11 in Minneapolis.
ELM Communication
We are in the fourth year (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) of our contracts with the five vendors that provide statewide electronic resources to Minnesota. North Dakota and South Dakota participate in some of the agreements.


MINITEX REFERENCE OUTREACH & INSTRUCTION

Instruction
In addition to ELM instruction, Reference Outreach and Instruction librarians presented or facilitated 22 other professional development opportunities, primarily on AskMN: The Librarian Is In!, which were attended by 95 library staff.

Professional Development Opportunities
STEM Day Conference 2013
Save the date for the inaugural STEM Day Conference, Building Partnerships for STEM Education, hosted by library partners Minitex, MELSA, and Metronet.

February 14, 2013
University of Minnesota
Continuing Education and Conference Center
St. Paul, MN

The conference sessions will focus on building partnerships and resources that support and advance K12 STEM Education in Minnesota.

We proudly announce our keynote speaker, Dr. Anthony Murphy, newly appointed director of The GLOBE Program. Prior to his current position, Dr. Murphy served as the executive director of the National Center for STEM Elementary Education at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Watch for registration and session information soon!

More webinars added to the Government Information series
Join Minitex and the University of Minnesota Libraries Regional Depository Library in a unique webinar series, Government Information: the Most Interesting Information in the World, which highlights the exciting government information available to you and your patrons for free. Learn to determine the best starting points for your government information searching and be informed, my friends, through these free webinars.

• Oh, the Places We Have Gone: Using Map and GIS data resources from the federal government
A recent exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art centered on "The Impossible Black
Tulip," a wood block printed world map created in 1602. Fast forward 410 years and think about how maps and the information we create from and about them has changed our perception of the world.

- **Turning Points in History: Fitting Government Information into History Day Projects**
  The 2013 History Day theme, *Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events*, provides for a huge number of topics centering around state, national, and international history. And with many of those topics, the United States federal government was part of the decisive moment that caused change, and the documents created from those changes provide a plethora of primary source documentation to be used in developing History Day topics. Add in primary documents from foreign countries and international organizations and the world of turning points is wide open.

If you didn't get a chance to catch the first two webinars of the series, be sure to check out the recordings.

- Get Me Started: Government Information Basics
- From News to the Document: Finding Government Information Mentioned in Newspapers, Blogs, & Tweets
- It is your Business .... to Know!

**Sixth Annual Library Technology Conference**
The Library Technology Conference announced keynote speakers, Kimberly Bryant and Virginia Eubanks, for 2013! The [2013 Library Technology Conference](https://www.macalester.edu/library/events/conferences/library-technology-conference.html) will be held March 20-21 on the campus of Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. Watch for registration information coming soon.

**Keynote Speakers**

**Virginia Eubanks**
Virginia Eubanks is the cofounder of Our Knowledge, Our Power (OKOP), a grassroots anti-poverty and welfare rights organization, and the Popular Technology Workshops, which help community organizations and social movements make the connection between technology and their other social justice goals.

She teaches in the Department of Women's Studies at the University at Albany, SUNY and writes books about technology, social justice, and politics. In past lives, she edited the cyberfeminist 'zine Brillo and was active in the community technology center movements in the San Francisco Bay Area and Troy, NY.

**Kimberly Bryant**
Kimberly Bryant is a Biotechnology/Engineering professional who has spent the last decade in the Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical, and Manufacturing industry in a series of technical leadership roles for various Fortune 100 companies such as Merck, Pfizer, and Dupont. Most recently
Ms. Bryant spent 5+ years as a Senior Manager with Bay Area biotechnology company Genentech. Ms. Bryant founded BlackGirlsCode in April 2011 to meet the needs of young women of color who are underrepresented in the currently exploding field of technology.

The program focuses on introducing girls of color between the ages of 7-17 to the field of digital technology and computer programming with a focus on emerging entrepreneurial concepts. Since launching BlackGirlsCode in 2011 in the Bayview Hunter's Point community, the very successful pilot program has experienced incredible growth with workshops now being offered in Oakland, Chicago, Atlanta, St. Louis, and various other cities as part of a national expansion effort.

Although the digital divide is steadily eroding there is still a great disparity in the representation of women and people of color in STEM fields, the mission of BlackGirlsCode is to introduce programming and technology to a new generation of coders who will become the leaders and creators of tomorrow.

NISO and NISO/DCMI Series
Minitex has a statewide license to the 2012 NISO and NISO/DCMI webinar series. Both series are being archived. Minitex participating libraries and schools have access to the links following the presentations. Check out the Minitex website for a listing of these webinars. Access to these archived sessions is through the Minitex MyLibrary Portal, https://www.minitex.umn.edu/MyLibrary/. All you need to do is create an account.

AskMN: The Librarian Is In!
Minitex ROI administers, manages, and helps staff the public queue of AskMN, Minnesota's statewide virtual reference service.

AskMN FY12 Annual Report
The AskMN FY12 Report is now available. AskMN had many accomplishments in FY12 to round out a very successful fiscal year. AskMN added 13 new libraries or library systems, saw a 51% increase in questions from Minnesota patrons over FY11, and received questions from residents in 84 out of 87 Minnesota counties.

AskMN relies on the cooperation of the participating libraries to assist each other's patrons when that library is not available to assist their own patron. One goal of AskMN has been to work with participating libraries to provide more opportunities for assisting their own patrons. Over half of the questions being asked by Minnesota residents and students were assisted by their own library.

Users had great things to say about their AskMN experience:

- "This was the first time I was using this service and I am very thrilled and excited to have used this service. The librarian did a wonderful job digging out information for me that I could have never managed to do myself."
- "What a brilliant service!! I had no idea I could get information and help at after midnight on a Thursday night. I love it. Kudos."
- "I am so happy that this service is here! If I wouldn't have been able to ask and get help when trying to find my article, who knows how long it would have taken me! I would definitely use this tool again!"
- "I am a retired librarian, and had been looking on the internet for two days for this answer. She nailed it in several minutes. I am most grateful."
Check out the full report to learn more about how Minnesotans are using AskMN!

More Libraries Join
Two more libraries joined AskMN in FY13: Fergus Falls Public Library and Bethany Lutheran College. A participating library is defined as one that contributes staffing to AskMN.

AskMN Volume Increases
To date in FY13 (July 1, 2012 – October 31, 2012), 9,873 questions have been answered. FY13YTD volume has already surpassed that of FY12YTD, which saw 8,301 questions during the same time period.

The public library queue handled 7,168 of these reference questions, and the academic library queue answered 2,705. 6,178 questions coming through the public library queue were from Minnesota patrons; 990 were from non-Minnesota patrons. 2,374 questions coming through the academic library queue were from Minnesota patrons; 331 were from non-Minnesota patrons. Of the 8,552 Minnesota patrons, 5,911 were answered by the patron’s library, 761 were answered by another Minnesota library, and 1,880 were answered by the 24/7 Reference Cooperative.

As we’ve seen from the beginning of the service, the public library queue continues to receive and respond to more questions than does the academic queue. Minitex Reference Outreach and Instruction ROI responded to and answered 44 AskMN follow ups from the public and academic library queues.
FY13 volume is on track to supersede that of previous years.

Contact Carla Steinberg Pfahl, pfahl001@umn.edu or 800-462-5348, to find out how your system or libraries can participate.

COOPERATIVE PURCHASING & ELECTRONIC RESOURCES SERVICES (CPERS)

CPERS staff maintain an active blog, http://blog.lib.umn.edu/minitex/cpers/, featuring product and vendor news you need to manage your library products and electronic resources.

We hope you took advantage of our fall trials to explore new or enhanced eresources. And, if you haven’t tried the Minitex MyLibrary portal yet, CPERS has a renewal feature that speeds the e-resource renewal process for both our libraries and us; check it out.

If you or your staff have suggestions for e-resources of interest to public libraries, don’t hesitate to contact

- Tim Peters (t-pete@umn.edu, 612-625-9527)
DIGITIZATION, CATALOGING & METADATA EDUCATION (DCME)

DCME FY12 Training Stats:

We offered 72 sessions on 29 different topics to a total of 1351 attendees.
Notable activities in the last quarter:

- The Minnesota Digital Library was chosen to be one of only 7 service hub for the newly established Digital Public Library of America (see press release below).
- Sara Ring coordinated, on behalf of OCLC, a national online CONTENTdm User Group meeting attended by 480 people and very well received.
- As LC’s RDA implementation date draws near, Mark Ehlert’s RDA training is in high demand. From one recent evaluation:
  
  “Mark makes RDA understandable – not an easy task – and made everyone who attended feel quite capable of making the transition from AACR2 to RDA. One staff member here says that Mark is absolutely the best speaker on RDA that we have heard, and we have been listening for over 2 years now and were just very confused most of the time.” – Marigold Library System

- Sara Ring met with staff in ND, SD, MN, and WI who attended the Library of Congress Digital Preservation Outreach & Education (DPOE) train-the-trainer workshop. As a collaborative of upper Midwest instructors, this group together will present a multi-day online digital preservation education series using the DPOE curriculum in February/March 2013. The DPOE trainers that belong to this group are:
  
  - Sara Casper, South Dakota State Archives, Pierre, SD
  - Jennifer Fairall, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
  - Sarah Grimm, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI
  - Stephanie Kom, North Dakota State Library, Bismarck, North Dakota
  - France Lloyd Baynes, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
  - Carol Kussman, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN
  - Emily Pfotenhauer, Wisconsin Library Services/Wisconsin Heritage Online, Madison, WI
  - Sara Ring, Minitex, Minneapolis, MN
Staff presented at all three state library association conferences, and Carla Urban presided over the MLA Conference as 2012 MLA President.

DPLA/MDL Press Release

The Minnesota Digital Library, a state-wide collaboration consisting of Minitex, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society, and other key institutions, was chosen to be a key early contributor to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The groundbreaking project aims to make our nation’s collections of significance to the study of American life digital, searchable, and accessible to the public.

With $2.8 million in funding, the DPLA will launch pilot projects in several states. Minnesota and state libraries and regional digital library collaboratives in Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Oregon, South Carolina, and Utah will participate as “service” hubs in the pilot effort.

Ultimately, users of the DPLA will be able to search across a network of local collections, finding information on a topic — like the Civil War or the Great Depression — via database entries from throughout the country. Organizers will also test ways to engage communities in contributing content to the archives, whether through adding context and tags to digital records, or sharing photos or recordings to digitize and make accessible.

The Minnesota Digital Library will receive about $350,000 in funding — $250,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and $100,000 from the Knight Foundation. The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) is a service of Minitex, which is a joint program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota.

Funding will be used for:

- Digitizing existing special collections held by libraries, museums, and historical societies and organizations across Minnesota, making them searchable and accessible through the DPLA.

- Providing outreach and education to communities about the DPLA, including how to access its resources.

- Supporting the development of new, “born digital” content, such as oral histories from first-generation immigrants.

“We are very excited about this project,” said John Butler, Associate University Librarian at the University of Minnesota Libraries. “Not only will we be able to digitize existing local content and make it accessible across the country, but the grant will help empower communities to share their rich histories in new ways.”

Through a project called Minnesota Reflections, the Minnesota Digital Library began digitizing content in 2004. Today, it contains over 120,000 images, maps, and documents from nearly 150 of the state’s libraries and cultural heritage organizations.

“Libraries and archives contain vast repositories of their community’s everyday history, a rich past with local and national resonance. Digitizing, categorizing and sharing these cultural assets electronically helps libraries in
their evolution from information storehouses into dynamic hubs using history to create content and engage the community,” said George Martinez, director of information technology at Knight Foundation.

“The Digital Public Library of America is an ambitious effort to create a national digital library system that will make the cultural heritage of the United States available to anyone with access to the Internet,” said NEH Chairman Jim Leach.

The seven pilot sites will provide direct services at the regional and local level, digitizing thousands of items at each hub location, sending trainers to teach staff how to categorize the digitized materials, and providing virtual storage space.

The Digital Public Library of America is scheduled to launch a prototype in April 2013 that will make millions of digital items freely available to the public.

About the Minnesota Digital Library
The Minnesota Digital Library is a service of Minitex in cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society and is funded by the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota state constitution. Minitex is a joint program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota. For more, visit mndigital.org.

About the Digital Public Library of America
The Digital Public Library of America planning initiative is taking the first concrete steps toward the realization of a large-scale digital public library that will make the cultural and scientific record available to all. This impact-oriented research effort unites leaders from all types of libraries, museums, and archives with educators, industry, and government to define the vision for a digital library in service of the American public. The DPLA Secretariat is located at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University. For more, visit http://dp.la/.

About the National Endowment for the Humanities
Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. For more, visit www.neh.gov.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
The Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities, and foster the arts. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

Support
The Digital Public Library of America Digital Hubs Pilot is supported by the Open Knowledge Commons with funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Contact
John Butler, Associate University Librarian
University of Minnesota Libraries, j-butl@umn.edu, 612-624-4362